

The Case of the Smelly Backpack

Objective: Students draw conclusions from textual evidence.

- Time for Lesson → **45 minutes**
- Standard → **Draw conclusions from textual evidence**
- Art integration → **Theatre arts – Narrative Pantomime**
- Supplies → **Worksheet, Writing Utensil**
- Video → **www.takethestage.tv**

 → Entire activity can be done from a seated position.



Pantomime: A performance using gestures and body movements without words.

PREPARATION:

- Preview video. (*video is 7 minutes*)
- Print a worksheet for each student from www.takethestage.tv.
- Test playback of video on smartboard or monitor before lesson.
- Make sure there is enough room for each student to stand up and move next to their desks or in an open space in the classroom.

INTRODUCTION:

- 1) You, the teacher, are now the “Teacher Detective”. Introduce to students, “Everyone of you in this classroom is now a detective and it will be your mission to solve the mystery of the smelly backpack! But, in order to solve the mystery, you will need to watch this video closely and follow along by acting out the clues.”
- 2) Pass out the worksheet (the detective notes) and have students take out a pencil to use later.

ACTIVITY:

- 1) Once each student has the worksheet, a pencil, and is seated at their desk, **PRESS PLAY**.
- 2) When video instructs students to **STAND UP**, students either stand next to their desk or in a free space in the classroom.
- 3) When video says **PRESS PAUSE**, pause video and students **take a seat to complete the worksheet**.
- 4) Once all the students have completed the worksheet, students can give their proposed reason for the smelly back pack. Do not reveal answer at this point. (*Answer: Banana*)
- 5) Once students have had a chance to give their answers, **UNPAUSE** and complete watching video which reveals the answer.

REVIEW:

- 1) Ask students how they solved the mystery.
- 2) Ask students if and how acting out the clues helped them solve the mystery.
- 3) Ask students to give examples about how they use pantomime to communicate without words in their everyday life.

