

Stock Characters Lesson Plan (Elementary School or modified for Secondary)

Objective:

Students will be able to identify the role of characters in a play based on their appearance and actions.

Materials needed:

Overheads of Golden Age Theatre actors

Activities:

Discuss popular movies that the students can associate with (Spiderman, Lord of the Rings) that has characters with clearly defined roles.

Briefly explain Spanish medieval societal structure and how each of these would interact with each other: Kings and queens, lords/nobles, artisans, servants, peasants. Example: Nobles pledge allegiance to a king, they are supported by artisans and servants, and peasants were under a noble because they worked on his land.

Talk about how actors in Spanish Golden Age theatre usually portrayed characters who fell under one of these categories (stock characters).

Brainstorm with the class how the students think these characters would look.

Show overhead pictures of different actors portraying a noble, a servant, etc, and ask the class to identify each one. Point out the details on each person that helps you define their role.

Assessment: Divide students into groups and assign each student a stock character role. Have them interact with each other for 30 seconds to a minute with each other based on their roles and observe them to see if they understand who they are supposed to be.