

EXERCISE: I'M NOT WHO YOU THINK I AM

GRADES: K and up

TIME: 10 minutes

SET-UP: This exercise works equally well at a table or in open space.

SUPPLIES: None

Many characters in *Robin Hood* use disguises to hide their true identities and trick their foes. In this exercise students will explore disguising themselves, not with costumes, but by changing their voices. Students will experiment with vocal tone, texture and volume.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Reflect on how Robin Hood, The Sheriff of Nottingham, and Maid Marian disguise themselves throughout the play. Disguises can be physical like a hat or mask, but they can also be vocal. Practice saying the line, "I'm not who you think I am," using different voices. Call on one student to demonstrate a voice disguise and then have the whole class repeat the style. Examples of changes include using a deep voice, a high voice or a raspy voice.

Once the students are comfortable using their voices in a variety of ways, choose one student to come to the front of the room to be the guesser. The guesser turns their back to the group and closes their eyes.

Next, prompt the students interested in being the speaker to raise their hand. Silently select a speaker by pointing at them. Instruct the other students to point to the speaker to demonstrate they know who was selected. Prompt the speaker to say the sentence, "I'm not who you think I am," in a disguised voice.

Remind the students to put on their most innocent-looking faces—as if it could have been any of them. Have all the students say to the guesser, "Turn around!" The guesser uses his or her power of observation and power of listening to determine who said the line. The guesser has three tries to figure out who disguised his or her voice.

VARIATION: For a younger group you may want to simplify the phrase to something like, "Guess who I am?"