

SESSION 9: CHARACTER

PRIDE NAME: _____

DIRECTIONS:

Work with your Pride to explore character movement.



CHARACTER MOVEMENT

1. Observe the photos of African animals you have been given. What do you notice about the way they move? Record your observations here: _____

2. Observe the animal that corresponds with the character on your nametag.
3. Everyone in your Pride should stand on one side of an open playing space. This space will become the savanna. When the Pride Leader reads the cues below, experiment with the movement of the character on your nametag according to the instructions.
 - Cross the savanna as if your character is 100% human.
 - Cross the savanna as if your character is 50% human and 50% animal.
 - Cross the savanna as if your character is 100% animal.
 - Cross the savanna with your own blend of animal and human movement.
4. Once you have completed this activity, have a discussion with your group using these questions:
 - Which blend of animal and human movement felt most appropriate for each character?
 - How would an actor use an exercise like this to make strong character choices?



PRIDE NAME: _____

DIRECTIONS:

Work as a Pride to interview characters in *The Lion King JR.*



CHARACTER IMPROVISATION

1. Your Pride Leader will choose a place in the room to become the "hot seat." The rest of the Pride should sit in a circle around the hot seat.
2. The Pride Leader will select one person to sit in the hot seat. This person will become the character on his nametag and will be interviewed by the rest of the Pride.
3. Going around the circle, each Pride member should ask one question of the character in the hot seat. Ask open-ended questions that focus on the character's thoughts and feelings during the show. (Example: "What was your life like before the stampede?")
 - If you are in the hot seat, imagine how the character would answer the questions being asked. What vocal, physical, and creative choices will you make?
4. After everyone has asked a question, select a new Pride member to sit in the hot seat. Repeat until everyone has been interviewed.

PRIDE NAME: _____

DIRECTIONS:

Work with your Pride to explore how various characters feel about themselves and others.



CHARACTER PERCEPTIONS

Each Pride member should have a blank piece of paper and a pencil.

1. Draw a large circle on your paper.
 - On the top of the paper, write the name of the character on your nametag.
 - On the inside of the circle, write ideas about your character's inner traits. (Example: The hyena Ed is fun-loving and the life of the party.)
2. Pass your paper to the right.
 - You now have a new character's paper. On the outside of the circle, write ideas about what your character thinks about this character. (Example: Ed could write that Simba is a tasty treat.)
3. Continue passing your paper to the right until you have written on all the character sheets. When you receive your own paper back, look at the responses.
 - Circle the words or phrases that are the same or similar on the inside and outside of the circle.
 - Underline the words or phrases that are drastically different on the inside and outside of the circle.
4. Discuss these questions with your Pride:
 - How does your character's perception of himself differ from what others think of him?
 - How might an actor use these perceptions when performing a character?