

Education Resources

In this production Jason makes both a physical journey to another land and a personal journey of self belief and self esteem. Together Jason and his team of Argonauts negotiate and overcome different problems.

This makes Jason and the Argonauts an excellent and inspiring starting point for exploring many areas of the PSD curriculum, in particular themes of transition, self awareness, independence and interdependence. These Education Resources are designed to explore these themes through practical, experiential learning exercise

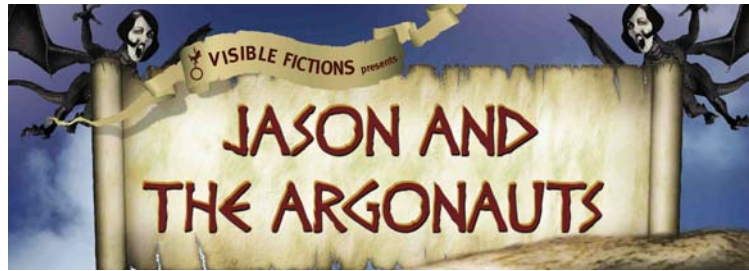
Ideas for Preparatory Work

These are some ideas for work that you could do prior to seeing 'Jason and the Argonauts'. The exercises would also be appropriate to use as follow-up work.

These ideas are drama based but could be used as the basis for group discussion or writing exercises. The exercises build on each other and work as a complete unit but we also encourage you to use the ideas as a starting point and adapt them to best suit the needs of your group.

We hope you find them useful and inspiring.

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1. Hero Strut

Ask the group to walk around the room at a steady pace without talking to or bumping into anyone else. Ask them to try and fill any space they see.

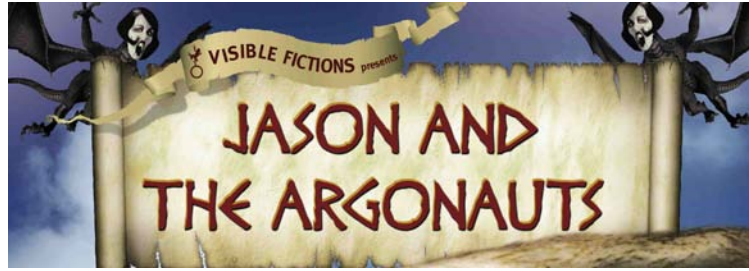
When the group is focused and walking fluidly explain that you are going to call out a word and that you want them to freeze like a statue in response to that word, and that when you call out 'come to life' they are to bring that statue to life and walk around the room until you call out 'normal walking'.

Work through the following words:

- Hero
- Villain
- Frightened
- Brave
- Adventure
- Hero on a Mission

See some of the 'Hero on a Mission' statues and discuss:

- What makes a hero?
- What sort of things do heroes do?
- Is it easy to be a hero?



2. Mission Recruitment

Divide the group up into teams of 4 or 5. Tell them that they are going to invent a mission where something important has to be achieved. Give them a sheet of paper with the following headings to complete:

- Mission:
- Why is this mission important:
- What are the dangers of this mission:

Get each team to present their mission to the rest of the class.

There are two options for the next stage. You can either select one mission for the whole group to work on or you can pair the teams up so one team works on the other team's mission (this will depend on how clear and easy to work with the missions are).

Ask the teams to come up with the 'Ideal Hero' for the mission they are working on.

Give them the brief of presenting their 'Ideal Hero' by showing a series of three or four still pictures that demonstrate the key skills of their 'Ideal Hero'.

Tell the teams that one person should introduce each still picture and explain how it demonstrates why their Hero is ideal for the mission.

Get each team to present their Hero to the rest of the group. If the whole class is not working on the same mission then re-cap what the mission is before each team presents.

Discuss the presentations focusing on how suitable the 'Ideal Hero' is for the mission.



3. (Speed) Mission Team Recruitment

Arrange the group so half are sitting in an inner circle and half are sitting in an outer circle. The inner circle people should be facing outwards and the outer circle people should be facing inwards, so everyone is sat opposite a partner.

Tell the people in the inner circle that they are to be a Hero character that is about to set off on a mission and they need to recruit a team to go with them. Give them a moment to decide what their Hero is called and what the mission is.

Explain that they are to interview the people opposite them for the position of team member.

Tell them that when you shout go they have one minute to introduce themselves, explain what the mission is and to ask the person opposite questions to see if they are the kind of person they want on their team.

Explain that the person being interviewed always wants to try and get on to the team and they have to persuade the Hero that they would be a good team member.

Shout 'go' and let the interviews commence.

After a minute or so stop them and ask the outer circle to move around one space clockwise, so everyone has a new partner.

Continue to let the Hero's interview new people for as long as it seems useful to do so.

On the last go ask for volunteers to re-run their interviews for the rest of the group to watch.

Re-run the exercise with the roles reversed. The people on the outer circle are now being the heroes interviewing potential team members for their mission.

Discuss the exercise focusing on:

- What kind of person did people need for their missions?
- How do you know if you will be able to work well with someone?
- What makes a good team?