

Elements of Tableau

Definition of Tableau

A group of silent, motionless figures used to represent a scene, theme, or abstract idea (e.g., peace, joy), or an important moment in a narrative. Tableaux may be presented as stand-alone images to communicate one specific message or may be used to achieve particular effects in a longer drama work. Important features of a tableau include character, space, gesture, facial expressions, and levels. (The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8, The Arts, Revised, 2009, p. 172)

The Elements of Tableau

"It is important to emphasize that there are many messages contained within a single image and that all are valid; there is the intended message of the group members who designed the tableau, and there are the many interpretations of the viewers, all of whom bring their own "meaning making" to the process." (Treasures for Teaching-Junior Intermediate-Toronto District School Board, 2006)

The following compositional elements contribute to effective tableau:

Communication	Choice of Levels	Body Shape	Relationship in Space and to others	Focus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★facial expression ★body language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★high ★medium ★low 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★open ★closed ★balanced ★off balanced ★linear ★round 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★where the body is in space ★where is the body in relation to others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★main element/idea ★eye contact ★strong body dynamics and energy