

Name:

Class:

Date:

## Telephone Charades

*An activity of "Our Singapore: Chinese Opera"*

### INTRODUCTION

Chinese opera is an expressive art form that relies not only on costumes and makeup to tell a story, but also on gestures to convey different messages to the audience. Play Telephone Charades, where you will use gestures to send messages to your classmates, just like in a mime.

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. **PREPARE** a set of thirty proverbs or famous sayings that all your classmates are familiar with. You can use ones that you learned in your Mother Tongue classes but they must be worded in English for this game. Write each saying on a slip of paper and put all the slips in a box.
2. **FORM** groups of about eight members each. Stand in a row with your group. Volunteer one person from your team to act as a referee to another team, to ensure that the rules listed below are followed.
3. **PICK** a slip from the box for your team. Only the first person in the team should read the slip. Then, pass the slip to your referee.
4. **ACT OUT** the word/phrase. The first student in line mimes the secret saying to the second student in line. Remember that speaking is not allowed. Only the second student can watch the mime. The rest of the group faces away from the first student so that they cannot see what is going on.
5. **TAP** the shoulder of the third student in line when you have finished watching the mime. The third student then turns around, and the second student passes on the secret saying by imitating the mime performed by the first student.
6. **REPEAT** this process with the other students down the line until the last student watches the mime. The last student has to guess what the secret saying is. The first group whose final teammate announces the correct answer wins!
7. **DISCUSS**, as a whole class, what you observed about the messages as they were passed down from person to person. Did some pairs find it easier to communicate than others? If so, what helped them? What lessons can we learn from this game about using mime to convey messages? Finally, if performers such as the Chinese opera singers use their facial expressions and actions very well, do you think such shows can be enjoyed even by people who don't know the language used?