

Grade 1: Dance, Drama and Critical Literacy Party Shopping Problem Prompts

Prompt A:

I want you to imagine that you and your family are getting ready to host a party for your friends and neighbors for July 1st Canada Day. The weather is really hot, so it will be an outdoor BBQ party with water games and activities. With the students in your group, brainstorm a list of items we'll need to buy from the grocery store to get ready for our party.

Prompt B:

Before we decide who will be working at the grocery store and who will pretend to buy the items on our list, I am going to add a new idea to our drama. In many communities, people speak different languages. Not everyone can speak English. If you are buying the items, you are going to pretend that you don't speak English. Think about how the people in the store can help the customers and make it clear what the items cost and how they can get help. Customers, what can you do to communicate what you need?

Prompt C:

As I mentioned in the beginning of today's lesson, the weather in July can be very hot. Sometimes, weeks can go by without any rain. This is not good news for farmers as it means that their fruits and vegetables don't grow the way that they are supposed to. When the food on farms doesn't grow properly, the farmer's can't sell it to the grocery stores and people can't buy it. I want you to imagine that there has been no rain for months. One person in each group will pretend to be the farmer who has to visit the grocery store and explain to the manager that he doesn't have corn, peaches or tomatoes to give him (try to include food items that are on the class generated party list to create conflict here). Other people in your group will pretend to be customers who are coming in to buy items from your party list that the grocery store manager does not have because the farmer didn't bring them. In your play, I want you to show me how the grocery store manager solves the problem.

Prompt D:

We got to see how going to the grocery store and not being able to get the party items that we needed made the customers feel. Now we are going to spend some time thinking about how the farmer's life was affected by not being able to grow his fruits and vegetables.

I want you to think about the farmer and his family. For them, growing fruits and vegetables isn't just a way to get food, it's the way that they earn their money. When the farmer doesn't have anything to sell, he doesn't make any money. Working on a farm is a big job and often, farmers hire other people to help them do all of the work that has to be done. When the plants don't grow properly, there's less work for them to do and they also don't make as much money.

In your table groups, I want you to imagine that one of you is a farmer and you have to explain to your family and the people who work for you on the farm that the crops are bad and that you won't have anything to give to the grocery store manager. What will you do to solve this problem? How will everyone react? As you are performing your role play I want you to think about what mood all of the characters will be in.