

1

Silent movies Show the children clips of old-fashioned silent movies, explaining that the original screenings were accompanied by live music in the cinema. Choose a lively or dramatic instrumental piece of music and challenge the children to create their own ‘silent movie’ by acting out a short story using this as a score. Ask them to listen carefully, ensuring that they match their action to the changes in the music. Once the plot is established, this could be written up as a play script.

2

Green screen There are some really fab, free (or inexpensive) green screen apps available for tablets, which make for some seriously exciting drama activities! Set up a DIY green screen in the classroom with a draped cloth, and arrange for small groups of children to film short scenes in front of it. They can then use the app to edit a fantasy background into their film – a haunted castle, an alien planet, a historical battle – the only limit is their imagination!

3

Safe resolutions Role-play can be a fantastic way of helping children to explore and discuss difficult subjects. Give each group of children a different scenario related to an issue a young person might experience. Ask each group to act out a scene in which a young person has to make an important choice. For example, a boy is being bullied by an older girl and has the opportunity to get his own back. The rest of the class must vote on what the character will do next – and the group of actors must create a follow-up scene accordingly!

4

Talking faces Give each child a painting or portrait which depicts a single person – for example, one of Frida Khalo’s self-portraits, or Edvard Munch’s *The Scream*. Ask them to imagine they are the person in the painting. How do they feel? If they could speak, what would they say? Ask the children to compose and perform a monologue as their character.

5

Event re-enactment The best way to learn something is to experience it. Choose a significant event from your History topic, and assign characters for a whole-class role play or even a whole key stage roleplay. What might Caesar’s soliders be doing the night before their attempted invasion of Britain? How would coastal villagers react to the sight of a Viking warship on the horizon? Give the children a scenario and let them roll with it! This could also spark some fantastic story writing as a happy side-effect.