

# Character Pitches

*Kindergarten*

Adapted by Nancy Gibson

## CORE SUBJECT AREA

English Language Art

## ART FORM + ELEMENTS

Drama: Character, Dialogue

## MSCCR STANDARDS

RL.K.3 With prompting and support, identify characters, setting, and major events in a story.

RL.K.10 Actively engage in group reading activities with purpose and understanding.

SL.K.6 Speak audibly and express thoughts, feelings and ideas clearly.

## MSCCR CREATIVE ARTS STANDARDS

TH: Pr6.1.K Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work.

a. With prompting and support, use voice and sound in dramatic play or a guided drama experience (e.g., process drama, story drama, creative drama).

## DURATION

30 minutes

## LESSON SEQUENCE

*What is an actor? Allow for several replies.*

*Did you know that we are actors? And all actors have three tools we can use.*

*Who knows what we do with tools? Yes, we build things.*

*Our tools are: our body; point to yourself and say “My body.” Point to your mouth and say “My voice.”*

*Now point to your head and say “My imagination.” Let’s practice that again. (Chant while using the gestures).*

*So we are going to use our tools to build a character in the story I am going to read to you.*

*First we need to practice using our tools:*

*Let’s practice using our bodies.*

*Can you make yourself as small as a raisin?*

*How about as big as a watermelon?*

*Now let’s practice using our voices. Let’s make our voice go up and down like a roller coaster saying “woo.”*

*Last, let’s practice our imagination.*

*Listen to this song (play the “Flight of the Bumblebee”).*

*While you listen to the music what pictures will you see in your head?*

*Discuss what they imagine they are seeing.*

## OBJECTIVES

Students will use their voice and body shape to describe a character.

Each of us is an actor and we have three tools:

1. Our body
2. Our voice
3. Our imagination

## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Rimsky-Korsakov: “Flight of the BumbleBee”

## VOCABULARY

Body: how we position our body

Voice: our voice can be high, low or medium

Imagination: making a picture in our mind

Character: a person or animal that the story is about

## MATERIALS NEEDED

Aesop’s fable [The Ant and the Grasshopper](#)

1. Introduce the book The Ant and the Grasshopper.

I am going to use my normal, medium, voice as I read but I want you to use your imagination and imagine what the characters, the ant and the grasshopper voices might sound like.

Do you think their voices will be high, low or medium?

2. Now I want you to get with a partner. Talk to your partner about what you imagine their voices sound like.

Also, you and your partner decide what your body will do to show how the ant and the grasshopper are different. (allow a few minutes for them to collaborate)

3. Who would like to share what the ant's voice would sound like and how his body would look? Does someone else have something different? Others? Why did you choose that voice and the shape with your body?

4. Repeat using the grasshopper.

5. So it seems that the ant has a higher voice because he is smaller and the grasshopper has a lower voice because he is bigger.

6. Now I am going to reread the story using the voices you imagined. When the ant is talking curl your body over your knees. When the grasshopper is speaking stretch your arms over your heads.

7. Do you think that little animals should always have higher voices and bigger animals the lower voices? What about the three bears? How would their voices sound? Jack and the Beanstalk? (Don't forget to use your body!)

8. Let's review the actor's tool: My body, my voice, my imagination.

## EXTENDED LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Students can act out the story; add a prop like a hat or a cane.

Students can change the ending of the story.

Students can choose two more animals to which they can give voice and a body size.

Students could create puppets and retell the story.

## SOURCES

Adapted from Education Closet 'Character Pitches' "Books Alive" track; Jennifer Unger, Whole Schools Initiative Summer Institute, June 2018

## TIPS + FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Students tend to confuse high and low pitch with loud and soft!

Choose other Aesop's fables that include two characters.

Video of the story [The Grasshopper and the Ants](#)

