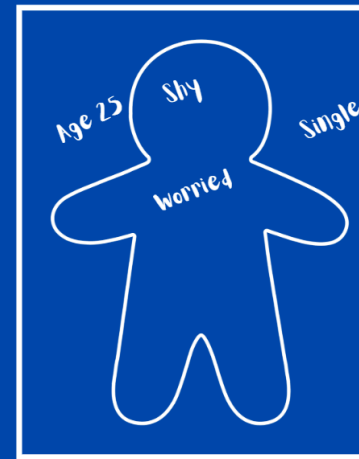


# Drama technique 3:

# Role on the wall



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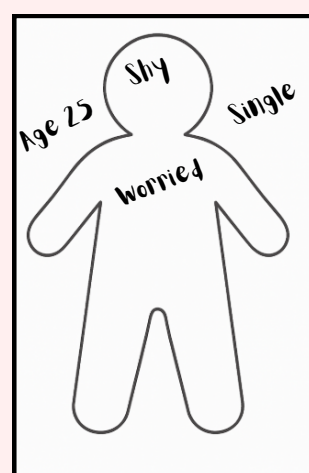
## 1 What it is ?

Role on the Wall is a brilliant way to help students explore character in a visual and interactive way.

By mapping out what a character shows on the *outside* – and what they may be feeling *inside* – students start to see beyond the surface and really step into someone else's shoes.

It's great for characterisation and working with given circumstances.

## 2 How it works



- Draw a life-sized or large outline of a person – either on paper, a whiteboard, or digitally if teaching online
- Choose a character – this could be one the class is exploring in performance or creating from scratch
- Gather contributions – ask students to suggest facts (for the outside) and emotions or inner thoughts (for the inside)
- Write in and around the outline – different colours can be used for internal and external aspects
- Discuss what the figure reveals – what contradictions appear? What might be motivating their actions?

## 3 When to use it



- At the start of a unit to build character backstories
- During scripted work (e.g. GCSE or A Level)
- As a reflective tool after improvisation or role-play
- When preparing for practical assessments
- To support students with SEND or EAL

## 4 Teaching tips



- Use sentence starters
- Can be done collaboratively
- Model a version with a well-known Disney or fairytale character first
- Revisit over time and add quotes or evidence for GCSE and A Level analysis
- Use colour coding

## 5 Extension ideas



- Use objects or symbols to represent key traits or experiences
- Create a “live” Role on the Wall where students show the traits physically
- Tie in to writing tasks such as monologues, diary entries or hot-seating preparation
- Create a digital version