**The Socratic Method in Acting**

The Socratic Method refers to “a form of cooperative argumentative dialogue between individuals, based on asking and answering questions to stimulate critical thinking and to draw out ideas and underlying presuppositions.”

Instead of simply being given an answer, the Socratic Method asks students to dive deeper into an idea through a series of guiding questions. Using the Socratic Method, work through the following exercises with a partner.

**Using Irony for Humour**

Irony is broadly/generally defined as “the opposite of expectation”. There are three central types of irony: Situational, Verbal, and Dramatic. For this exercise, we will focus on the use of Situational Irony.

1. **Create TWO (2) character templates, and list them below. As a starting point, demonstrate your understanding of IRONY in creating a humorous/interesting/unique template. An example of an ironic character template might be: “A doctor who is afraid of blood” or “a lifeguard who doesn’t know how to swim”.**

**TEMPLATE A: Rats that sneak into a grocery store.**

**TEMPLATE B: A chef that does not enjoy cooking.**

1. **Give your paper to a partner. For each of the templates, have them come up with 3-5 guiding questions. Remember that good questions are questions that begin with ideas like WHY and HOW that require complex answers, as opposed to WHAT/WHERE/WHO questions that can be answered simply in a word or two.**

**QUESTIONS FOR A:**

**1. How long is the grocery store going to be closed?**

**2. How often do rats sneakily enter the store to steal food?**

**3. Would the shop employee lose their job due to the rat infestation? If so, how. If not, how bad was it?**

**4. When people package the items and ship them to the grocery store, are rats more likely able to sneak trough the package rather than anywhere else. If so, why?**

**5.Can rats be able to sneak (break) through the walls in a grocery store?**

**QUESTIONS FOR B:**

**1. Would he/she be able to find a workplace?**

**2. Do you think that his/her dishes will be tasty?**

**3. Would he/she be creative in cooking?**

**4. What if he/she had to cook for a big event?**

**5. Can he/she be a good assistant?**

1. **Have your partner return the paper and come up with an answer for each of the questions below.**

**ANSWERS FOR A:**

**1) They might close the store until further notice once the rats are gone.**

**2) Rats often come in the store at certain points where people cannot notice them which depends on how many people enter the store.**

**3) They could lose their job if too many rats sneak trough and there is no more food around or if the people have a good solution to getting rid of the rats from the store.**

**4) It depends on where more rats are likely going to try to sneak through but mostly the packaging system because the people package a lot of different products and more rats can sneak through those product packages.**

**5) It depends on how strong the walls are and what type they are. If they were soundproof walls or in a very weak conditions, the rats would be able to sneak through but if they were brick walls, the rats will most likely not be able to break through but it depends on how strong also the rat is.**

**ANSWERS FOR B:**

**1) He/she might find a good workplace because their boss will not know that the person is a bad chef.**

**2) His/her dishes will not be that appetizing.**

**3) He/she will not be creative in cooking because since that person does not enjoy cooking, they will not bother to be creative in cooking**

**4) He/she would most likely hire somebody else to cook for that big event.**

**5) If he/she were a good assistant, that person would not be that good of an assistant because they do not enjoy cooking.**

1. **Choose the character above that you “like the best” (for now). Who are they? Flesh out a full character through a game of Press Conference. Why might they hold a Press Conference? What developments for this character came out of this game? Reflect below.**

**I think people will want to hold a press conference because we need to know what the character has done and how it has affected other people and what has the character done in order for the absent person to guess the situation. You also need to know how you are going to solve that situation and prevent this issue from happening in the future. You even need to know how frequently this has been happening and how impactful is this.**