

## Creating a Scene

### TASK 1: CREATING ACTION

How actors move in the play helps to tell the story!

For this task, you will need:

- To work in pairs
- A copy of the edited scene Act 4 Scene 3 which can be found at the end of this activity sheet
- A pen/pencil
- Some paper
- If you have more people in your home, ask them to be audience members!

This is the first time that Autolycus and Clown appear in the play.

Read through the scene and have a think about these questions:

- Where is Clown going?
- What does Autolycus do in the scene?
- How do the two characters interact?

Talk through the scene and write a list of what you understand to be the physical actions of each of the characters. Describe the scene, step by step for example: 'The clown offers Autolycus some money'. When you have a complete list of the actions in the scene, display it somewhere you both can see.

In your pair, create a silent version of the scene. Choose who is each character and show each of the steps you have listed. Take inspiration from silent films where actors exaggerate their gestures and facial expressions so the audience know exactly what's going on. Try to make your scene as-over-the-top as you can!

Show the silent versions of the scene that you have created to your audience. You could play music while you share your scene. Notice if music affects the way your audience see the action.

## TASK 2: EVERY WORD COUNTS

Action is only part of making a scene effective. Every word counts!

For this task, you will need:

- To work in pairs
- Approx. 15 - 20 household items. They could be pencils, spoons, pens, toys, anything you can find!
- A copy of the edited scene Act 4 Scene 3 which can be found at the end of this activity sheet
- A pen/pencil
- Some paper
- If you have more people in your home, ask them to be audience members!

Firstly, read aloud the scene between Autolycus and Clown.  
Then decide who's A and who's B.

A: Read aloud the Clown's first speech in the scene and while you are reading it, use the objects you have gathered to represent everything that the Clown is talking about. Taking an item, show it to B as you go. Include the things on his list as well as the people he refers to.

B: You need to listen! What do you notice about your partners acting when they use the objects. How does it change? Tell them what you see.

Now A and B to swap roles so that B becomes the speaker and A the listener.

- What difference did it make using the objects?
- Do you now have a clearer picture of what the characters are talking about?
- What difference does it make to the speech when it's shared with an audience?

Finally, say the speech to your audience one last time, this time without the objects.

- Has this task helped you and your partner understand the scene any better?
- Ask your audience what they understand about the scene?

After you have completed both these tasks have a go at performing the whole scene to your family considering the actions of the scene and making every word count!

**Adapting the task:** split the scene up into shorter sections or work with just the first speech by Autolycus.

*The Winters Tale* by William Shakespeare  
Act 4 Scene 3

AUTOLYCUS My father named me Autolycus, who being, as I am, littered under Mercury, was likewise a snapper-up of unconsidered trifles. My revenue is the silly cheat. A prize, a prize!

*Enter Clown*

CLOWN Let me see, what am I to buy for our feast? Three pound of sugar, five pound of currants, rice — what will this sister of mine do with rice? But my father hath made her mistress of the feast, and she lays it on. I must have saffron to colour the warden pies. Mace, dates? — none, that's out of my note. Nutmegs, seven; a race or two of ginger, but that I may beg. Four pound of prunes, and as many of raisins o'th' sun.

AUTOLYCUS O, that ever I was born! I am robbed, sir, and beaten. My money and apparel ta'en from me!

CLOWN Lend me thy hand, I'll help thee. Come, lend me thy hand.

AUTOLYCUS O, good sir, tenderly, O!

CLOWN Alas, poor soul!

AUTOLYCUS O, good sir, softly, good sir! I fear, sir, my shoulder-blade is out.

CLOWN How now? Canst stand?

AUTOLYCUS (Picks his pocket) Softly, dear sir. Good sir, softly. You ha' done me a charitable office.

CLOWN Dost lack any money? I have a little money for thee.

AUTOLYCUS No, good sweet sir. No, I beseech you, sir. Offer me no money, I pray you. That kills my heart.

CLOWN What manner of fellow was he that robbed you?

AUTOLYCUS I knew him once a servant of the prince. Some call him Autolycus.

CLOWN Out upon him! Thief, for my life, thief. He haunts wakes, fairs and bear-baiting's.

AUTOLYCUS Very true, sir. He, sir, he. That's the rogue

CLOWN Not a more cowardly rogue in all Bohemia; if you had but looked big and spit at him, he'd have run.

AUTOLYCUS I must confess to you, sir, I am no fighter. I am false of heart that way, and that he knew, I warrant him.

CLOWN                    How do you now?

AUTOLYCUS            Sweet sir, much better than I was. I can stand and walk. I will even take my leave of you, and pace softly towards my kinsman's.

CLOWN                    Shall I bring thee on the way?

AUTOLYCUS            No, good-faced sir. No, sweet sir.

CLOWN                    Then fare thee well. I must go buy spices for our sheep-shearing. *Exit*

AUTOLYCUS            Prosper you, sweet sir! Your purse is not hot enough to purchase your spice. *Exit*