



IMPROBABLE STAGE

The New York City Children's Theater and Improbable Stage
present

THE WEDNESDAY WORDS TOOL KIT

Welcome to Wednesday Words!

This project is a fun opportunity for parents and educators to collaborate with their kids, exploring where imagination meets the physical world, and even accumulating into a mini theatrical piece! We hope this is a fun moment of play for both (or all!) of you.

- Below you will find a warm up to get you moving and exploring physicalities.
- Following that is our Wednesday Word! We will offer you ways to explore this word physically, telling the story of this word and related ideas with the body!
- We will finish up with an opportunity to combine our explorations into one story!

Let's begin with a warm up!

FREEZE DANCE

A tried and true dance game to get kids out of their heads and into their bodies.

- ★ Play music and when the music stops all the dancers must FREEZE, if you move you are out (outs are optional).
- ★ Let's take it one step further! To add on, take your dancers through some basics such as levels: high, medium, low (ex. Can you freeze on a high level, now a low level?). You can also add dynamics such as: sharp, soft, big, small etc. Movement looks different in every body! How they physicalize high, low, sharp, fast, etc will be unique, there is no right answer.

Play as many rounds as you like until everyone is loose & ready to create!

It's word time!

And your word is... WINTER!

1. *noun.* the coldest season of the year, in the northern hemisphere from December to February and in the southern hemisphere from June to August.
"the tree has a good crop of berries in winter"
2. *adjective.* (of fruit and vegetables) ripening late in the growing season and suitable for storage over the winter.
"a winter apple"
3. *verb.* (especially of a bird) spend the winter in a particular place.
"birds wintering in the Caribbean"

Some questions to get you started! -->

- Can you show me how winter makes you feel?
- What's your favorite part about winter?
 - (Snow? How does snow make you feel? What does snow do? Can you be a snowflake?
 - Can you be a big snowflake? What does a small snowflake look like?
 - How does a snowflake fall fast? And slow?)
- Now that you've chosen your favorite part of winter, what can you do with it?
 - (What can you do with snowflakes? Catch them on your tongue? Build a snowman?)
- How does your favorite part of winter move? How can you show me with your body?
 - (How does a snowflake fall from the sky? How does a sled slide down a hill?)
- What happens to this favorite part of winter at night?
 - (Can snow freeze and become icy? What do you do on ice?)
- How about when the sun comes out?
 - (Can you be a melting snowflake? A melting snowman?)
- What else comes out?
 - Birds?
 - Can you be a bird?
 - What does a bird look like when it's waking up?
 - Can you be a bird in the sun?

Just a reminder, even though we have given you prompts, you can take your exploration in any direction you'd like! How much can you physically explore and play with the word winter? Let your imaginations take you wherever you'd like!

Have fun!

BONUS ROUND!

Here's your opportunity to make a mini piece of theater! This can be as extensive or as quick and simple as you'd like it to be. Are you interested in just moving around a little? Perfect! Does your kid want to get fully costumed? Amazing!

Ages 6 and under:

Pick your and your child's five favorite moments they explored in the word WINTER.

For example: hot soup, a falling snowflake, a big snowman, a melting snowman, the sun coming out. In an order of your choosing, have them show these five moments again through movement. Is there a song that reminds them of winter? Play it while they're going through their movements! And VOILA! A mini piece of theater!

Ages 6 and up:

Using all the ways you have explored WINTER, put the explorations together to create a short story with a beginning, middle and end! A helpful question to ask is, "And THEN what happens?"

For example: A snowflake is falling slowly from the sky! A person catches the snowflake on their tongue. And then they build a snowman. And then they are the snowman! And then the sun comes out and the snowman begins to melt. And then one flower begins to pop out of the ground.

Extra credit: Can you make a costume using things in your home? Is there a song you think would be perfect to play during this piece?

Feeling a little shy? Perhaps your child would love to draw their exploration instead!

And VOILA! A mini piece of theater!

Share it with us! Email your mini theater works to improbablestage@improbablestage.org!

Post it to your Instagram feed or stories and tag us! @improbablestage @nycchildrenstheater #WednesdayWords