Hot Seating

Henry V
Drama

This activity helps children get to know the characters better, and to think about who they are and how they make their decisions. It encourages children to be creative, and to think about their own interpretations of each character.

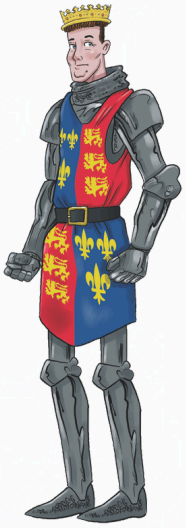
Place a chair at the front of the room. Chose a volunteer to sit in this 'hot seat.' They must become one of the characters from the play – you can designate who, or let the child chose who they would like to become. Ask them to think about how this character might sit. For example, King Henry may have a very different posture to one of his soldiers.

Now ask the child to think about how the character might talk. What does their voice sound like? Are they a bold, confident character, or a shy character? The rest of the class may now ask this character questions. The child on the hot seat must answer these questions as if they are the character.

Example questions

For Henry:

- What did you think when the Dauphin sent you the tennis balls?
- Why did you want to be King of France as well as England?
- How did you feel when you realised the French army was so much bigger than yours?



For Katherine:

- Why did you decide to learn English?
- What did you think when King Henry asked to marry you?
- How did you feel about going to England?

For a soldier:

- What is your opinion of King Henry?
- How did you feel when Henry asked you to attack Harfleur again?
- How did you feel the night before the battle at Agincourt?

If children say something that contradicts the text, remind them of the plot, steering them back towards the story.

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