The Secret *of the* Village Fool

Drama & Writing

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Drama

- Divide the students in groups of six. They each take on a role of one of the characters in the story.

- They move to a small area of the classroom, their hiding place. (Taped off with masking tape on the floor)

- Each group role plays how they would pass their day and nights in the small hiding place. They can only use whispering voices. When they move furniture or themselves it has to be as quiet as possible.

- They will engage in storytelling, cat's cradle games, art games (straw pictures), eating and sleeping using many restrictions and limitations.

- One student or the teacher can be Anton. Anton needs a stopwatch and a drum.

- After a few minutes of role playing, the Nazis arrive and they will search Anton's house.

- Anton hits the drum once.

- All the people in hiding, freeze. They don't move or talk and they are very scared of being found.

- Anton decides how long this scene will last (a minimum of 2 min., a max. of 3 min). When he hits the drum again the people in hiding continue their activities.

- Depending upon the available time, Anton can repeat this scene several times.

Note: While the students in hiding are frozen, they have to imagine what will happen to them and to Anton if they are found by the Nazis.

Writing assignments

1. **Reflective Writing**: Write a short piece about the dynamics in your group, the activities, the limitations and the fear.

2. **Character Sketch**: Write a paragraph describing your character. Who are you? How old are you? What makes you special?

3. **Short Story Writing**:

   a. Introduction: Describe the people, the space and the activities

   b. Plot: What happened when the Nazis came? How did you feel? How did everybody else feel?

   c. Ending or Resolution: How were you liberated? How did you feel? (Make up your own ending)

4. **Different Ending**: What if? Write a paragraph in which you change the ending.