



Foreign Language Virtual Learning

Clowning Around

May 19, 2020



6th Grade Foreign Cultures

Lesson: May 19, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:

I can analyze relationships and interactions within and between human and physical systems to explain reciprocal influences that occur among them.

Warm Up: Have you ever been to a party or performance with a clown? What is the purpose of the clown? Why were they there? Were they effective?





Most of us have seen clowns perform. Many performers have skills such as balloon art, face painting, magic tricks, or other performances to make people laugh and feel happy.

Let's continue our discussion on [Padlet](#). What are some characteristics of clowns? Think of their physical characteristics and personality.

What do they wear? How are the clothes and accessories different to normal clothes?

How do they act? Why do they act that way?

History of the clown

Go back to [Padlet](#) to share more ideas about where clowns come from.

How long has the role of the clown been around? What cultures around the world have clowns? What was their purpose?

One definition of the word clown from the 1600s is “to behave inappropriately,” which is reflected in the well-used phrase, “stop clowning around.”





Now we are going to watch a film about a clown from Germany. Reinhard "Filou" Horstkotte, is a Berlin-based clown. According to Reinhard, there is more to being a clown than laughter. He describes that the role of the clown is not just to entertain, but also to explore the whole human being including all of the contradictions. A contradiction is when we say one thing and mean another, or when we express ourselves one way, but feel another, etc.

What are your own contradictions?

For me, I am a very shy person that doesn't speak up, but as a teacher I am almost always the center of attention in the classroom. I have to initiate conversations even though I would rather be quiet.



Let's watch the [film](#) and look for the ways the clown expresses himself as they watch the film. How does the clown function and influence others?



Additional Resources

Linda Rodriguez McRobbie, "[The History and Psychology of Clowns Being Scary.](#)" *Smithsonian Magazine*, August 1, 2013.