



ARTS INTEGRATION AT HOME

ROLE ON THE WALL

Through these arts integration activities we want to offer a few simple, creative, educational, and arts-based ways to spice up your distance learning. The directions for the activity are shared in two ways - for caregivers/teachers and for kids who can read so they can do the activity independently. Have fun, and feel free to share what you do with us.

- Sarah Coleman

Tips for how to utilize these strategies:

- Use this strategy today, or print it out for a later date.
- Feel free to use a strategy more than once. Repetition will help students become familiar with the directions and then be able to take more ownership of sharing what they know through the activity.
- Play them for fun - you don't have to stick to talking about school information.

THEATER + REVIEWING WHAT YOU READ

Role on the Wall is a visual way to help kids share a) what they know about a character/person and b) what ways the character is influenced by external forces. The activity has its roots in character analysis - something that actors, directors, playwrights, and designers do on every play they create. It might also be a helpful way to check in on how kids might be feeling at this moment in time.

Role on the Wall is credited to Drama Education scholars and teachers Jonathan Neelands and Tony Goode. You can see a longer description of the activity in the link below from the [Drama-Based Instruction](#) website created by Drama for Schools at The University of Texas at Austin.

Role on the Wall: <https://dbp.theatredance.utexas.edu/content/role-wall-0>

Sarah Coleman, Portland Ovation Co-Director of Engagement | School Programs, is a theatre educator, an arts integration specialist, and a former classroom teacher who has taught students in grades K - college as well as led professional development workshops for teachers around the country for over 15 years.





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DIRECTIONS FOR CAREGIVERS/TEACHERS

Based on what they want to explore, have the student pick a character in a story or book, a historical figure, or an animal.

Character in a Story/Historical Figure

Draw an outline of a head. Starting on the outside of the outline, have the student write (or draw pictures of) the external forces (events, circumstances, interactions with other people, etc) that impact the character/person throughout their story or life. Answering the question, what happened to them? What did they do? Next, on the inside of the outline, have the student write (or draw pictures of) the character's personality traits or emotions throughout the story/their life. Once they have written/drawn all that they know, challenge them to draw lines between external factors and emotions/personality traits. Create a different drawing for different characters and then compare and contrast them.



Animal

Follow the above directions, using the outline of an animal. On the outside, have the student write/draw characteristics of the animal's environment. On the inside, have the student write/draw animal traits and behaviors. How does the environment impact the animal?

Follow up questions to ask

1. In what ways are your character's/person's internal characteristics and external factors connected to each other?
2. Describe your character/historical figure and their actions and behaviors to someone else.

Follow up questions allow kids to practice [reflection and metacognition](#) (thinking about one's thinking) both of which are key parts of effective learning.

*You can use this strategy to check in with your kid. Ask them to fill the outside with what is going on in their life right now. Next, they can fill the inside with the emotions that they are feeling. Then, over a conversation with you can make connections between what is going on outside and how they are feeling inside.





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DIRECTIONS FOR KIDS

Role on the Wall is a visual way for you to share what you know about a character or historical figure and what influences them.

How to do this activity

1. Based on what you want to explore, pick a character in a story or book, a historical figure, or an animal.
2. Draw an outline of a person's head.
3. On the outside of the outline, write or draw pictures of the external forces (events, circumstances, interactions with other people, etc) that affect the character/person throughout their story or life. What happened to them? What did they do?
4. On the inside of the outline, write or draw pictures of the character's/person's personality traits or emotions throughout the story/their life.
5. Draw lines between things on the outside and feelings on the inside.
6. Create a different drawing for different characters and then compare and contrast them.

In what ways are your character's/person's internal characteristics and external factors connected to each other?

Show your drawing and describe your character/historical figure and their actions and behaviors to someone else.

You can use Role on the Wall to share what you know about an animal and its environment.

1. Draw the outline of the animal.
2. On the outside, write/draw characteristics of the animal's environment.
3. On the inside, write/draw animal traits and behaviors.

How does the environment impact the animal?

You can use Role on the Wall to share your thoughts and emotions.

1. Draw an outline of your head.
2. On the outside, write/draw what is happening in your life right now.
3. On the inside, write/draw how you feel.
4. Show someone in your house your drawing and tell them how the things on the outside of your outline are connected to the feelings on the inside of your head.

