**Online Resources *100 Ideas for Secondary Teachers: Teaching Drama***

**Idea 25: Odd visitor**

**Example 1: Old Lady**

Narrator’s introduction

*An old woman covered in shawls arrives at the hotel. After the food is taken up:*

(**A** = hotel owner; **B** = work colleague)

**A** You know that old lady who we’ve put into room 5?

**B** Of course, you just took her up.

**A** Well she’s unpacked her suitcase and put about 30 pictures around the room.

**B** What are they of?

**A** They seem to be of a shipwreck of some sort. And she was repeating some curious words.

**B** What words?

**A** She was repeating what sounded like: ‘no trace, no trace, no trace at all…”

**B** How strange. Well look here she’s coming down the stairs. Why don’t we ask her?

**A** Isn’t that being rude?

**B** She seems a nice old lady. I’m sure she won’t mind.

**Suggestions for development and improvisation of this scene:**

Set up an improvisation based on one of these, maybe the old lady explains:

1. She lost a close family member at sea years ago and still carries round the pictures for comfort.
2. She is a dealer in antique and rare prints and there is a fair nearby tomorrow.
3. She is an artist who paints seascapes.
4. She is a collector of seascapes.
5. She has stolen them from an art gallery.
6. She found them on the train.

**Example 2: Agitated Woman**

Narrator’s introduction

*An agitated woman, her nerves on edge, dressed as if she had been dragged through a ditch, books a room at the hotel. After the food is taken up:*

(**A** = hotel owner; **B** = work colleague)

**A** You know that woman who we’ve put into room 7?

**B** Yes.

**A** Well you won’t believe what’s going on in her room.

**B** Try me.

**A** I just knocked and took her food in and she is unpacking a huge case filled with small machines.

**B** What sort of machines?

**A** Little machines like I’ve never seen before. They had dials and flashing lights and strange switches.

**B** Maybe they were radios?

**A** No. They were making strange noises but they were also moving around.

**B** Moving around? Are you sure?

**A** Yes. Some seemed to have wheels. Some were climbing up the curtains. One was even jumping from one part of the room to another - leaping like a frog, it was.

**B** What did she say?

**A** Nothing. She just glared at me and waved for me to leave.

**B** That’s her footsteps coming down the stairs. I think we should ask her what she’s doing.

**A** Well, it is our hotel and we do have the right.

**Suggestions for development and improvisation of this scene:**

Set up an improvisation to continue the scene based on one of these:

1. She is an inventor.
2. She doesn’t know how the strange machines got there.
3. She claims that they are aliens.