

# TEACHER'S TOOL KIT

*Nathan J. Roberts*



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Teacher's Toolkit

First tool in the teacher's tool kit...

## 1. **Enthusiasm** -

- a. Teacher's enthusiasm has been found to be related to positive student achievement.
- b. Children taught at a high level of enthusiasm are more attentive, interested, and responsive.
- c. Students indicate that they remember more when taught by an enthusiastic teacher.

Enthusiasm is contagious. If you're enthusiastic, your audience will be enthusiastic too.

Not only is *enthusiasm* contagious, so is the *lack there of*.

*Enthusiasm* motivates learning. Research has shown time and again that the traditional reward-punishment model **does nothing** to boost student achievement, but an enthusiastic teacher can make a tremendous difference in student motivation and engagement in regards to learning.

BE ENTHUSIASTIC!!!!!!!

The connection between teacher enthusiasm and desired student learning outcomes is clear. **Researchers document it; practitioners testify to it. Teacher enthusiasm is one of the means to a greater end of student achievement and memory retention.**

# ENTHUSIASM

Confidence  
Interest  
Attention  
Attitude

*Regardless of the content, Sunday School should not be dull.*

If you reflect back to your favorite teacher or minister, I can guarantee you they were *ETHUSIASTIC*.

**Enthusiasm** - Builds confidence, peaks interest, attracts attention, improves attitudes.

**IF you show intense and eager enjoyment, interest, or approval in what you're presenting, those listening will want to hear what you have to say and participate in what you're doing.**

Nothing *great* was ever achieved  
without *enthusiasm*.

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

## The second tool in your Teacher's Tool Kit....

# A N I M A T I O N

Three main things that should be animated -

- A. Your voice
- B. Your body
- C. The space around around you

**Let's  
Look  
At  
The**



Actor Ben Stein has played the part of a boring teacher in movies and television commercials. In a dull, drone voice with no inflection, he drags on mundane sentences that no matter what he says you feel you could waste a day in five minutes.

Have you ever had to set through a teacher with a monotone voice? It is THE most boring time ever. You're mind wanders and you can't pay attention, even if you wanted to.

In your *ENTHUSIASM*, your voice should almost animate itself, but to make sure, here are a few tips.

Do sound too casual when you speak. Casual mostly comes off as dispassionate, monotone, or downright boring.

Vary your pitch and tone. Emphasis keys and get softer to gain attention.

Listen to storytellers like Andy Andrews and Zig Ziglar and study their vocal inflections. Check out the videos and *hear* how they animate their voice.

Andy Andrews

<https://youtu.be/tbNuKiogyXg>

Zig Ziglar

<https://youtu.be/cRMogDrHnMQ>

**You should also animate your body....**



I was ask to observe a Sunday School class and give critique. My biggest complaint/critique was that a table was in the center of a small room and the teacher sat for the entire class. She was teaching 6 and 7 year olds and after the color sheet was over, she never regained their attention until she got up to get snacks for everyone. Even though her voice was animated, nothing else seemed to move in the room. With the exception of the occasional child going to the restroom.

PLEASE STAND UP when you present to your students. Engage them, walk around them, point to them, stomp your feet, wave your hands, spin around - ANIMATE YOUR BODY.

# ANIMATE YOUR SPACE



Animate your classroom. Do not leave your kids sitting in chairs or at a table the whole time they're with you.

## A GREAT TEACHER

Takes a Hand, Opens a Mind  
and Touches a Heart



Do crafts at a table then move them to a corner for music. Move to the center of the room for a game, then when you begin to tell a story or *teach* the lesson, they're more than likely to sit attentively and listen to what you have to say, especially if your voice and your body are animated.

*Animate your voice - body - space*

## TOOL #3 - H U M O R



Why didn't Noah fish off the ark?  
He only had two worms.

Knock Knock  
*Who's there?*  
Dewayne  
*Dewayne who?*  
Dewayne the bathtub I'm drowning.

That's so funny I got a *tummyegg*.

*HUMOR* is a definite tool for the Teacher's Tool Kit.

KIDS LOVE TO LAUGH. If you're in children's ministry, you must make a fool of yourself.

