

## Making the Invisible, Visible: Half-Hanged Mary Tableaux Project

### Full Description

Tableau...demonstrates their understanding of the scene or story they are working on. Using their bodies, individuals, pairs, small groups, or the full group create an image or "human statue" that communicates an idea or a single moment of action from a story or event. A tableau consists of bodies frozen in the midst of strong action suggesting what the characters are doing, how they are interacting with other characters, and how they are reacting to the situation.

Drama Strategies: Pacific Resources for Drama and Learning, (2005), <http://www.prel.org/eslstrategies/drama.html#>

Having read Margret Atwood's poem, Half-Hanged Mary, groups will create a **tableau** of a section of the poem using **interior monologue** to make the invisible, visible. We will take the tableau strategy one step further to include the **voices** of the characters reacting to the scene being depicted.

- Students will form groups of four or five.
- Students will be given a section of the poem to illustrate in a frozen scene.
- During the presentation, the section of the poem being presented will be read whenever and however it fits into your performance . This may be one character acting as a narrator for the whole piece, or different characters reading different parts.
- Each character in the tableau will present a **MEMORIZED** monologue which narrates their reaction to the scene. These monologues will be "a slice of life" from inside the mind of the person, whether it be Mary while she hangs on the tree, or one of the women watching her, or one of the men who tied her. These monologues will be **thoughtful and relevant to the themes and message of the poem.** (250 words)
- Each performance will be introduced and concluded with some sort of choral signal: chant, movement, gesture, etc. Students will enter and exit the stage **in character**, planned and rehearsed.
- Use of props, costumes, music and light is greatly encouraged!
- Each of the tableau characters will complete a **written copy of their interior monologue**. These written responses will be completed in good copy, and handed in all together as a group.
- **On performance day, we will have an extravaganza of dramatic delight!**
- Each group will perform in sequence on our "stage". Groups will be **PREPARED** , **REHEARSED** , and **ENTHUSIASTIC!**

Each member of the group will receive the same mark for the tableau preparation and performance. Each member of the group will receive an individual mark for their written portion of the project.

### Tableau Evaluation

Criteria	4 - 5	2- 3	0 - 1
Interpretation of scene	Tableau is thoughtful and relevant to poem. Strong choices of stance and movement serve to enhance the message of the poem. Monologues are well paced, creative and appropriate in tone and mood.	Tableau attempts to creatively interpret message. Choices of stance and movement are acceptable. Monologues are delivered sufficiently to create a tone and mood.	Tableau is weakly organized and message is blurred. Choices of stance and movement seem random. Monologues are varied, creating conflicting or absent tone and mood.
Visual appeal	Tableau has a strong focal point, uses depth and dimension to draw audience in. Creative choices of sound, costume, props etc result in an appealing image.	Tableau creates an adequate scene. Choices of sound, costume, props etc support the image.	Tableau lacks adequate staging and placement. Costumes, sound, props, etc are either lacking, distracting or incomplete.
Preparation	The group works cohesively and with dedication, using class time to best advantage.	The group works during class time, sometimes productively. Some challenges in cohesion.	The group faces challenges of focus and cohesion. Frequent teacher intervention is required.
Performance	The performance is well rehearsed, dynamic, enthusiastic and the obvious result of dedication. All members memorized monologues and sequencing flowed with polish.	The performance meets the requirements of the assignment. Most members memorized monologues. Sequencing was appropriate.	The performance requires more preparation and polish. Obvious lack of memorization creates jarring presentation.

### Individual Written Response Evaluation

<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Value</i>
Thought and Detail	Piece discusses character, motivation, emotion and relevance.	/5
Choice	Strong vocabulary, appropriate tone. Author's voice supports the piece.	/5
Organization	Meaning is conveyed through the organization of the writing	/5
Correctness	Errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc, are minimal.	/5