



BREAK A LEG

1. Writing Activity: Superstition Story Swap

Creative writing & storytelling by inventing a new superstition inspired by the “Break a Leg” story.

Instructions:

1. Think of a new, fun superstition for actors (e.g., “Wear a blue sock for a great performance” or “Spin three times before entering the stage”). Write a short, 100-150-word story about how this superstition started in a theater.
2. Include one detail from the “Break a Leg” story (e.g., Thomas’s performance, the lead actor’s fall) to connect your story to it.
3. Use past tense and add a fun twist, like a funny or surprising event.
4. Swap stories with a partner, read theirs aloud, and guess what their superstition means (e.g., luck, confidence).
5. Share your favorite partner’s story with the class.

2. Speaking Activity: Theater Improv Circle

Build fluency and confidence through a playful improv game inspired by the theater setting of the story.

Instructions:

1. Sit in a circle. You’re all actors in a 19th-century theater like in the “Break a Leg” story. One person starts by saying a short sentence about what’s happening backstage (e.g., “I’m practicing my lines, but I’m so nervous!”).
2. The next person adds a sentence, building on the story, and must include either “Break a leg” or a made-up theater superstition (e.g., “Don’t worry, I tied a ribbon on my shoe for luck!”).
3. Go around the circle, each person adding one sentence to create a funny or dramatic group story. If someone hesitates too long, they say “Break a leg!” and pass to the next person.
4. After one round, vote on the funniest or most dramatic moment. If time allows, start a new story with a different setting (e.g., a modern theater).

Teacher's Key

1. Writing Activity: Superstition Story Swap

- **Assessment Criteria:** Look for creative ideas, correct past tense usage, a connection to the original story, and a clear superstition. Ensure stories are short and fun, not overly complex.
- **Sample Story:**

Back in 1866, after Thomas Keane's epic performance when the lead actor fell, I noticed something odd. My friend Clara, a shy costume assistant, always wore one blue sock by mistake. That night, she helped Thomas with his costume, and he dazzled the crowd. The next show, Clara wore her blue sock again, and another actor nailed their role. Soon, actors begged Clara for her "lucky sock." I laughed when I saw Thomas spinning in circles, claiming it "sealed the luck." Now, actors wear one blue sock for confidence, all because Clara's mismatched laundry sparked a legend.

Tips: Play soft background music to set a relaxed mood while students write. Encourage silly or quirky superstitions to keep it light. For lower-intermediate students, provide a template: "One night in [year], [character] did [action]. Then, [event happened]. Everyone said, 'This means [superstition]!'"

2. Speaking Activity: Theater Improv Circle

- **Assessment Criteria:** Focus on participation, clear pronunciation, and creative contributions. Encourage students to use expressive tones to match the theater theme. No "right" answers, but ensure everyone speaks at least once.
- **Sample Group Story (abridged):**
 - Student 1: "I'm backstage, tripping over props before the big show!"
 - Student 2: "I say 'Break a leg' to calm you down, but I'm hiding my lucky feather!"
 - Student 3: "The lead actor just broke his costume, oh no!"
 - Student 4: "I whisper, 'Rub the stage lamp for luck,' and he does it!"
 - Student 5: "Break a leg! I shout, as the curtain rises and we all freeze!"

Tips: Join the circle to model the first sentence and keep the energy high. For shy students, allow them to say a shorter sentence or pass after saying "Break a leg." To make it sillier, add a prop like a scarf or hat for students to hold when speaking.