

## Melt and rescue

*Drama*

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

- To create scenes from the battlefield
- To go into role as a soldier in the war
- To stimulate creative writing through imaginative experience.

### SKILLS TARGETED

- Creative role play
- Movement
- Co-operation.

### TIME SCALE

- 20 minutes

#### Step 1

Practise falling safely with the class.

In VERY SLOW MOTION, kneel onto the left knee, using your right leg as support. Then sit down onto the left side, using your left hand as support. From there, roll down onto the floor

#### Step 2

To get up, reverse these movements: roll into a sitting position on the left side, kneel up onto the left knee and come to standing

#### Step 3

Practise this in slow motion. Ensure that no children are falling onto both knees, as this movement is uncontrolled and therefore unsafe

#### Step 4

Now practise the movement, both falling and getting up, to a VERY SLOW count of 8. Stress that the children are MELTING to the floor, not falling like stones!

#### Step 5

If the falls are correct and safe, try to a count of 6, then if appropriate to a count of 4, and then 2. Children will enjoy the challenge, but you must ensure that they are still falling correctly – and softly. There should be no noise as they melt to the ground, however quickly they are falling

#### Step 6

Ask everyone to sit down. Select a few children to demonstrate the falls at different speeds so that everyone can watch and observe how it looks when done correctly

#### Step 7

Practice with everyone again at all speeds – ensuring the fall is soft (no dropping like stones!) and correct

#### Step 8

Now ask the children to fall to a count of 8, but this time instead of just falling, they are injured in battle.

Add a handclap or drum beat before the count, which is the moment at which they are wounded. The children should show the initial impact of their injury, and their expressions as they fall. When they reach the ground they should lie as if either in pain or dead

#### Step 9

Ask different groups of children to demonstrate their battle injuries and falls for the rest of the class

#### Step 10

Ask the class to work in pairs. One partner is injured and falls. The other must come and rescue them, help them to their feet and lead them from the battlefield

#### Step 11

Swap round so each partner has a chance to be injured and rescued

#### Step 12

Run the rescues both ways round as one continuous sequence. Add appropriate music to the scene.

### SUCCESS CRITERIA

- Children will work separately and together to create battlefield scenes
- They will imagine being on the battlefield, as an injured soldier and a rescuer
- They will learn to fall safely and effectively
- They will learn how to put emotional expression onto abstract technical movement, so that it looks real and is also safe.

War Horse Learning

War Horse drawings by  
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