

GRANUAILE

PIRATE QUEEN





Granuaile Pirate Queen Activity Plan

Introduction

This Teacher's resource is designed to build upon experiences of the life and times of Granuaile. The workshops are relevant to participants who have been part of the performance audiences in Ballyfermot in Nov 2017.

Exercise structure

The exercises have been subdivided into four categories; Names, Themes within the play, creating a map and role models. Each category will contain one or two Activities

Aims

This set of exercises aims to:

Allow a group of children to reflect on the themes of identity etc. within the play 'Granuaile';

Encourage children's self awareness, expression and ambition.

Objectives

To achieve these aims, workshop participants will:

Verbalise what they would like to achieve in life;

Graphically (e.g. cartographically) illustrate their place and identity;

Our Names

When people hear the name 'Granuaile', what is their first impression? What are the first thoughts that come into their heads? Our names are very important, as they are a large part of our own identity.

Activity 1

Each person will be asked to share their name. They will be asked if they know anyone famous or inspirational with the same name or if they know why they were given their name. They will be given a piece of paper and they will be asked to privately write down three positive things that they think their names inspire. They will keep any notes private.

Themes within the play

The participants will have all seen the play 'Granuaile'. The play contains many themes centered on power, identity, ambition and gender to name a few. Many of these themes are important concepts that participants may not have been able to fully digest during the play's performance. The teacher will ask the student's what they think the theme's of the play are?

Activity :

The group will make a circle. Each person will be asked to close their eyes and try to think about their favorite moment from the play. They will be asked to keep their eyes closed and re-create that moment physically. They will be then be asked to work with a partner and choose a part of the play that they both liked and create a still image or tableaux. Each group will show their image and will be invited to bring it to life for 30 seconds. The teacher will ask each group what theme do they think there piece represents.

Creating a map

Cartography or map-making is a powerful tool that may be used successfully to unlock information and memory. They form an effective focus for the discussion of shared experience.

Activity 1:

The group will be asked to recall what part of Ireland Granuaile lived in, and they will be asked again to imagine what Ireland might have looked like 500 years ago. They will reflect on how this environment may have affected the way Granuaile lived. These ideas will be transcribed onto a large scale map of Ireland.

Activity 2:

The group will then think about where they live. They will be asked to create a map of the centre of Ballyfermot and their spatial relation to it. They will mark in the

main places that they would visit e.g. schools, shops, Library, sports grounds, church, cinema etc., and reflect as to why they are important. We will then discuss where they come from and reflect how the place we come from and time period we are brought up in helps define who we are.

Role Models

Good role models are sometimes important influences on character development and senses of identity. Role models provide concrete examples of desired attributes to emulate and thus are often the strongest means by which 'good' behavior can be demonstrated.

Activity 1

The teacher will present an outline of Granuaile 'Role on the Wall' and the group will be asked for adjectives to describe the 'type' of person she was. The group will be asked to consider what made Granuaile who she 'was' i.e. do they think there was anyone in her life that inspired her? They will be asked to think about how the people we meet in our lives also define who we are. Do they know of anyone in their lives that helps them to be courageous and be themselves? They will be asked to bring in a picture or an object the following week to help them talk about that person.

Glossary:

role on the wall: a process convention in which an important role is represented in picture form "on the wall" (usually on a large sheet of paper) so that information can be collectively read or added to as a drama progresses.