

Theater Exercise

Theater Exercise/Game 1—Role Play:

During this exercise, you will be transforming yourself into one of the children of war we have studied in class. During this transformation, the class will interview the character, asking questions about his or her life. You will be asked to play the role of one of the following children we have studied or a child you have learned about on your own:

- Ben Uchida
- Anne Frank
- Zlata Filipovic
- Yoko Kawashima Watkins

When it's your turn, you will come to the front of the room and turn your back to the audience. You will be asked a series of questions by your classmates that may include the following:

- What were the conditions like where you lived during the war?
- What was most difficult about your experience during the war?
- What gave you comfort during the war?
- What did you miss most about your life before the war?
- How did life change for you in the days and months leading up to the war?

Theater Exercise/Game 2—"Then What Happened?"

In this game, you will recall the events of a story or situation by continually answering the question, "Then what happened?" You will be divided up into small groups for this exercise.

For example, if you are portraying Anne Frank, you would start by saying, "My name is Anne Frank and I was born in Germany." The other students in your group would ask you, "And then what happened?" until you have chronicled her entire life.

You will continue until each member of your small group has chronicled the life of the person he or she is representing.

Theater Exercise/Game 3—Imaginary Door

Students will draw an imaginary door and find a multitude of things behind it. Have students draw an imaginary door with an imaginary felt-tip marker (chalk, pen). Tell the class that when they open the door they will see Zlata Filipovic (or any other character that the class has studied). Ask the class what they see. Have them describe what the person is wearing, what he or she is doing, if he or she is with anyone else, etc.

Theater Exercise/Game 4—Role Play II

Have the students take on the role of Anne Frank, Louise Ogawa, Zlata Filipovic, or Ben Uchida. Discuss with the class several topics that the children could talk about if they were to meet. List these topics on the board. Divide the class into pairs. Have each team create a dialogue in which they discuss what life in hiding is like, what it is like living without some of their family members, etc. Have the class work on their dialogues. After rehearsing, students may perform their scenes for the class.

Students may create a graphic narrative or comic book depiction to relate an episode or episodes in the life of one of the children presented in this lesson. The [Stapleless Book Activity](#) of the ReadWriteThink Web site would be appropriate for this project.