



Improvising & Playbuilding

Teacher Resources
Stage 4-5, Years 7-10



Improvising and Playbuilding

On Demand Resources



This resource and worksheets have been designed to go along with the on demand recording of our Improvising and Playbuilding workshops and directly reference the [recording](#).

This workshop is an introduction to improvisation that can be used to kick off playbuilding units in your classroom. A workshop about improvisation and playbuilding In this workshop, students will dive into the essentials of improvisation and playbuilding through a series of four 10-minute segments.

Each section is designed to be flexible, allowing teachers to integrate the workshop into their lessons at their own pace. Students will engage in interactive activities, develop their own short pieces of work, and receive expert tips and strategies to enhance their improvisation skills.

This fun and engaging workshop features curriculum-aligned worksheets that support each activity, making it easy for teachers to facilitate and guide students through the creative process.

By exploring improvisation techniques and play building, students will learn how to structure ideas and develop stories in a fun and imaginative way.

WORKSHEET 1

FROM NOTHING COMES SOMETHING

Inspiration can come from anywhere—people, places, sounds, and even our own imaginations. This worksheet will guide you through a series of imaginative prompts to help you create a story from seemingly ‘nothing.’

1. Set the Scene:

Instructions: Close your eyes and visualize a place you’ve never been.

a. What do you notice around you?

b. What sounds or smells are in the air?

c. Is it crowded or peaceful?

2. Add Movement:

Instructions: Imagine moving through this space.

a. How does your body feel as you move?

b. Are you walking quickly, with purpose, or slowly, taking everything in?

c. What details catch your eye?

3. Introduce an Object:

Instructions: As you move, something catches your attention.

a. What is this object? Describe it:

WORKSHEET 1

FROM NOTHING COMES SOMETHING

b. Is it something familiar or entirely new?

c. What makes this object important to you in this moment?

4. Create Tension:

Instructions: Imagine that something around you changes.

a. What is the change?

b. How does this change affect you?

c. Do you pause, keep going, or react in another way?

5. The Unexpected Event:

Instructions: Something unexpected happens.

a. What is it?

b. How do you react?

c. What questions come to mind?

d. Where might this unexpected moment lead your story?

WORKSHEET 1

FROM NOTHING COMES SOMETHING

6. Reflection:

Instructions: Take a moment to reflect on your journey.

a. What moments stand out to you?

b. How might this scene be the beginning of a larger story?

c. What details or choices made during this exercise feel important for your story?

Additional Notes:

Feel free to jot down any extra thoughts or ideas about your characters or the story you're developing!

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

WORKSHEET 2

WORLD BUILDING

Part 1: Genre Replay

In this part, you'll think about how different genres shape the world of your story. Follow along with the video, and answer the questions below.

1. Genre Choice

- **Fantasy** – A world filled with magic, mythical creatures, and extraordinary lands.
- **Science Fiction** – Set in a futuristic world with advanced technology, space exploration, and alien encounters.
- **Mystery** – A suspenseful setting where characters investigate clues to solve a crime or puzzle.
- **Historical Fiction** – A story set in a real historical period, blending fictional elements with historical events.
- **Western** – A rugged, frontier world with cowboys, deserts, and small towns, typically set in the 1800s.
- **Horror** – A dark, eerie setting designed to create fear, often involving supernatural elements.
- **Romantic Comedy** – A light-hearted, humorous world where love and relationships are central to the plot.
- **Dystopian** – A grim, oppressive society in a post-apocalyptic or totalitarian future.
- **Superhero** – A world where people with extraordinary abilities fight to save the day against powerful villains.
- **Musical** – A vibrant world where characters break into song and dance, often heightened and theatrical.

What other genres can you think of? And what are the stereotypes of this genre?

WORKSHEET 2

WORLD BUILDING

2. Genre Icons

In every genre, there are icons or symbols that help identify the setting. List three key icons that help build your world based on your chosen genre.

- **Icon 1:** _____
- **Icon 2:** _____
- **Icon 3:** _____

3. Compare the Same Scene

Watch how the scene changed depending on the genre in the video. Now imagine the same basic scene from your story in your chosen genre.

- **How would the setting change in your genre?**

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WORKSHEET 2

WORLD BUILDING

Part 2: Reflection

In Episode 1, you imagined the beginning of your story and created an initial setting. Now, think about how the world-building in this episode adds to that.

- **How did the genre you chose help expand the world of your story?**

- **What new details from your genre have you added to your story's world?**

- **How do these new details affect your story?**

WORKSHEET 3

CREATING CHARACTER

Name:

Who are they? What name fits this character and why?

Age:

How old are they? Does their age affect how they see the world?

Appearance:

What do they look like?

- Hair color and style:
- Eye color:
- Height:
- Distinct features (scars, tattoos, etc.):
- How do they dress?

Backstory:

- Where did they grow up?
-
-

- What kind of family do they have?
-
-
-
-

- What's a memorable moment from their childhood?
-
-
-
-

- Did they face any challenges growing up?
-
-
-

WORKSHEET 3

CREATING CHARACTER

Personality:

How would you describe their personality?

- Are they outgoing or shy?

- What are their strengths?

- What are their weaknesses?

- How do they handle stress or conflict?

Goals & Dreams:

What do they want more than anything?

- What's their biggest goal right now?

- Why do they want this?

- What would they do if they couldn't achieve it?

Fears & Flaws:

What are they most afraid of?

- Is it something physical (like heights) or emotional (like failing)?

- How does their fear affect their decisions?

- What's a flaw that often gets in their way?

WORKSHEET 3

CREATING CHARACTER

Favorites:

What's your character's:

- Favourite colour?
- Favourite food?
- Favourite song or type of music?
- Favourite TV show or book?
- Favourite hobby or activity?
- Favourite place to relax?
- Favourite holiday destination?

Relationships:

Who do they care about the most?

- Do they have any close friends or family?
-

- Who's their biggest rival or enemy?
-

- What are they like around people they trust versus people they don't?
-

Quirks & Habits:

What are some unique or quirky things they do?

- Do they have a particular habit? (ie/ biting their nails when stressed)

- What's a phrase they often say?
-

- Do they have any strange hobbies or talents?
-

In Their Own Words:

If your character could give a piece of advice to someone, what would it be?

- What's their personal motto or belief about life?
-

- How do they describe themselves?
-

Let's keep in touch

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