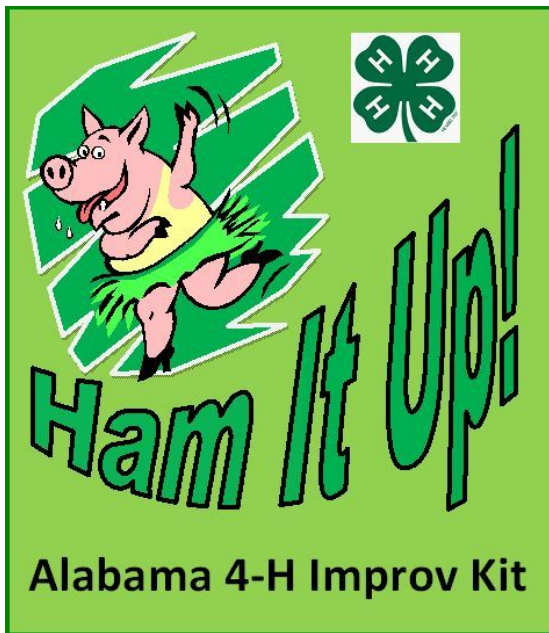


Ham It Up – The Alabama 4-H Improv Club Kit



Scenario: a plot outline used by actors.

Body Language: the gestures, movements, and mannerisms by which a person communicates with others.

Show Me a Story!

Life Skill:
Communicating with Others
Creative Movement
Improvisation
Effective Listening
Recognizing Body Language

Success Indicator:
Youth will practice creativity by producing and telling a story with minimal preparation.

Time: 20 minutes – Depending on Group Size

Suggested Group Size:
Classroom or less

Supplies:
Club kit CD
Club Kit Hand Puppets

If you've ever seen old silent movies you know it's pretty easy to tell a story using only non-verbal communication.

For example, **a group of kids is attacked by a scary monster – and a little dog came and frightened the monster away.**

[Tell the young people]
Show me the monster.

[Tell the young people]
Show me the scared kids.

[Tell the young people]
Show me the brave little dog.

Do the Activity:

Put the props on a central table where all the young people can see what props are available for this activity.

Divide them into several groups.

Instructions:

Your challenge is to tell a story using the props, but with *no words* and *no sounds*.

Give them a few minutes to develop a story and to quietly discuss how they will act out their scenario.

One by one, call the groups to present their stories. After each presentation, have the audience guess what was being presented.

The group may choose to discuss each story after it has been presented or after all scenes have been presented.

Talking It Over

Share What You Did

What did you like about activity?
What was the hardest part for you?

Reflect

What were some things people did to show their characters?
How well did the different characters interact? –
Was everyone included?
How did you work as a group to come up with a story? Did one person take a leadership role?

Generalize to Your Life

When are some times that we use our physical actions to tell other people how we feel – for example, how do people look when they are mad or afraid or shy?
What makes it difficult to recognize people's "body language"?

Apply What You Have Learned

What are other situations when you need to pay close attention to what a person does and says?

How do you make group decisions in real life?