

Lesson Plan

Silent Film Charades

Book: *Before Television*

Series: What Did We Do?

Level: Beacon

Objective

To help students practice identifying and acting out verbs.

Supplies

- *Before Television* book
- Index cards
- Pencils
- Bowl
- Timer

Before the Activity

Give each student two index cards.

Activity

Television did not become common until the 1950s. But movies existed long before that. Open the *Before Television* book to Chapter 3 (“Moving Pictures”), and read that chapter out loud to students. Then, read the “Blast from the Past” feature on page 22 about newsreels. Like early movies, early newsreels did not include sound. Instead, people read words on the screen. Or they watched the actions. Remind students that a word that describes an action is called a verb.

Today, students will practice using verbs to play a game of charades. First, have each student think of two verbs that they can act out. They should write one verb on each index card and fold each card in half.

Collect all the folded index cards and place them in the bowl. Then divide the class into two teams. On each team’s turn, one student will come to the front of the class and draw a card from the bowl. The student will act out the verb on the card for the rest of the team to guess. But the student must stay silent the whole time. When the student is ready, you will start the timer. The team has 45 seconds to guess the verb. If the team gets the correct answer before the time runs out, the team gets a point.

Evaluation

The team with the most points when you run out of slips wins.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' language standards, grade 2 (L 2.5).