



The Biography of Pestalozzi: 'The Life of Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi' as a Play

Intermediate (Classes 7-10)

Foundation House / Elementary (Classes 5-7)



The Life of Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi: Drama Activities (Pestalozzi Approach)

The participants brainstorm what should be considered when writing and performing a play and these are listed on a large sheet of paper displayed on the wall.

Points to include are as follow:

- What episodes to include in how many different acts and scenes and what can be left out
- The need for continuity between acts and scenes
- Whether a narrator is needed
- The need to change prose into dialogue
- The need for stage directions and what these should include
- Costumes
- Props
- The need for special effects, what these should include and whether devices to create special effects will be available

(NB: participants should make their own costumes, props and devices for creating special effects wherever possible and not expect to have any provided unless they have been told that these are available)

- Where the play will be performed
- Who the audience consists of (younger children, contemporaries or adults)

The facilitator chooses a short episode from 'The Life of Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi' to use as an example. The students read it and then transform it into a play (which the teacher writes on the board as it is created), considering the points listed above and demonstrating as many of them as possible in the process.

The facilitator divides the participants into groups of eight and each group is given a section of 'The Life of Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi' to change into a play. (NB: Whichever group takes 'Pestalozzi's Death' should also take the section of the biography set in 1980, the brief episode before 'Pestalozzi's Childhood and Early Years in Zurich'.)

Materials Needed

- A copy of the biography of Pestalozzi: 'The Life of Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi' for each participants
- A large sheet of paper and marker pens
- Blu-tack
- Any available stage props, costumes and devices for creating special effects such as lighting and sound effects
- Materials needed for making props, costumes and devices for creating special effects



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Continue

Each group practises the play it has created, finds as many props, costumes and devices for special effects as possible and performs its play to the rest of the participants and to a wider audience if possible.

Alternatively, the sections are put together as one play and performed.

(NB: This would involve some editing and the decision whether or not to have a narrator would need to be made in advance of writing the play so that all the groups write their plays either with or without a narrator)

