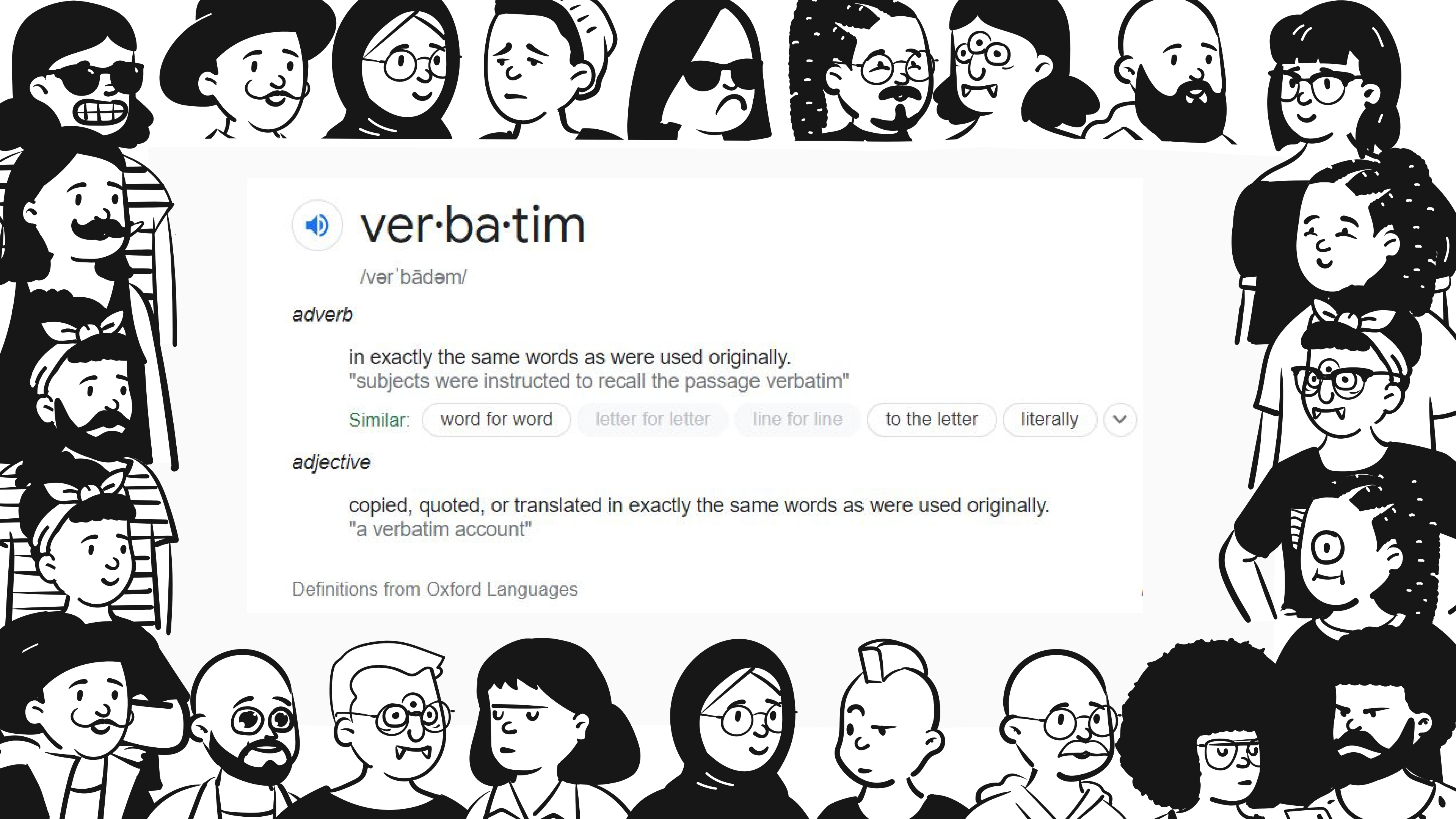




Drama 20/30

A Guide to Verbatim Theatre

MR PERSON'S CLASS



ver·ba·tim

/vərˈbɑːdɪm/

adverb

in exactly the same words as were used originally.
"subjects were instructed to recall the passage verbatim"

Similar:

word for word

letter for letter

line for line

to the letter

literally



adjective

copied, quoted, or translated in exactly the same words as were used originally.
"a verbatim account"

Definitions from Oxford Languages

Pre-Activity Discussion



How do we use
verbatim
storytelling in
our everyday
lives?

What advantages
/ disadvantages
does this type of
storytelling
have?



Elements of Vocal Story Telling

Tempo/Pauses

The variation in speed at which the story is told.

