



4. CREATE A SCRIPT FOR A SCENE FOR A RADIO PLAY

Learning Objectives

- To improvise, devise and script drama;
- To adopt, create and sustain a range of roles;
- To describe setting, characters and atmosphere using dialogue to convey character and advance the action;
- To learn new vocabulary and incorporate vernacular phrases into dialogue to help develop characterisation.

Resources

- The Biographies in the STEM Sisters Gallery
- The Scientific Terms in The Education Zone

Introduction

Introduce some of the terms and vocabulary.

This activity has 3-4 sections so can either be extended over a few lessons or simplified to shorten it.

MAIN TASKS

- I. Choose one or two of the featured women and explore one of the following scenarios:
 - a. Imagine two of these women meeting each other. Think about the fact they are from different historical time periods, maybe different countries and how different their lives are.
 - a. How do they meet and why?
 - b. What might they discuss?
 - c. What sort of discovery might they go on together?
 - b. Imagine one the women meeting someone who has held them back in their career or who they're trying to persuade to help them e.g. Hedy meeting the officials who tell her she should be selling war bonds using her looks and not dealing with anything more complicated involving her brain, or the US Navy who didn't give her credit for her inventions. Or Maria Sybilla Merian trying to persuade the Dutch government to let her travel to Suriname in South America with her daughters.
 - a. How do they talk to each other? What type of persuasive dialogue do they need to use?
 - b. Think about how to explain the set up and background of your scene without resorting to an introductory explanation. How can they incorporate everything into what they say without the listeners needing to do lots of homework in advance?

2. What happens in your scene? Is there a conflict or discovery, do your characters go on an emotional journey, does something happen which has an effect on them and how do they respond?
3. Write a synopsis or notes outlining information about the meeting/interaction and their 'journey' and the 'event' the scene focuses on.
4. In pairs, improvise the script that might transpire from your notes, as if it is a radio play. Decide who is going to play which role. Think about how a radio play differs from a theatrical drama or film. As there is nothing visual, everything relies on the script/dialogue and the way it is delivered. Sound effects can play a crucial role to help set the scene.
5. Work through both your script and your partner's or choose one scenario and develop it together. Include sound effects! How could you create these? Try some out!
6. Write up your script following your improvisation. Think about the language of all the characters and how they need to be defined by what and how they speak, because you cannot rely on anything visual.
7. Perform the scripts to each other, in class, across the Year Groups, or to the whole school in an assembly.

Extension Activity

Following on from the scene you have written, develop the synopsis for the whole play.