

## One- Minute Challenge

**Teacher and Grade Level:** Ms. Truman 5<sup>th</sup> grade

**Content Areas:** ELA and Drama

### Overview

The following strategy requires students to bring together and apply all of the skills they have been practicing-collaboration, conversation, reflection, self-regulation, problem solving, and more. It will also invite them to use their imaginations and bodies to create living pictures of

**Materials:**

White board  
Dry erase marker  
Reading Wonders Reading Anthology

**Room Set Up:**

- Space for groups of students to move about
- Groups of 3-5

**Art Form Standards:**

EU2 TH.3.S.2: Development of skills, techniques, and processes in the arts strengthens our ability to remember, focus on, process, and sequence information.

EU3 TH.3.S.3: Through purposeful practice, artists learn to manage, master, and refine simple, then complex, skills and techniques.

**Other Curriculum Standards:**

LAFS.5.RL.1.2 Determine a theme of a story, poem, or other text.

**Art Form Objectives:**

- Students will be able to:
- Apply focus and concentration skills to drama
  - Work as a team to create something original

**Other Curriculum Objectives:**

- Students will be able to:
- State the theme of a poem and support their conclusion with evidence

### Lesson Timing

Introduction	5 minutes
Learning Experience	25 minutes
Closure	10 minutes
Total	40 minutes

### Introduction

Purpose:

- *Your group is about to create a picture together. Not a picture a camera takes, but a living picture- one you will make with your bodies.*

Preview: This week we have been working with poetry. Determining how the writing makes us feel and what lessons or themes we take away from them. Today we are going to create visual representations of those themes to accompany our poems.

### Learning Experience

1. **Divide students** into small group of 3-5 (can also get here from the cooperation challenge) read the poem Dreams by Langston Hughes

2. **Explain "Think"** - I will give you a challenge of what your group will make. The first thing you will do is THINK silently of an idea. When you have an idea, don't talk, don't whisper, don't make faces, simply pull the idea in close by crossing your arms just like this (model)
  3. **Give an idea** - For our first tableau, you will create a living picture that shows the theme of Dreams (wait for all students to cross their arms)
  4. **Explain "Share"** - The next step is to share your ideas with your small group. Everyone will quickly have a chance to share their ideas and this is how you do it.
  5. **Students try** - One person start by uncrossing and saying "This is what I was thinking." Go!
  6. **Explain "Plan"** - Once everyone has shared, it's time for your group to select an idea and come up with a PLAN for making a tableau. You only have 10 seconds to decide what to make. After 10 seconds, everyone in your group should know what they are making.
  7. **Explain "Plan" Continued** - The second part of planning is deciding **what parts you will need**. Whatever you have decided to make has some parts.
  8. **Students take 10** seconds to decide what parts they need.
  9. **Explain "Plan Continued"** - Our last thing we will decide as a group is what part each of us will play. Take 10 seconds and make sure everyone in your group knows which part they are playing. Go! (make sure students stay seated and do not start making with their bodies yet)
  10. **Explain "Create"** - When I say "go" your group will have 30 seconds to make your PLAN happen. You'll get to make it with your bodies. At the end of 30 seconds, everyone in your group will be frozen in place-with their eyes on a focal point. Nothing will be moving. Not even your hair.
  11. **Explain Levels** - Everyone cannot lay down-everyone cannot stand up. You need people at different levels, and we can't use furniture to help us out. Go!
  12. **Students create** for 30 seconds (most will be done in under 30 seconds. Give them a little more time if needed, but no longer than a minute!)
  13. **Give a 15 second warning**, 10 second warning, and count down from 5. Lock your eyes on a focal point. Show you are in control of body and voice. If your group loses control of these things, the entire group will head to the Observation Deck.
  14. **Look around** at the groups, but do not critique. Say things like:
    - Interesting
    - I see it
    - Yes
    - What is it I'm looking at?
    - Do I see it?
15. Repeat this with the poems Catching Quiet and How Do I Make the Summer Stay

### Closure

#### Review Purpose:

- Today you worked as a team to complete a challenge. We will use this challenge to learn new things this year and practice teamwork.

#### Restate Main Ideas:

- Everyone's ideas were heard and you had to compromise to come up with a plan.
- You also practiced being calm, focused, and balanced.

#### Invite Reflection:

- How did your group agree on what to make?
- Were you able to use everyone's ideas? Why or why not?
- How did the One-Minute Challenge help you understand and visualize theme?
- Were some poems or themes easier to demonstrate than others? Why?

This lesson is from Sean Layne's "Acting Right: Drama as a Classroom Management Strategy"  
See the full packet for more information