

Worksheet 3:

Character Establishment

Character Establishment is the use of gesture, movement, expression or any other details which tell the audience what kind of person the character is – a character description, which is given the very first time a mask character enters the stage.

Watch the video *Mask Techniques #3: Character Establishment* and complete a table like the example below for each detail of movement, gesture, expression that you can see:

Description of Detail	Establishes
Brushing his arm, picking bits off his sleeve and flicking them to the ground	This could establish that he is nervous or tense. Perhaps that he is waiting for something.

Imagine 1

Imagine that you are a character in a play who is a 'bully'. Make a list of gestures, movements or expressions that you could use to establish to the audience what type of character you are.

Pick three things from your list and, for each one, write a paragraph which explains HOW this would establish your character for the audience.



Imagine 2

Imagine that you are a character in a play who is a 'victim' of bullying. Make a list of gestures, movements or expressions that you could use to establish to the audience what type of character you are.

Pick three things from your list and, for each one, write a paragraph which explains HOW this would establish your character for the audience.

Establishing Emotions

Make a list of five different emotions which a character might express. Beside each one describe what the actor might do to 'establish' that the character was feeling the emotion - this could focus on gesture, body language, facial expression and vocal skills (the final two in unmasked drama only).