





USE THIS LESSON TO: explore the tools actors use to create strong characters.

 45 minutes


OBJECTIVES: Students will...

-  Describe the traits of characters from *The Lion King KIDS*.
-  Work in groups to complete a character analysis.
-  Use their bodies, voices, and imaginations to bring characters from *The Lion King KIDS* to life.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS:


-  Smartboard or blackboard

PREPARATION:

-  Print Pride Journal 4: Character Crest (one for each student).

PROVIDED MATERIALS:

-  None

VIDEO:  5 minutes

- Play video: 4 Character.
- The video will lead students through their warm-up.
- The video will then introduce the three tools an actor uses to create a character: voice, body, and imagination. The video will also introduce the character development process and the concepts of given circumstances and actor choice.

GROUP ACTIVITY: **Voice, Body, and Imagination**  15 minutes

- Write the names "Pumbaa," "Scar," and "Nala" along the top of your smartboard or blackboard.
- Solicit three traits for each character from the students (examples: mean, scary, funny, proud). Write these words under the appropriate character header.
- Place your students in a horizontal line on one side of the space. (If you are working in a small space, you can make two lines facing each other.)
- Tell your students to imagine the space in front of them is the vast African savanna.
- Ask your students to silently walk across the savanna as if they are each of the following characters, encouraging them to use their bodies to make strong physical choices:
 - Pumbaa
 - Scar
 - Nala

- Next, using the same characters from the list above, encourage your students to create strong vocalizations. Have your students cross the savanna, this time stopping center stage and saying, "Remember your Pride." Encourage your class to consider how each of the three characters might say the line.
- Repeat the activity one final time using the same three characters - this time with both the physical movement and the vocalization. Use the following prompts to add a magic "if":
 - Cross the savanna as if you are Pumbaa running from a hungry predator. Remember to say the line!
 - Cross the savanna as if you are Scar plotting to steal the throne. Remember to say the line!
 - Cross the savanna as if you are Nala and you've just found out that Simba is alive. Remember to say the line!
- After the activity, take a moment to reflect on the work with your students. What character choices did they make? How did one line mean something totally different each time?

PRIDE WORK: Developing Characters ⌚ 10 minutes

- Divide your students into their Prides and distribute a Challenge Sheet to this session's Pride Leaders.
- Prompt the Pride Leaders to read the challenge aloud to their Prides.
- The Challenge Sheet will ask the Prides to create an online profile page for an assigned character in *The Lion King KIDS*. (Note: Each Pride receives a different character.)

SHARE: ⌚ 10 minutes

- Invite each Pride to share its work in a creative way. You will go into role as a talk show host, and each Pride member should assume his or her character's role (example: all students in Pride A talk as if they are Scar).
- Remind your students to use their bodies, voices, and imaginations to bring their characters to life.

TEACHER TIP: Like other Pride activities, this exercise requires all the members of a group to work together on one item. Side-coach your students and encourage them to generate systems and solutions for working as a team. If your students need more guidance, assign someone to be a timekeeper and someone to be a peacekeeper.

- Act as if you are a talk show host and interview your students. Have fun! Use an everyday object as a microphone, and use the following prompts to engage the class:
 - Welcome to the Savanna Show! Today we are joined by many animals from the Pridelands.
 - Could you tell me your name? And how do you feel about Simba?
 - What is your biggest challenge?
 - What is your goal in life?
 - Who are some of your friends?
- If time allows, add your own questions of these characters.

TEACHER TIP: Seeing their teacher in a role as a character can be an engaging and rewarding experience for students. If this is outside your comfort zone, start small. A simple way to go into role is to add a prop or costume piece. Tell your students that when you are wearing a scarf or holding a microphone, you are the talk show host. When you remove those items, you return to being their teacher.

REFLECTION: ⌚ 5 minutes

Use these prompts to facilitate a discussion with your class:

- What information about your character came from the story itself?
- What information did you invent within your Pride?
- How did you use your voice, body, and imagination to perform as your character?

PRIDE JOURNAL 4:

Invite your students to complete an entry in their journal in response to this prompt:

- Complete the Character Crest template with a character of your choosing from *The Lion King KIDS* and with information about yourself. Use words and drawings to complete the Crest. Use your own imagination to complete anything you don't know.