Lesson: **Casting Call (Character Profiling exercise)**

Objectives:
Students will be able to demonstrate reading comprehension by creating an actors profile based on the characters in the novel.
- Demonstrate understanding of main ideas or events in novels, stories…
- Demonstrate their knowledge of the conventions of public speaking and informal oral presentations
- Analyze make-believe and reality in print and non-print materials
- Compare their own opinions with information presented
- Describe what is known about topics or issues and check for gaps in the information available

Resources:
- Poster asking for casting agents and actors
- DVD: The Notebook
  - Show clip from special features showing casting director explaining his rational for choosing Ryan Gosling & Rachel McAdams

Teacher Prep:
- Make large poster on poster board

Procedure:
1. Tell students that they are Hollywood casting-agents. They have been hired to find actors who will play the roles of the main character in the upcoming major motion feature of the novel. They must first create a profile for each character stating specific criteria for each character that the successful actor must possess. For instance:
PHYSICAL APPEARANCE:
- Hair color
- Eye color
- Distinguishing marks such as moles, tattoos, scars, missing appendages etc.
- Height
- Stature (stocky, skinny, muscular, overweight)
CHARACTER TRAITS:
- Temperament (ill tempered, kind, patient, jovial, etc)
- Accent
- Work ethic (hard-working vs. lazy)
- Personal interests (hobbies, political persuasion, likes & dislikes etc)
- Religion and level of devotion to that religion, what does their devotion look like in terms of actions, attitude, opinions etc.
- Body language (how do they walk, carry themselves)
2. Have students work in groups of two or three to create a profile for one character. List possible characters on the board and have no more than two groups per character.
3. Assign students following criteria for their profiles:
- Written character sketch detailing above listed traits

- Full-page drawing of physical appearance (color required)
- Written script for auditioning actor to read (can be sampled from the text)
- Recommendation to wardrobe regarding character's dress and appearance
- Correct grammar, spelling and punctuation required
- For full marks: participation in either auditions or judging **OR** choosing an appropriate known actor to fill the role based on the profile they created

Closure:
Have the groups hand-in their profiles and post on bulletin boards around room.

You could also hold casting calls and have groups judge the applicants based on the profile they created. The students would be responsible to bring costumes, props and anything else they would need to make their audition the best possible. Each student could audition for no more than one character. Students must either participate in judging or auditions to receive full marks.

If you do not have time to hold student auditions the groups could decide possible known actors that could fill the part based on the profiles they created. This should be included in the criteria.

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