



Arts Award Takeover!

Ideas for P4 to P7

Although P7 are doing a different level, all the activities below can be adapted to suit your lesson plans.

Changing the game:

Take an existing drama/PE/playground game and theme it to suit. The list for these is endless and if you're after one that isn't one of the examples, do come back to me and ask for something specific, e.g. "I need a game the class can play at their desks which helps to identify lots of art forms". I'll then think up a few options.

Example Games

Port Starboard – the running around game where one wall is port, one starboard, one stern and one bow with other actions like 'scrub the decks' and 'captain's coming'. This could be adapted to be different art forms, or one I've played a lot – the theatre game with Stage left, right, upstage, down stage & centre stage. And actions like 'director's coming' and 'hamlet!' (where everyone gets down on one knee holds a hand up and says "I knew him, horatio").

Jelly Beans – this could be a running around game or easily adapted to sitting at the desk. Coming up with different actions for different types of bean – runner bean, string bean, baked bean, French bean, Mexican bean and jelly bean. I would use this to explore the themes from a workshop or when thinking up different artists. For example, the class could think up an action for Beyonce Bean, or Roald Dahl Bean, or Picasso Bean and so on.

Whoosh (or zip zap) – the well known circle game where you pass a sound and action around the circle. Adding in other sounds for change direction, firing it across the circle, bouncing it back and so on. Replace the sounds with one's from the workshop you just took part in or sounds from the performance etc.

Cornflakes or "Swap seats if". If a circle of chairs doesn't work in the space, do it on the carpet or in the playground. Swap seats if... you have been to an art gallery... if you have heard music today... if you have seen a film this month... if you've acted on stage... and so on.

Too over excited from the week? Here's a few calmer suggestions:

A relaxation exercise – putting on calm music and getting everyone to close their eyes and really listen to the track. Pauline would be the expert on recommending some tracks if you want to try something you're not familiar with. Talk the class through the exercise getting them to hear different instruments and imagine stories/ideas based on the music.

Pass the squeeze – in a circle holding hands, in silence passing the squeeze and seeing how fast it travels round the circle. Develop this with the theme so your passing in time to music, or incorporating gentle dance moves.

Sleeping Lions – what about sleeping sculptures?!

Other drama ideas:

Making shapes – a drama favourite. For example, you have 15 seconds to get in to a group of 4 and make the shape of a house... 5,4,3,2,1 Freeze. Then, you have 15 seconds to get in to a group of 3 and make the shape of a motorbike. And so on. Replace house and bike with whatever suits the theme – have a look at some famous paintings and get the group to make the shape of it – for example Van Gogh's Starry Night, one of Picasso's cubist faces, a Matisse of people dancing, Dali's swan/elephants etc etc.

Hot seating – one or a small group pretend to be a pop star/actor/visual artist etc and they are hot seated and need to answer as authentically as possible. Obviously you'll need a few good improvisers in the class and if you've not got that you can rope in me or someone to be hot seated.

Who am I? One person pretends to be an artist and the class has 20 questions to guess who it is.

Arts & Crafts ideas:

Puppets (spoons, paper plates, finger, shadow and so on) are SO useful as you can use them as a making exercise, but then the puppets can be used for other lesson plans – for example, get your puppet to talk about what you did in the workshop. Make up a scene with 2 puppets discussing the performance etc.

Masks – similar to puppets. Allow a format for less confident children to perform or act something out. Could be fun to make and then use in the presentation for Explore or Art Skill Share for Bronze.

Make an art form wheel – on a paper plate make a clock of different art forms and use throughout the week.

Feedback and evaluation:

A feedback tree where after a workshop each learner could write a word, or draw a face or a picture on a post it and stick it on the tree. For the log books we would just need to print off a photo of the tree and then stick the post it in the log. Doesn't have to be a tree... in keeping with the theme of "Jump in and run with it" perhaps it could be a swimming pool or a running track or similar?

A graffiti wall – similar to the tree but a large sheet of paper which you can write directly on.

An emoticon board – lots of different emotions and the learners each have to point to one to express their feelings about the workshop, the performance and so on.

The fish that could wish... write a wish on a fish about what you'd like to happen next. What art you'd like to create. What ideas you have for other creative things.

Music:

NB on the Monday or Tuesday there are some music students around to help. If you want to do something along the lines of the below, you could get one of them to help with an ukulele or similar. But you'll need to tell me first so we can schedule it in.

Change the lyrics to a song based on the lesson plan or overall theme. My favourites to adapt (as I am seriously not musical, but always willing to give it a shot) are: Frere Jacques, Pizza Hut and I like the Flowers.

Here's the lyrics to the classic, Pizza Hut:

A Pizza Hut, A Pizza Hut

Kentucky Fried Chicken

And A Pizza Hut, (repeat)

MCDONALDS

MCDONALDS

Kentucky Fried Chicken and a Pizza Hut.

You could change it to something like:

A painter paints

A singer sings... (you get the gist!)