

CHARACTER ECHO /PLAYWRITING ON YOUR FEET

Objectives

- Students will be introduced to characters and conflict in *Alma*
- Students will explore parent and child dynamics using text from the play *Alma*
- Students will create the end to an improvisational situation using text from *Alma*
- Students will practice using dialogue and characterization

Materials needed

- The text from the sample scenes posted in room

Activity

Alma explores the complexity of a parent and child relationship, especially as the child becomes a young adult.

1. Divide the class into two lines facing each other and designate each line as Character A and Character B. The students should find a partner directly across from them on the other line.
2. The class will explore different moments of the play using the sample lines below. These lines will be the start of the scene.

SAMPLE TEXT 1

A: Stay out of my room

B: Who gave you that room?

A: I'm practically an adult

B: You don't act like an adult

SAMPLE TEXT 2

A: For now you do what I tell you

B: What if I don't?

A: What?

B: What if I don't do what you say?

SAMPLE TEXT 3

A: I gotta make sure you're gonna be ok

B: I'm going to be fine -

A: No - I gotta make sure

B: Why wouldn't I be ok?

3. Say the first line from Sample Text 1 and ask the students in Group A to repeat or "echo" the line. Say the second line from Sample Text 2 and ask the students in Group B to repeat or "echo" the line. Repeat with lines 3 and 4.

4. Try this without the echo but by pointing to the line to cue each group when they should speak. Repeat as needed to memorize the lines.
5. In partners, Character A and Character B will add their own dialogue to the first four lines to create an ending. They should add at least four new lines.
6. Ask the students to think about the following as they find a place in the room to create and practice their scene with their partner:

Who is the parent/guardian and who is the child in the scene?
Where do you think this scene takes place?
How do you want the scene to end?
Do the characters reach an agreement?
Does one character storm out of the room?
What happens next?

7. Share: Everyone starts with the first 4 lines before adding their own ending. One at a time, give each group a count of 1, 2, 3, action.

While you watch the play notice how the characters resolve these moments. Are their endings similar to yours or did they make very different choices?