The Apostle Paul said "I become all things to all people that I may win some."

Jesus even said that we must become as a little child.

To communicate with a child, you've got to use humor.

Why? We all have an invisible wall of protection around us. It's known as our '*personal space*.' The only way you can get through that wall is humor. Laughter is the battering ram that will knock that wall down. If you can get a child to laugh, then they can trust you and then you can minister to them.



## Different forms of humor

**Physical** - Kids love to see adults get hurt. (*if they know it's a joke*)

**Take a trip** - Trip as you walk into the room and fall down. Nothing funnier. Trip over a chair or table, and when you jump back up as if nothing happened, that's another laugh.

### **How to blow up a balloon -**

Tell them you need to blow up this balloon. Tilt your head back, lay the balloon on your lips and blow it into the air. After the kids go crazy telling you how wrong you are, try to blow it up from the wrong end. They're going to tell you to "*turn it around*" or "*turn it over.*" Turn it all the way around back to the same end with no hole. By now they are on the floor trying to convince you how to do this simple task.



Eventually you'll get it right. You'll build tension and release it which is a tool we'll talk about in #7.

I watched a teacher go 10 minutes trying to "*blow up a balloon.*" Once he got one blown up, he handed it to a kid to hold, just before the student grabbed it the teacher released it and it flew around the room. The teacher acted like he didn't see it. Once it was discovered there was no balloon, he had to do another. This time he tied it **TOO HIS FINGER**. When he got it off, it too flew away. I think you can see how this can go.

One more balloon bit. Before blowing it up, you must *s t r e t c h* the balloon. In the process of stretching it, release one end at let it pop your hand. It won't hurt, but if you act like it does, the kids will be in hysterics. Bring the ballon to your mouth, one last stretch, let go and let it pop you in your mouth. Again, this gets a **HUGE** laugh.

Jokes are funny, but for the 10 and under crowd, physical comedy is the best.

**Jokes and Funny Lines** - Kids love it when you say something wrong but expecting it to be right.

*Okay, ladies and jelly spoons, take your seats and let's get Starbucks.*

*My stomach hurts, I've got a TummyEgg.*

Instead of a 'helicopter' it's a 'hop-a-lopter.'

I would suggest that you go to YouTube and watch an episode or two of the cartoon RugRats. They were classic for miss sayings.

*This is very scientrific.*

*I was so scared I had juice bumps.*

*I was sick and had to go to the hopsickle.*

Here's a few kid's jokes for you. The cornier the better.

*Teacher asked: Why can't your nose be 12 inches long?*

*Student answered: Because then it would be a foot!*

*Q: Why can't dogs drive?*

*A: They can't find a barking space.*

*Q: Why did the banana go to the hospital?*

*A: It was not peeling very well.*

ONE MORE

*Q: What do you call a bear with no teeth.*

*A: A gummy bear.*

So, a grape tool for your tool kitchen is humor.

*If you can make a child laugh then  
they forget their problems for a few minutes.*

## ROLE PLAYING

The fourth tool for your *Teacher's Tool Kit* is role playing.

Don't just tell the story, but act it out.



Whatever it takes to grab their attention, do it. In role playing, you and your students can act out a story, with or without costumes. I will say that some sort of props or costumes adds to the role.

**Class room visit** - We've had costumed characters visit the different classrooms. Whether it was a biblical character, a comical non Bible character, or someone with a puppet, it added to the class on that day.

**As the teacher or leader** you can have costumes with you, as the story unfolds you can put on the costume or you can bring up kids and dress them. The more you can involve the students the better. If you don't have costumes, still do the role playing and involve your students anyway you can.

Tell me and I forget.  
Teach me and I remember.  
Involve me and I learn.

