



## Use of drama to teach English in secondary level classrooms in Sri Lanka

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Drama is a piece of literature that can be used in teaching English. It provides the learner with authentic language rich in historical and cultural content and can increase learner interest. Using drama in teaching English can also increase learners' creativity while improving communication skills and building students' confidence in using oral English. Some studies have shown that drama provides rich exposure as it uses all four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Furthermore, they indicate that students can experiment with language and make mistakes when using drama. However, most studies have focused mainly on how literature benefits teaching English in general in other countries and they have not specifically focused on how drama as a piece of literature affects teaching English. Although secondary school students in Sri Lanka appear to understand grammar rules, they often struggle to orally communicate effectively due to lack of opportunities, lack of interest and motivation, and affective filters like fear to speak. The objective of this presentation is to demonstrate how drama can be used in teaching English in order to improve oral communication skills while minimizing affective factors. We will also show example tasks on how this could be achieved.

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