

Sound Effect Reading

Bringing the Poem to Life

In this activity, we will bring the poem "The Highwayman" to life by incorporating various sound effects throughout the reading. You will be assigned to a specific sound effect. Listen attentively to the poem being read and be ready to engage with your assigned sound effect at the appropriate moments. Maintain a suitable volume for your sound effect, ensuring it is audible but not overpowering the overall experience.

Group 1: Riding Sound Effect

- Your group will be responsible for creating the sound effect of the highwayman riding his horse.
- Whenever the line "The highwayman came riding—" is read, say the word "riding" out loud and then clap twice. The Highwayman came riding (clap clap) riding (clap clap) riding (clap clap).
- Repeat this pattern for each occurrence of the line in the poem.
- Practice maintaining a steady rhythm and synchronizing the claps with the word "riding."

One Person: Tapping Sound Effect

- Your group will create the sound effect of the highwayman tapping with his whip on the shutters.
- Whenever the line "He tapped with his whip on the shutters" is read, make a tapping sound using an object like a pencil or your fingers on a desk.
- Emphasize the tapping sound to mimic the action of the highwayman.
- Be mindful of the timing and intensity of the taps to match the description in the poem.

One Person: Creaking Sound Effect

- Your group will produce the sound effect of the stable wicket creaking in the dark old inn-yard.
- Whenever the line "And dark in the dark old inn-yard a stable-wicket creaked" is read, create a creaking sound in any way you think sounds correct (crrrrreeeeeeaaakkkkk).
- Coordinate with the timing of the line and emphasize the creaking sound to add an eerie atmosphere.

Group 4: Marching Sound Effect

- Your group will generate the sound effect of the red-coat troops marching.
- Whenever the line "A red-coat troop came marching" is read, say the word "marching" and then stomp your feet twice. A red coat troop came marching (stomp stomp) marching (stomp stomp) marching (stomp stomp).
- Repeat this pattern for each occurrence of the line in the poem.
- Practice maintaining a steady rhythm and synchronizing the stomps with the word "marching."

Group 5: Reading Stanzas

- Your group will take turns reading specific stanzas in the poem.
- When the line “Now keep good watch” is reached, a designated student should read it in a sarcastic, mocking way, as the soldier would have done in this part of the story.
- When the stanza "One kiss, my bonny sweetheart..." is reached, a designated student should read it in their best expressive voice, capturing the tone and emotions portrayed in the stanza.
- Additionally, when the stanza "Look for me by moonlight..." is reached, another student should read it with emphasis and conviction.

Group 6: Galloping Sound Effect

- Your group will create the sound effect of galloping horse hooves.
- Whenever the line "Tlot-tlot; tlot-tlot!" is read, use your fingers to drum on a desk or any other suitable surface to mimic the sound of a galloping horse.
- Maintain the galloping rhythm and gradually increase the speed during the line "Back he spurred like a madman.“ When the Highwayman is spurring back like a madman, the galloping should be fast.

Group 7: Final Dramatic Sound Effect

- Your group will create the final sound effect to represent the climax of the poem.
- When the line "And he lay in his blood on the highway" is read, stop the galloping sound effect abruptly by slapping your hand down flat on the desk, signifying the final moment.

Remember to practice and coordinate your sound effects to enhance the dramatic and immersive experience of the poem. Work together as a team to ensure the timing and intensity of the sound effects align with the lines of the poem. Enjoy bringing "The Highwayman" to life through sound!