-Benjamin Franklin-

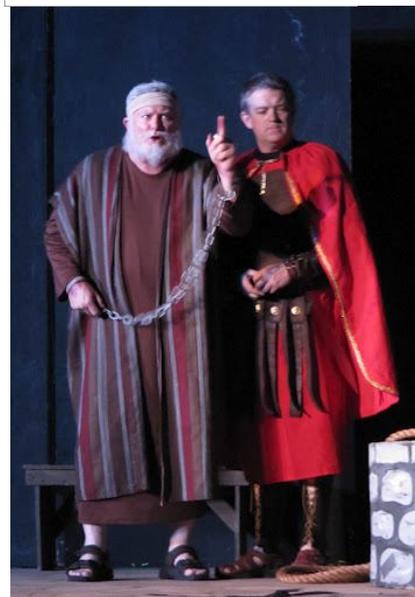


My friends, Bruce and Jami Borlic are masters at creating characters. Their creations are folks that come to life and help tell a Bible story or share biblical principles.



Don't just tell me.  
**SHOW ME.**

Terry Vik uses more Bible characters or, characters that could have been in the Bible to tell his stories as well as some not so Bible oriented.





## TOOL # 5

### VOICES



When I first mention voices, the general consensus is...

*"I can't do voices."*

Then let those same people get around a baby and watch the crazy sounds come out of their mouths.

VOICES should be like a Swiss Army Knife more than a tool. You can make your voice really high, like a Micky Mouse voice. Take that same voice and lower it a little and you have a second voice. Try to talk as low or bassy as you can and you have another voice. Combined with your own vocals, there are 3 voices created on the spot.

Try using different dialects or accents. Southern, British, Irish, New York, talk your parents or your brother. Your *VOICE* is the most versatile of tools you have.

Use your voice to get loud, (*we're good at that*) make your voice really soft to make a big point.

### **DON'T BE MONOTONE**

A monotone voice is hypnotic and can lull the listener to sleep, instead, incorporate pitch, loudness, softness, excitement, sadness, and whatever other emotion you can think to add.

Used in corporation with *Role Playing*, the right *Voice* can make a difference.

## TOOL # 6 PROPS

Props can be anything from a mop and broom, a rock, a hat, a pool noodle, an umbrella, a basket, a cup, a book, a CD, a puppet, stuffed animal, a shoe, a helmet, a coin, anything can be a prop.

A prop can be HUGE or a prop can be small. I've used a giant toothbrush and an oversized cowboy hat as props. I've watched other teachers use a mustard seed, probably the smallest prop I've ever seen, to teach about faith.



A prop is *anything* you can use to enhance your character or further your story.

My friend, Terry Vik, is a master at taking something and using it as something that it's not. For example, an umbrella becomes a boat paddle, a hat becomes a basket, a towel is rolled up and becomes a baby, a pool noodle becomes a trumpet, a turned over chair becomes levers to operate a big machine, and a box can be a myriad of things.

You're only limited by your imagination.

I watched one comedian/actor take a scarf and use it as a head dress, a belt, a blind fold, a snake, and several other items that escapes me. Again, we're only limited by our imagination.

Who has the best imaginations? Your kids. Ask them to imagine what \_\_\_\_\_ could be. You'll get answers that will surprise you, amaze you, and sometimes embarrass you. Still use them to further the story.

PROPS, a great tool for your tool kit.

The last tool we'll add to the *Teacher's Tool Kit* today is....

## S U S P E N S E   A N D   S U R P R I S E

In theatre, this is known as building the tension and then releasing it. My friend, Barry Mitchell, says the best way to create suspense and surprise is to create a hero, put the hero in a tree, have a bad guy throw rocks at the hero, then the hero defeats the enemy and saves the day.

In the Bible, suspense and surprise guides us through some of the greatest stories of all time. The three Hebrew boys that would not bow before the idol. They're tied up, thrown in the fiery furnace, God comes in the furnace with them, they're set free, then everyone serves their God.

Look at David and Goliath, Samson, Daniel, Paul and Silas, even the story of Jesus.... *Suspense and Surprise*.

### TEACHER'S TOOL KIT

1. *Enthusiasm*
2. *Animation*
3. *Humor*
4. *Role Playing*
5. *Voices*
6. *Props*
7. *Suspense & Surprise*



My prayer is that you've been able to enhance your ministry with these tools. There are other 'tools' that you can add and probably some that you have already considered. Please share any of your ideas with me and I'll gladly pass them on to our community. I definitely don't know everything, and I'm still learning everyday. I do like to take what I know and combine it with other ministries and we can all grow together.

May God bless you and what you do for the Kingdom.

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