

The Arts in Every Classroom: A Workshop for Elementary School Teachers
Reading

Role-Play

Role-play is the act of pretending to be someone or something you're not. This technique is an excellent way to elevate attention and focus energy in the classroom. Role-play also motivates students to listen, think, and speak

There are three basic aspects of a role to take into account when improvising:

- *Purpose.* As you develop your role, it is helpful to keep in mind the purpose you have in the drama. A character's purpose may change.
- *Status.* All relationships have an element of power. This means that one person has some hold over the other, some special knowledge or a higher position. We call this status. Consider your role in relation to other roles in terms of status. Will your role be of higher, lower, or equal status?
- *Attitude.* Each character in every drama has attitudes towards the subject of the drama and the other characters in the drama.

These aspects of role became visible through the physical, vocal, and word choices made by the students.