

Drama technique 5:

Conscience Alley



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1 What it is ?

Conscience Alley is a speaking and listening drama strategy that helps students explore moral dilemmas and inner conflict.

One student walks between two lines of classmates who voice opposing views or thoughts related to the character's situation.

It's perfect for developing empathy and decision-making in role.

2 How it works



- Choose a character facing a tough decision
- Divide the rest of the group into two lines facing each other – this forms the “alley”
- One side voices one argument or inner perspective; the other side voices the opposite
- The character walks through the alley slowly, listening to each person whisper their perspective
- Discuss the impact afterwards: What did the character decide? Why?

3 When to use it



- KS3 or GCSE drama when exploring character and motivation
- In devising work to test out decisions or perspectives
- During scripted units to deepen understanding of turning points
- In PSHE-themed or cross-curricular lessons involving empathy and ethics

4 Teaching tips



- Model the whispering tone and staying in character before starting
- Use sentence starters or quote prompts to support less confident students
- Keep focused – one pass through is usually enough
- Follow up with discussion or reflection to extend the learning

5 Extension ideas



- Use to inspire improvised scenes based on the outcome
- Ask students to write in-role diary entries after walking the alley
- Use it to evaluate choices in famous plays (e.g. *Blood Brothers*)
- Try a silent version using gesture and body language