Tone

The overarching attitudes that are obvious or implied in how the words are spoken.

Articulation

The clarity in the letter sounds, the sharpness of the words, or slurring the words.

Diction

The choice of words chosen to tell the story.

Expression

The vivacity at which the words are spoken, the emotions that it triggers (this can be physical or verbal)

Emphasis

Accenting or stressing certain elements of a story: words, phrases, segments, sentences, paragraphs.

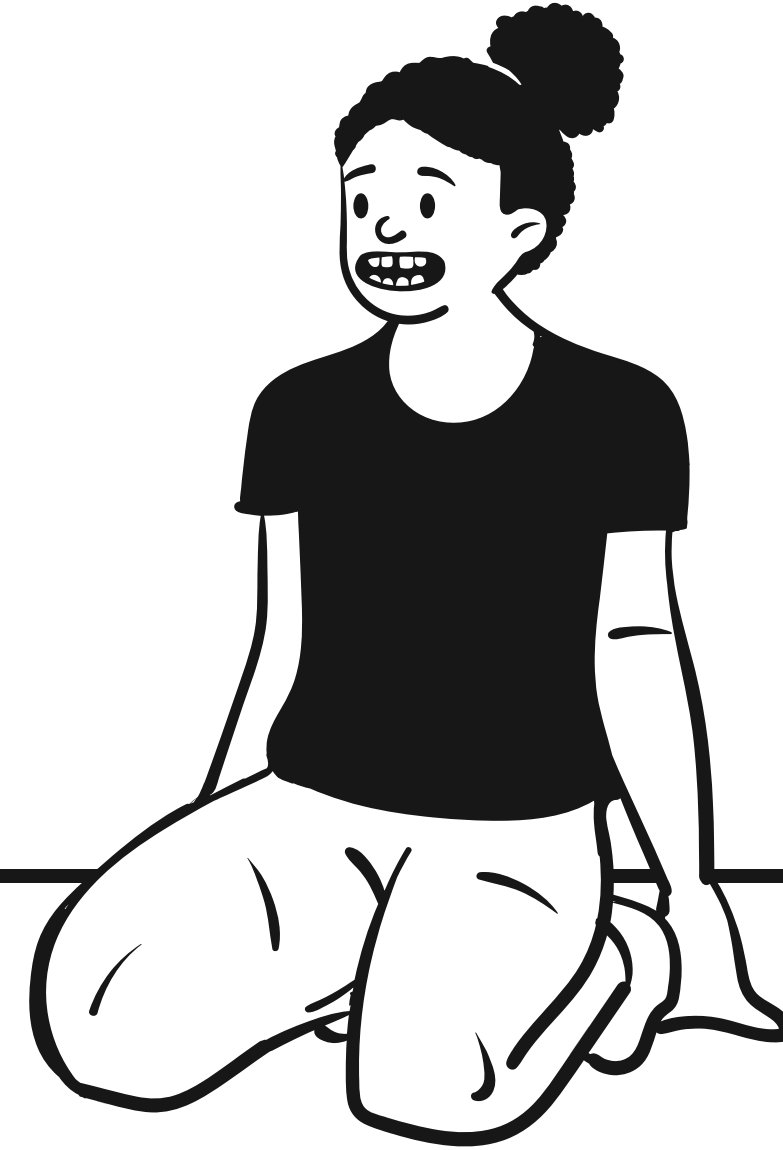


Activity!

Receive a poem from your teacher and get into partners with someone who has a **DIFFERENT** poem than you!

We are going to use our listening skills to retell stories! As your teacher provides you with the steps of the activity, practice absorbing the information that your partner is sharing both in the words and in the previous slide's vocal strategies for storytelling.





Brief Reflection

What was easier: being the mimic or the reader? Why?

Imagine being an actor having to mimic the real lines of the real people, how could that be challenging? How could it make their jobs easier? Would this be fun for actors or would it hinder their artistry? Why?

Story Time!

Ethics in re-telling stories

What makes a re-telling of a story powerful?

How can we, as responsible artists, work towards being respectful in our storytelling and removing our own biases from this verbatim work. Does the story lose it's truth when it's not told verbatim?

ACTIVITY

Find a partner and share with them a story of a time where you felt like you persevered. Listeners must watch speaker's elements of storytelling, as they will have to retell the story and share with the class (remember to choose stories you feel safe sharing)



Journal Entry

In your own words, describe Verbatim Theatre and how this can be used as a tool to examine social justice issues in our communities. How can this type of theatre help communities develop empathy? What are the challenges of using this type of theatre?

