

Performance-based (Classroom Activity)

English Year 6

Unit 2: Life in the Past

Activity: Drama Time

Instructions:

1. Divide the class into small groups of 3-4 students each.
2. Explain to the students that they will be creating a short drama based on the diary entries of Samuel Pepys during the Great Fire of London.
3. Assign each group a specific diary entry from Samuel Pepys' account of the Great Fire.
4. In their groups, students should read and analyse the diary entry assigned to them, focusing on the events, emotions, and descriptions mentioned.
5. Each group should then work together to script and rehearse a dramatic performance based on the diary entry.
6. Encourage creativity in bringing the diary entry to life through dialogue, actions, and gestures.
7. Provide time for each group to rehearse their performance, ensuring that everyone has a role and participates actively.
8. Once all groups are ready, have them perform their dramas in front of the class, one group at a time.
9. After each performance, allow the audience to ask questions to the performers or provide feedback on their interpretation and portrayal of the diary entry.
10. As a class, discuss the different perspectives and emotions depicted in the performances and the insights gained about life during the Great Fire of London.
11. Conclude the activity by emphasising the importance of historical accounts like Samuel Pepys' diary in understanding and learning from past events.