

THE TEACHER TIMES

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FOR THE CLASSROOM

Breaking out of the Winter Doldrums with Role Playing!

Part One: All The World's A Stage and We Are Merely Teachers - Classroom Lighting and Set Design.

Enlighten 'em with Proper Lighting

A 1997 Phillips study found a direct relationship between good lighting and student performance. Use the following tips to ensure that your classroom is properly lit for learning:

Accent focal walls: Lighting focal walls, such as whiteboards and charts, will help you hold students' attention and improve the visibility of information.

Avoid high contrast: Keep some lights on in the background when you are using the projector to teach. The brightest and darkest room surfaces should be no greater than 3 times or 1/3 as bright as the task.

Add ambiance: Soften the industrial glare of your fluorescent lights by placing two or three floor lamps around the classroom.



Classroom Set Design

A class mascot can help bring extra energy to the classroom. Usually found in the younger grades, a mascot will work well in the upper grades as well. Use a stuffed animal or plastic doll and give it a name that connects with your personality, the school, or your subject area.

Classroom reliquary: Create a mini-museum of "relics" that relate to concepts from past units. Use replicas for history, scientific instruments for science, old numerical tools for math, and "story props" for language arts. Display your relics on a special shelf accented by a light.

Sound effects: Integrate sound effects such as a fire truck, rain, squeaky door, laughing crowd, or busy restaurant. Download these sound effects and dozens of others for free from the SFX, Free Sound Effects website, www.pacdv.com/sounds/.

Highlight table: Bring in a stand-alone table fitted with a colorful skirt and topped with a desk lamp. Place the table in the front of the room and use it to display objects you refer to during your discussions.

Ceiling words: Create full page printouts of vocabulary words, terms, or concepts from your curriculum. Laminate them, affix them to the ceiling, and encourage students to turn to the "classroom heavens" when they are in need of academic guidance.

Comfort, Consistence, Control – In a Gel!



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FEATURE STORY

Role Playing

Part Two: Acting Out – Actor Warm-Up Drills for You and Your Students

Vocal warm ups, also known as enunciation exercises, are used by actors to warm up their vocal apparatus before a performance. Like stage actors, it is important that both you and your students properly warm up your vocal chords before the "curtain call." Try the following vocal warm-ups to help you and your students prepare your voices for the big show.

Motorboat Game: Vibrate lips to make a motorboat sound, taking the pitch up and down.

Ha-Ha-Ha: Stand upright, breathe deeply, and repeat "Ha-Ha-Ha-Ha" for thirty seconds.

Sustained Hum: Sustain the breath on a hum while moving up and down the scale allowing the vibrations to move through your entire body.

Vowel Warm-up: Instruct students to hold their hands on their bellies and repeat the phrases "ooo," "eee," "aah."

Make it kinesthetic by instructing them to move around like apes while making the sounds.

Tongue twisters: Lead your class in a recitation of the following tongue twisters.

Can you can a can as a canner can can a can?

A big black bug bit a big black bear, made the big black bear bleed blood.

Which wristwatches are Swiss wristwatches?

We surely shall see the sun shine soon.

Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.

Looking for a challenge? The hardest twister in the English language is supposedly: The sixth sick sheikh's sixth sheep's sick.

Need more twisters? Go to

<http://thinks.com/words/tonguetwisters.htm> to find an alphabetized list of twisters.*

Want an educational twist? Challenge students to integrate curriculum concepts into their own tongue twisters.

* Source: Michael Curl Internet Publishing, www.thinks.com, 2007

Teacher's White Board

As you may have seen already, BIC has some exciting news for 2007 regarding our teacher website and we want you to be "in the know!"

We have redesigned the BIC Teacher website, and, as of February 2007, it has moved to a new URL - www.BICEveryday.com. Our new teacher website has many new features that will be updated periodically throughout the year, and will highlight BIC's ongoing commitment to supporting America's teachers.

- The Featured Innovations area takes a look at writing instruments that BIC believes are best suited for teachers and describes the items in detail to simplify your decision-making process.
- About BIC is an area that we reserve to tell you a little bit about those things that BIC has done or will be doing in the future which strengthen our relationship with teachers and consumers.
- The Teachers' Corner contains current and archived issues of The BIC Teacher Times newsletter as well as a section entitled Classroom Essentials. This

section contains downloadable learning materials that provide an engaging and relevant supplement to your existing curriculum!

- The Promotions area currently contains online coupons that can be printed for various BIC products. It also contains information about the Reader's Digest Word Power Challenge, a national vocabulary contest that BIC sponsored in 2006-2007. Take advantage of vocabulary-boosting benefits with the downloadable lesson plan and practice quizzes.
- Lastly, what's the easiest way to learn about BIC® offers, updates, and coupons? Answer: just fill out the form on the sign-up page and we'll keep you in-the-know!

Each of the sections above will be updated periodically, so check back often for new teacher news and information. If you have any feedback, opinions, or classroom tips that you would like to share with BIC, please email us at TeachOurKids@bicworld.com.

The Teacher's White Board section is the area of the BIC Teacher Times dedicated just to you and your opinions. This is your chance to tell us what you think about BIC® products, ask BIC questions, or share some advice with other teachers. All submissions become the property of BIC and we may publish your entry. Remember to include your name, the grade you teach, school and state.



Send your comments and feedback to: Teachers@bicworld.com