



Acting 1 & 2 (Introductory Acting) *Creating Backgrounds for Characters* Ms. Hayes, Mr. Meyer, Ms. Yung April 14, 2020

Lesson Objective:

Students will create backgrounds for characters.

Bell Ringer:

From yesterday's lesson, how much do you know about the backgrounds of Eunice, Ed, and Mama?

Lesson Steps:

Many times, the writer will indicate some background information in character descriptions or dialogue. But sometimes, much needed information is not mentioned. It is imperative for an actor to create background for the character. With adding background, you are making your character much more dimensional and interesting. Again, if the playwright doesn't include certain aspects about the characters, you must create them. Make certain that anything you create is consistent with the character and what information has been provided.

Practice:

This project will involve writing background information for the three characters in the "Sorry" sketch.

In case you need to refer back to it, here is the link for the sketch:

[The Carol Burnett Show – "Sorry Sketch"](#)

Answer the questions for each of the characters:

Eunice:

Name, Age, and Gender

Background

1. Family

How were they raised?

2. Ethnicity

3. Religion/Spiritual Beliefs

4. Economic Status (wealthy, middle class, poor)

5. Education (How much?)

What are they passionate about?

What do they hate or dislike?

What is their goal or motivation?

What do they lie to themselves about?

What do people respect about them?

One or Two Major Events from the Past (Positive and Negative)

Ed:

Name, Age, and Gender

Background

1. Family

How were they raised?

2. Ethnicity

3. Religion/Spiritual Beliefs

4. Economic Status

5. Education

What are they passionate about?

What do they hate or dislike?

What is their goal or motivation?

What do they lie to themselves about?

What do people respect about them?

One or Two Major Events from the Past (Positive and Negative)

Mama:

Name, Age, and Gender

Background

1. Family

How were they raised?

2. Ethnicity

3. Religion/Spiritual Beliefs

4. Economic Status

5. Education

What are they passionate about?

What do they hate or dislike?

What is their goal or motivation?

What do they lie to themselves about?

What do people respect about them?

One or Two Major Events from the Past (Positive and Negative)