



50 Things Students Can Learn from Theatre

Participation in drama can have dramatic and long-lasting effects on students of all ages. The benefits of participating in a performing arts program go far beyond book learning and can help children and teens overcome social anxiety, learn to work together cooperatively, and develop creativity and imagination.

Below is a list of 50 things that students can learn from theatre. Use the list as a handout, post the list in your classroom, or try some of these activities:

Try this!

Drama Warm-up

Ask students to form a circle. Secretly give each student a different thing from the list. You can go around the circle and whisper to each player, or hand each student a piece of paper with the benefit on it. Next, ask students to come up with an "I statement" sentence that further describes the benefit of participating in theatre.

For example:

Benefit: Self-control I statement: When we are watching a performance, I must stay silent, and that takes self-control.



Benefit: Resourcefulness I statement: When we only had \$100 to make our set, we had to be resourceful!

Three Things Skits

Put students in small groups. Ask each group to choose three things from the list and give them ten minutes to come up with a skit that shows how putting on a play helps students achieve those three things.

Essays

For extra credit, ask students to write a one-page essay that goes into depth about one of the things they can learn from theatre. The essay must include a description of the problem (lack of confidence for example), and then have them describe how theatre can help solve that issue.



50 Things Students Learn from Theatre

- 1. Creativity
- 2. Confidence
- 3. Collaboration
- 4. Perseverance
- 5. Focus
- 6. Dedication
- 7. Accountability
- 8. Problem Solving
- 9. Non-Verbal Communication
- 10. Giving and Receiving Constructive Feedback
- 11. Empathy
- 12. Tolerance
- 13. Listening Skills
- 14. Resilience
- 15. Patience
- 16. Quick Thinking
- 17. Physical Stamina
- 18. Emotional Stamina
- 19. Humility
- 20. Observation
- 21. Vocal Projection
- 22. Improvisation
- 23. Acceptance
- 24. Following Directions
- 25. Making connections to other content areas

- 26. Compassion
- 27. Spatial Awareness
- 28. History
- 29. Cultural Perspectives
- 30. Trust
- 31. Self-Control
- 32. Tenacity
- 33. Resourcefulness
- 34. Compromise
- 35. Self-regulation
- 36. Teamwork
- 37. Joy
- 38. Emotional Intelligence
- 39. Storytelling
- 40. The ability to laugh at yourself
- 41. We all matter, no matter your role
- 42. Kindness
- 43. Promptness
- 44. Language and vocabulary
- 45. Concentration
- 46. Friendship
- 47. Self-Expression
- 48. Self-Advocacy
- 49. Innovation
- 50. How to support and enjoy the success of others

