

Using a stimulus

 10 minutes

 Any size

 Distanced

 Inclusive mobility

A good way for students to develop their understanding of a character is to place the character in a new situation and explore how they might react or behave. Try using the stimuli below with your students.

- Imagine your character is on a school day out. The bus stops for a break but leaves without them. What happens next?
- How does your character react when they are at a fairground or festival and discover that their wallet or some other precious item has disappeared from their pocket?
- Imagine your character as a young child. Imagine them responding to a situation that indicates the person they become.
- Your character wants to record their version of events for future generations and decides to either write a letter or video themselves explaining why they acted as they did. How do they explain or justify their actions?
- Your character is making a podcast about an issue that means a lot to them. We hear them introduce the programme, introduce their first guest and ask the first question.
- Imagine your character wakes up to find that the outside world is covered in snow, and that there is silence all around. What does it make them feel? What do they decide to do?
- Your characters can see into their own future, and tells a close friend what will happen, including one tragic twist and one miraculous joy. What do they say? And why do they feel they need to tell the friend this?

Improvising in response to a stimulus is a key rehearsal skill which is included in many Trinity drama exams.