

First Graders use pantomime and tableau to retell *The Tortoise and the Hare* by Janet Stevens

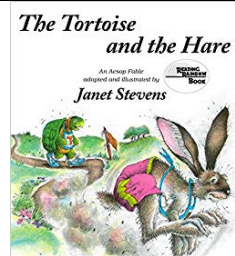


Tableau is a theater technique of telling a story in frozen pictures. Students use their body position and facial expression to portray a specific part of a story. **Pantomime** is an extension of tableaux where students use small movements to show events from a specific part of the story. Acting with gestures and actions, no words.

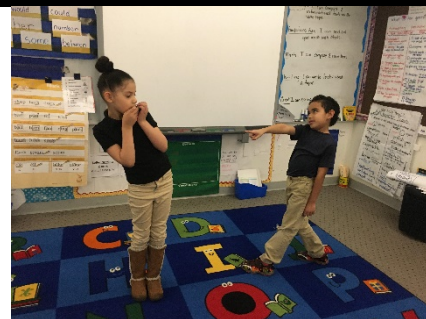
After listening to the story, *The Tortoise and the Hare* by Janet Stevens, students created a tableau or pantomime of an important event (or events) from the beginning, middle and end of the story.

Preparing for Acting



Miss Elizabeth introduced tableau to the students and taught different aspects that are needed in tableau such as levels (high, medium and low) and emotions. She introduced important vocabulary words like *actors neutral*, *pantomime*, and *tableau*. These words remained posted and were referred to throughout each lesson and over the course of the residency.

Event 1



Event 1: The teacher read the beginning of the story and students worked in partners or small groups to show an important event from the beginning of the story. Some partners or small groups used lines from the story to help in the retelling of the beginning of the story. After the tableau, students used a graphic organizer to retell the story and illustrated and described an important event from the beginning.

Event 2



Event 2: The teacher read the middle of the story and students worked in partners or small groups to show an important event from the middle of the story. Some partners or small groups incorporated pantomime and used lines from the story to help in the retelling of the middle of the story. After the tableau, students continued to work on their graphic organizer and illustrated and described an important event from the middle of the story.

Event 3

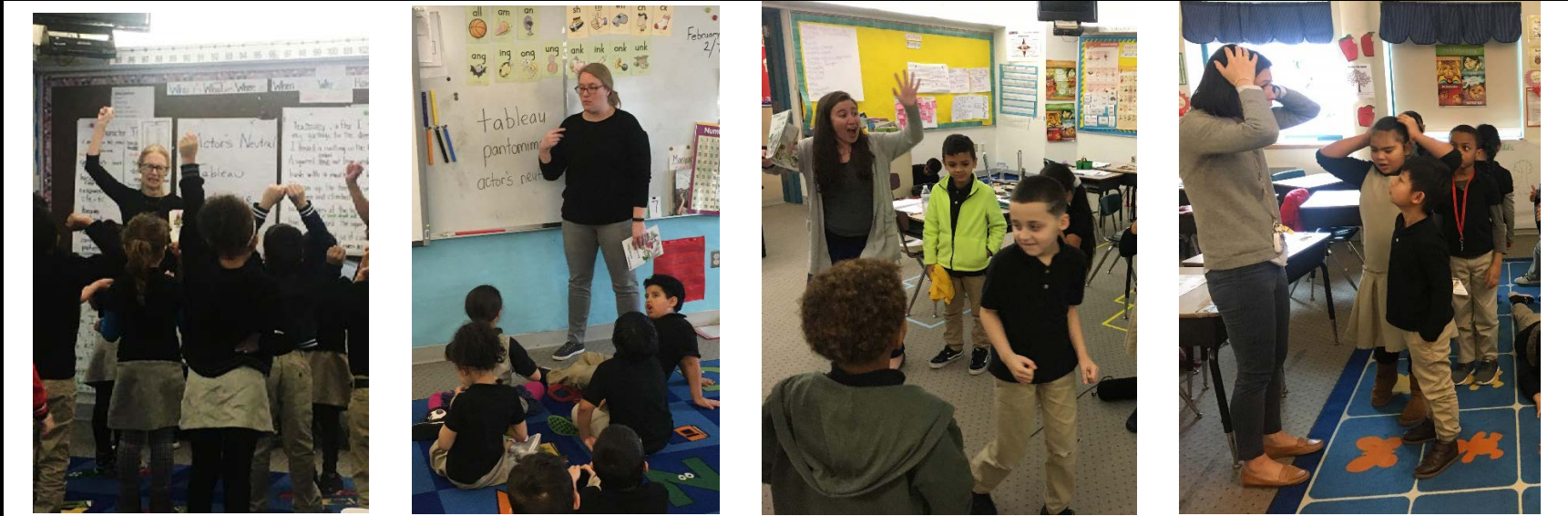


Event 3: The teacher read the end of the story and students worked in partners or small groups to show an important event from the end of the story. Some partners or small groups incorporated pantomime and used lines from the story to help in the retelling of the end of the story. After the tableau, students finished their work on their graphic organizer and illustrated and described an important event from the end of the story.

Final Presentation: The teachers reserved the library for the four classrooms to share their tableau and pantomime with one another.

| Literacy Objectives / Learning Targets | Teacher Goal and Reflections |
|---|---|
| <p>(Based on the CCSS) <u>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.2</u> Retell stories, including key details, and demonstrate understanding of their central message or lesson.</p> <p><u>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.3</u> Describe characters, settings, and major events in a story, using key details.</p> <p><u>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.7</u> Use illustrations and details in a story to describe its characters, setting, or events</p> | <p>I (Teacher) want to be able to be more comfortable using tableau to engage students. I want to add structured movement into my class. I want to have tableau as a new instructional strategy.</p> <p>I want my students to be able to retell a story or a text. Students will have a better understanding of the text and details of the story. Students actions will match the text. Student will be better as imagining and visualizing what's going on in the story. Students will be able to physicalize vocabulary.</p> <p>Teachers: Students were active participants in retelling the story of the tortoise and the hare. The tableau and pantomime activities helped <u>all</u> students have access to the text, despite the wide variety in reading levels, and gave everyone a chance to show their own interpretation of the events from the beginning, middle and end of the story. Incorporating art into the literacy lesson helped students when it was time to illustrate and write about an important event from the story because they had just acted it out. This activity helped all students, especially those who are kinesthetic learners.</p> <p>Teaching Artist: During the coaching sessions, I saw the teachers really take ownership of the vocabulary of Actor's Neutral, Tableau, and Pantomime. They all picked up the skill of structuring Tableau for a specific text and for their own students' needs. The students really gained clarity on the character traits of Tortoise and Hare and were using vocabulary from the book to describe their Tableaux. They also gained confidence in staying still and focused while coming in for their cues and were so proud working together to act the story out! I learned from these sessions that it would be helpful for teachers to make time for students to reflect on each other's tableau and be able to identify elements of a successful tableau such as levels and emotion."</p> |
| <p>Arts Objectives /Learning Targets</p> | |
| <p>(Based on the National Core Arts Standards)</p> <p>Theatre: Creating: Grade 1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work. a. Propose potential choices characters could make in a guided drama experience (e.g., process drama, story drama, creative drama).</p> <p>Theatre: Creating: Grade 1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work. c. Identify ways in which gestures and movement may be used to create or retell a story in guided drama experiences.</p> | |

Teachers leading Tableau



Examples of Student Work

