

EXERCISE: IT IS WHAT IT ISN'T

GRADES: 1st grade and up

TIME: 10 minutes

SET-UP: This exercise can be done sitting or in a circle.

SUPPLIES: Wooden spoon; a ruler would also do

Pippi Longstocking doesn't do things the traditional way. She keeps her horse in the kitchen and sleeps with her feet on the pillow! Inspired by Pippi's way of doing things in unexpected ways, we will use our imaginations to turn an ordinary object into something else entirely.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Present the wooden spoon to the class. Ask for a volunteer to come up to the front of the room and demonstrate how the object is usually used. Ask the observing students to put their hand on their head if that is how they use that object.

Mime using the spoon as a hairbrush. Rub your hands together if you can guess what I have turned it into. Call on a student to guess.

Once the new object is identified, invite a student up to the front to turn the spoon into something else by miming how it is used. Remind the students to use actions, but no sound. Encourage them to be specific about the object they are imagining and the way they use it.

State aloud the facial expressions you see incorporated into the action. Ask the students if the facial expressions help make it clear what the object is.

Repeat with more students. Or challenge the students with a new object of a different shape, like a roll of masking tape.