

A work of creativity

In our English lessons, we were given the task of dealing with the play "Us and Them" by David Campton. For this purpose, we had to creatively interpret the original text as a play in group work. We were allowed to move freely within the given frame.

The work process started by focusing on the moral of the play: "People don't change, don't learn from their mistakes and like to push the responsibility for their failures away from themselves". Then this mere fact became the centre of our reflections, because we saw it similarly to a child who first has to learn to take responsibility for his actions. Theoretically, an adult should be able to implement this in his later life, insofar as he did so in his childhood. Which, according to morality, he does not. Therefore, we decided to depict a situation in a kindergarten and thus symbolize the poor learning ability, irresponsibility and poorly reflected thinking. At the end, we pointed out that adults and children take nothing from each other.

As soon as we had the idea, we started working on the text. We were able to take a lot from the original text and only had to adapt a few things. The recorder was given the role of the kindergarten teacher. As we developed and adapted the text, new ideas arose again and again, so we were able to plan a stage set and include props at the same time.

Throughout the working process, we tried to work very compactly and to take only a few breaks so that we always stayed on topic. We split the work between us to move forward more purposefully.

After the first draft of the text, we started rehearsals and could thus also proceed with the stage directions. We added these directing instructions to our text from time to time and shaped it according to our ideas.

The stage set consisted of stuffed animals and old toys of ours. This also made it easier to use props.

We faced difficulties when we tried to get movement into our play because our primary focus was on the text. This was quite challenging for us. We also noticed a dwindling efficiency, as we were always quite brisk and could have used the time we gained more productively.

Nevertheless, our work together went very well. We had a great group dynamic and even when asked, all members felt very comfortable and respected throughout the working process. Communication outside of school went smoothly and feedback could be relied upon. Good engagement and creativity also made it possible to work efficiently. This also meant that there was more than enough willingness to bring in props.

To sum up, the group work was a success. Working with each other and dealing with the topic also on a philosophical level was great fun. We were able to support each other well and complemented one another as well. Everyone got a chance to speak and contribute their ideas. In addition, we were always able to meet all the deadlines and took advantage of the fact that we had technically gifted members in the group.

We are satisfied with our result and hope that our audience will enjoy our interpretation of the play.