



# DRAMATICS

Dramatics is the art of producing drama. Producing a play requires hard work. It involves costumes, make-up, scenery, props, and, of course, acting. Drama offers you the opportunity to act out a role taking on the character of a different person. This can be fun and can teach you many things about yourself.

## THINGS TO KNOW AND DO

To complete this activity, do the starred (\*) tasks plus TWO others of your choice.

**\*1** Attend a lecture/demonstration by a drama teacher, college theater major or someone active in a local theater group. Ask them to explain characterization. Also have them give you instructions for the following:

- a. Improvisation
- b. Pantomime
- c. Simple drama exercises

**\*2** Find each term in the Word Search Puzzle. On the next page, write each term by its definition. Use a dictionary or theatrical book for additional help. Memorize these terms and use them when you produce your drama.

STAGE  
CUE  
PROPS  
SCRIPT

SETS  
BACKDROP  
EXIT  
STAGEHANDS

ENTRANCE  
ACTOR  
STAGE LEFT  
DIRECTOR

STAGE RIGHT  
REHEARSAL

R	M	O	L	E	F	T	E	G	A	T	S
E	E	B	S	C	A	R	S	A	C	E	T
H	F	A	C	N	U	P	T	E	T	X	A
E	X	P	R	A	O	E	A	H	O	I	G
A	D	O	I	R	A	T	G	I	R	T	E
R	G	R	P	T	I	I	E	J	O	G	H
S	I	D	T	N	R	X	L	Q	T	A	A
A	X	K	D	E	S	T	E	S	C	V	N
L	E	C	G	A	S	K	F	A	E	P	D
S	N	A	H	E	G	A	T	V	R	B	S
O	T	B	A	R	C	O	D	I	I	W	A
S	S	C	I	T	A	M	A	R	D	U	L

GIRL GUARDS

EXIT

- a. The way offstage. This can be at the sides or back of the stage. It should be hidden from view of the audience.
- b. Everything to the right of the center of the stage as you face the audience.
- c. Furniture and decorations used in a stage setting. Any object handled by an actor in a play. These help make the stage world more realistic.
- d. The written text of a play including all the actor's lines and directions to help the actor know how to play the part correctly. All directions for entrances, exits, lighting, etc. are also included.
- e. These people are responsible for all activity backstage, behind the scenes. They place props, open and close the curtains, regulate the lights and change scenery.
- f. A signal given by the director or another actor indicating that someone must make an entrance or exit. This can be a line in the script, an action or anything that will remind the actor of his next responsibility.
- g. Area needed to produce the show. This can be at floorlevel or a platform built specifically for play production.
- h. Practice sessions for learning lines, movements, entrances, exits, cues, etc.
- i. This person is responsible for seeing that all the lines are spoken correctly and clearly, that all exits and entrances are made properly; that scenes look right. This person is responsible for coordinating the production so that everything runs smoothly.
- j. The way onto the stage. An actor can get onstage many ways, from the sides or back of the stage, from the audience, etc.
- k. Everything to the left of the center of the stage as you face the audience.
- l. Scenes or signs painted on large sheets, paper, wooden frames, or panels to create a feeling of reality.
- m. The individual responsible for making the script come alive.
- n. Moveable or permanent fixtures that create rooms or scenes including furniture, backdrops, etc.

**\*3**

Participate in a dramatic production. Try out for a school, corps/church or community play. You may get a performing part.

**or**

Volunteer for the stage crew to help with costumes, props, scenery, etc. Extra hands are usually needed and you may discover that there is more going on backstage than onstage!

Following the performance, have the director sign below.

_____	_____
Name	Position
_____	_____
Adult's signature	Date

**\*4**

See a high school, college, or professional drama production. Choose a character in the play and observe the following:

- a. What the actor does to be convincing in his/her role.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. What the actor does, if anything, that is out of character. (Example: If a young woman is playing an old woman but moves or walks too quickly, she is acting out of character.)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- c. If the actor's costume suits the character being portrayed.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- d. If make-up is used effectively to make the actor appear more like the character. If so, how?

If possible, arrange for a tour backstage. Ask about lighting, sound effects, scenery, costumes, etc.



**5** Attend a production of a children's theater group in your community. Offer to take along younger brothers, sisters, or children from your corps or church.

**6** Watch a puppet show either on television, video, or as a live production. Notice how distinct voices and movements are used for different puppet characters.

Prepare a short puppet production using an original or published script. You can purchase the puppets or make them yourself. Books on simple puppet-making may be found in a local library. Ask a few friends to help you present the production for your troop, a Sunday school class, day care center or another group.

**7** The role of women in theater has changed greatly over the centuries. In Shakespeare's time women never appeared onstage. Female characters were played by boys and young men. Research the changes in the role of women in the theater over the years. Share this information with your troop.



I have satisfactorily completed all of the requirements for the  
DRAMATICS activity.

\_\_\_\_\_

My signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Leader's signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

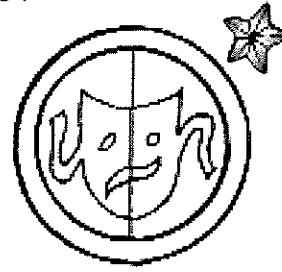
\_\_\_\_\_

Resource Person's signature (if there was one)

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

DRAMATICS **S-T-R-E-T-C-H** PROJECT  
Complete the following project.



Select and produce a one act play or any short play. These may be found in a book of plays obtained from the local library. Ask the girls in your troop to assist you. It will be your responsibility to conduct rehearsals and arrange for costumes, props, and scenery. Present the play at least once.

Read the Drama **S-T-R-E-T-C-H** PROJECT Evaluation Form before you begin. Complete the form after the play has been performed. The skills you have learned in the DRAMATICS activity will help make the production a success.

Take some photos of the rehearsals and performance. If you are working on the Catherine Booth Award, save the photos to share with the Review Committee.

Drama **S-T-R-E-T-C-H** PROJECT Evaluation Form



I have satisfactorily completed all of the requirements for the DRAMATICS <b>S-T-R-E-T-C-H</b> PROJECT.	
_____	_____
My signature	Date
_____	_____
Leader's signature	Date
_____	_____
Resource Person's signature (if there was one)	Date



DRAMA <b>S-T-R-E-T-C-H</b> PROJECT EVALUATION FORM	Good Job	OK Job	Could have done better
Did I choose a play suitable for the actors?			
Did I plan enough time for rehearsals and preparation?			
Was I prepared for rehearsals and did I run them efficiently?			
Did I work well with the actors and crew?			
How was the actual performance?			
<p>What was the reaction of the audience? _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>If there were problems during rehearsals, how were they handled? _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Looking back, these things went well: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Looking back, these things could be improved next time: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>			

