



## Role Play

Intermediate (Classes 7-10)

Foundation House / Elementary (Classes 5-7)



### Drama Activities (A Pestalozzi Approach)

The teacher chooses a key episode from 'The Life of Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi' or a description from 'Glimpses of Pestalozzi' suitable for students to base a role-play on. The teacher sets the scene by explaining interestingly what Pestalozzi and other characters involved in the chosen episode did.

#### Instructions to students:

- Discuss what age the characters were
- Discuss what the characters may have been like
- Discuss how the characters may have been feeling at the time
- Discuss how the characters behaved
- Discuss what the atmosphere of the place may have been like

***(NB: The students should be free to develop their own ideas based only loosely on the text)***

The teacher divides the students into groups. *(NB: The numbers of students in each group depend upon the number of characters needed for the role-play.)* The groups do role-plays, choosing who takes which part. *(NB: They go straight into their roles, not planning dialogue or script in advance.)*

The teacher goes around the groups listening in, and at the end of the role plays, asks different students to describe how they felt (as the character, not as the student).

Different groups may act their role-play in front of the rest of the students.

***(NB: This is not a necessary part of the activity and they should only do so if they would enjoy it.)***

This activity can be repeated with several episodes from each section of the biography of Pestalozzi: 'The Life of Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi' and the section can then be read to the students before using the same or a different approach for teaching the next section.

#### Materials Needed

Any props and costumes available





## Role Play Extension

Intermediate (Classes 7-10)

Foundation House / Elementary (Classes 5-7)



### Drama Activities (A Pestalozzi Approach)

#### Instructions to students:

Having read '**The Life of Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi**' or an episode from '**Glimpses of Pestalozzi**', the students develop a role-play out of any given episode by looking at it from another viewpoint; through the eyes of characters not actually found in the texts. Thus the chosen episode is explored in a new context.

The teacher and/or the students choose an episode or episodes in Pestalozzi's life to work on and go through what happened in the episode(s) in some detail. For example, in the section '**Education, Apprenticeship and Marriage**' of '**The Life of Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi**', there is an episode in which Pestalozzi was arrested and imprisoned because he was suspected of editing an insurgent pamphlet.

The students could do a role-play in which Pestalozzi is interviewed by the police. Although this is not part of the text of the biography, Pestalozzi's ideas and this situation, as well as the likely reactions of the police, can be explored in this way. In another example – the students could role-play the meeting between Dr Charles Mayo and Pestalozzi, having read the letter from Dr Mayo describing Pestalozzi in 'Glimpses of Pestalozzi'.

Groups of students, the size of the groups varying according to the role-plays chosen, go straight into their roles, not planning dialogue or script in advance. The teacher goes around the groups listening in to the role-plays and, at the end, asks different 'characters' to describe how they felt in role.

#### Materials Needed

- Each student's copy of the biography of Pestalozzi: 'The Life of Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi'
- A copy of '**Glimpses of Pestalozzi**'
- Any props and costumes available

