

My dad's bigger than your dad

Aim : *This is an introduction to conflict, both personal and national. It starts by watching a humorous exchange between children and then moves to a simple exploration of what lies behind conflict on a wider scale.*

Characters :

2 people – although the actors obviously play children, we have always used adults in this piece as I think they are more able to bring out the humour, although using children could certainly bring a different dimension to the second part.

Props/Costumes :

Something simple could be used to denote the actors are playing children – a bright scarf, hair worn up etc. but nothing too much

Notes: *Although the two parts are very different I have included them together with no stage directions in between as they can be used in a variety of ways. Originally they were separate sections in a longer piece about conflict, so they could be used with the actors going off and coming back on later. Since then we have run them consecutively with the actors turning away at the end of the first piece, then using a sound effect of an explosion before they turned back and, staying at opposite ends of the stage, went through the second part.*

However you use them, the important thing in performance is the tone. The first part is exaggerated (although not to the point where we don't believe these characters are real children) and the action and reactions get increasingly exaggerated as the piece progresses, so by the end of the first part they are both furious and really shouting across to each other, with lots of accompanying pointing!

The second part is a total contrast, the responses are spoken calmly, almost dispassionately, from across the divide between the two characters.

My dad's bigger than your dad

The two children stride on from different ends of the performing space. They are obviously in the middle of an argument.

1) My dad's bigger than your dad

2) He is not

1) He is. Your dad's little and weedy and rubbish

2) Yeah, well your dad is littler, and weedier and, and rubbisher

1) But my dad goes to the gym, so he could beat your dad AND he could get all the other people at the gym onto your dad

2) My dad works in a bank and so he can take some money and pay for lots of people and he can get them all onto your dad.

1) Well my dad knows someone who makes cars, so he could get him to make a tank, and then he can get lots of tanks onto your dad

2) Well my dad's friend met the queen so he can get her, and all the Royalty, and all her armies onto your dad.

1) Well my dad went to America last year, so he could get the Primesident and all the Americans and The Statue of Liberty onto your dad.

2) Well, my dad's a pacifist and he goes to a meeting of lots of pacifisters and he could get all the pacifisters onto your dad, and they would DO HIM OVER.

1) My strength's greater than your strength

2) My pride's greater than your pride

1) My fear is greater than your fear

2) My nation is greater than your nation

1) My pain is greater than your pain

2) No. My pain is greater than your pain