



DRAMA ACTIVITIES

THE MAN-EATING PLANT

Divide students into pairs. Student A is a plant, student B is a traveller. While the story is being told the students improvise the movements suggested by it.

You are a traveller in a far-off land, the weather is very hot and you have been walking since seven o'clock in the morning. Now it's lunchtime and you lie down exhausted in the shade of a big plant with large green leaves... you are eating sandwiches you have brought with you ... you finish off the last bite of the last sandwich ... and screw up the paper into a ball and put it back tidily in your knapsack ... and now you begin to feel really sleepy ... and you lean back against the stem of the plant with your eyes half closed ... and then, out of the corner of your eyes, you notice that, although there is no wind, the branches of the plant are slowly waving in the air and coming nearer and nearer to you ... and too late, you realize it's a man-eating plant, and it's got you in its grasp ... and you struggle against it ... trying to fight off the branches ... and you are getting weaker and weaker ... but then the plant seems to give up the struggle, and its branches retreat ... that was a close shave ... but it's coming back again ... and this time it finishes you off."



A TICKET TO ROME

Key words are: TRAIN, QUEUE, PLATFORM, WINDOW. Divide students into groups of few. Each group gets one of the key words. When they hear their word as the story is being read they have to stand up quickly and sit down.

A friend of mine went to the railway station to catch a train to Rome. She was in a hurry. When she arrived at the station, she saw that there were five queues of people waiting to buy tickets. Two of the queues were long, two queues were short and one queue had only one person in it. She joined the shortest queue.

'Excuse me', she said when she reached the window, 'Can you tell me about trains to Rome?'

'Trains to Rome?' said the man at the window 'What do you want to know?'

'Well, when's the next train and which platform does it leave from?' asked my friend.

'The next train ... hm', said the man. 'I don't know. Let me have a look. Trains to Rome ... trains to Rome ... ah! Here we are! Trains to Rome. There is a train to Rome at 2:45 and it leaves from platform fifteen.'

'Where is platform fifteen?' she asked.

'Next to platform fourteen,' he replied.

She looked at her watch. It was 2:43. 'OK', she said 'Can I have a second class ticket please?'

'Pardon?' said the man at the window.

'Can I have a second class ticket for the next train to Rome?'

'No, you can't,' he said.

'Why not?' asked my friend.

'We don't sell tickets at this window. If you want to buy a ticket, you have to join the queue over there.'

'Oh no!' said my friend. 'What's this window for then?'

'Ah,' said the man. 'This is the window for complaints.'

'In that case I want to make a complaint.'

'I'm sorry,' said the man. 'We are closed!'