

WORLD WAR 2

Air Raid Shelter Taster ©thedramastudio

by Julie McDonald for Upper Primary- S1/2

Main Drama Skills – Improvisation, role and character, tableaux, thought tracking, whole group discussion and reflection, mime and movement.

***Adaptation for a classroom setting.**

TIR = Teacher in Role (Not essential to use this technique but will greatly enhance your teaching delivery style so do have a go!)

Sound Effects

We recommend 2 sound effects in this lesson - Air Raid Siren and Bombs dropping.

There are lots of war effects available on itunes.

We use a great free music website – you can listen to the tracks before download (although they don't load that quickly so be ready to wait a bit until they load).

Here are the links:

For Bombs falling Multiple Plastic Charges Going Off is the longest piece

<https://www.freesfx.co.uk/Category/Bombs-Grenades/115>

For Air Raid Siren

<https://www.freesfx.co.uk/sfx/air-raid>

Background music of the period would also work well during the family improvisations.

Again we used a piece from www.freesfx.co.uk

<https://www.freesfx.co.uk/sfx/jazz> - **Dixie Land**

LESSON PLAN

Warm –up – Any game which makes the children suddenly have to react
e.g. Port/starboard, musical statues etc

1.The Air Raid – Configuration Mime, Role discussion.

***In a classroom setting you might be limited with the movement sections however you can still set the scene.**

Ask the students to close their eyes and explain that they are going to hear a sound effect and you want them to think of what it means and what they visualise happening next.

Play the Air Raid Siren and discuss ideas and how they would react to this sound. It is wartime.

For Air Raid Siren

<https://www.freesfx.co.uk/sfx/air-raid>

Groups Of 4/5 – Make The Shelters

Explain that when they hear the siren they will make the shape of an Air Raid shelter with their bodies (configuration mime).

Choose some students **to demonstrate** doing this first in a group of about 4 or 5.

Now ask the others to get into groups to make the shelter configurations.

Give time for everyone to do this and then take a look at a few.

Now ask everyone to sit/stand in a casual pose (near their group members).

Explain that when you put off the siren they will quickly make their configuration shelters.

When they make their pose play the siren and they will make the shelters.

Inside The Shelters – Keep the same groupings.

Staying in these groups the students will now think of what it would be like inside the shelters and make tableaux of people sitting nervously there awaiting the all clear.

Again you could **demonstrate this with a few students** to make it clear what you are asking them to do.

Now allow some time to work on this and then see a few tableaux.

During this exercise play the Bombs Falling Sound effect in the background.

For Bombs falling Multiple Plastic Charges Going Off is the longest piece

<https://www.freesfx.co.uk/Category/Bombs-Grenades/115>

Whole Class Movement - Divide the class into two groups.

Explain you are going to put this together to make a large Air Raid.

You can discuss **orderly but fast** movement to the shelters would be advisable.

Suggest the idea that **panic** can work against them.

Each group goes to a different side of the room.

As you play the Air raid Siren they will go one at a time to a position where their shelter group will form their configuration of the shelter.

To choreograph this you can number group members 1-5. The 1's and 3's and 5's are to one side the others (2's and 4's) to the other.

As you play the siren signal you can by a show of your fingers (one finger pointing for the 1's to go), which numbers are to set off and when so you don't have everyone running at the same time.

When the shelters are made play the bombs falling sound effect. The students can shake their arms within the configurations to simulate the bombs landing.

You can also end with the shelter configuration giving way to the people inside as a final tableau.

For more WW2 Lessons click the link below:

<https://www.thedramastudio.com/store/category/38-world-war-two>