

Can You Help Us?

(Eeska Loonee Inga Booga?)

When You Don't Know the Language

This is a “gibberish” exercise in which players must communicate using made-up language sounds. This means participants must get their ideas across by using gestures, body language, and vocal inflection, speed, volume, and tone.

Time

15 to 20 minutes

Players: 5 +


- 3 to 4 friends involved in any group activity, such as having a picnic, standing in line for a movie, planting a garden, caroling, or hiking in the woods
- 2 visitors from another country who don't speak the local language

Props and Costumes

None necessary

The Skit

A small group of friends are hanging out when two visitors approach them. The visitors are from an unknown country and they are lost, scared, and confused. They speak in gibberish (to represent the language



of their country) and try to communicate with the first group. The visitors interact with each other and attempt to get their needs met by the members of the larger group, who try to understand and help them.

Coaching

Tell the first group to make any attempt, no matter how silly, to help the visitors. Coach the visitors to become more and more frustrated until the problem is resolved and to show their gratitude when they are understood. If you have more time, you can brainstorm possible solutions with people offstage and have them join the scenario to see if their ideas work.

Discussion

1. What does this skit say about the human experience: our similarities and our differences?
2. How can you communicate with people who don't speak the same language?
3. What makes it difficult or easy to understand others?

Add an Asset

Asset 7: Community values youth; Asset 9: Service to others; Asset 19: Religious community. How does it feel to help someone? Are there places you can go or groups you can join where you can do that on a regular basis?

Asset 34: Cultural competence. Have you ever been in a situation where you were the visitor? How did you react?

Notes