

COSTUME BUILDING WITH RECYCLABLE ITEMS



A great way to teach basic costuming and costume design.

Objective

To create a costume that matches a description of a character using only recyclable objects.

Lesson

Working in small groups, students design and create an assigned costume using recyclable materials and (clean) trash. One student in the group then models the finished costume for the class.

Before the Lesson

Instruct students to start gathering items from around their home that normally they would throw away – paper towel rolls, newspapers, fabric scraps, empty soda bottles, etc. Each student is to bring in one paper bag full of recyclable material (no organics such as coffee grounds, banana peels, etc...!)

Materials

Have glue, glitter, tape, craft supplies, etc. available as well as recyclable material kept from previous projects or scavenged in your classroom.

Rules

- You may use materials any way you see fit.
- You may use any materials you have/find as long as they are not genuine articles of clothing. A shirt, for instance, cannot be used as a shirt.
- There can be no street clothes showing on the finished product – if your character needs shoes or socks, you will have to make them.
- You may not steal supplies or ideas from another group, although you may barter.
- Nothing is ugly in theatre, its art.
- Keep it appropriate.

Characters

One assigned to each group.

The Bride: She comes from a wealthy background and is very concerned with being in fashion. She has always dreamed of a big traditional wedding.

The Monster From the Black Lagoon: He is icky, he is slimy, he is disgusting. Enough said.

Continued Over...

A Shakespearean-type wood nymph fairy (non – gender specific): Your basic crafty little mischief-maker. Should look “other-worldly” and may have magical powers.

A Lion: King of the jungle. This lion is from a children’s story theatre script and should have a good-humored storybook style to him.

A Tree: This tree is very overgrown and old and is, in fact, a sinister old witch who has had a spell cast on her a hundred years ago! It should be free to move around because there is much choreography planned for it.

New-age Munchkin: This little one has evolved from the days of Oz. He/she is hip and up-to-date, but still holds onto the hippie values of long ago.

Presentation

Be as creative as you can. You will be presenting your creations in a costume parade on the designated date. Make sure you decide who will be wearing the costume and don’t forget about footwear. Whoever presents must do so “in-character”.

Evaluation

You will be evaluated on teamwork and group effort, costume design, creative use of materials and being true to the character. Work in your own group, use your time wisely.