

**Honoree:** Otto Neals

**Grade Level:** 3-8

**Subject:** Theatre

**Introductory Statement:** Otto Neals is a visual artist who specializes in sculpture. One of his most notable works is Peter and Willie, which is a bronze representation of characters from Ezra Jack Keats' children's books.

**SC Standards Addressed:**

T4-2-1 Develop body control and expression in pantomime and character portrayal.

T4-6.3 Incorporate elements of other arts areas to enhance his or her classroom theatre presentations.

T6-2.5 Research and observe people to create characters.

**Goals/Objectives:** To use body and facial expression to create character and represent characters from dramatic literature.

**Items/Materials Needed:** Copies of popular children's and young adult literature.

**Steps/Strategies:** Students will read a variety of selections of character driven literature.

**Activity One:** In groups, students will play "Statues"- a game in which one player "molds" a sculpture using another player or group of players as the clay. Groups will be assigned several characters from selected literature to represent through directed frozen tableau. The groups will perform their tableau to an audience, who will try to guess which characters have been represented through the performance of the tableau.

**Activity Two:** The students will participate in "living museum" where they select a character from literature, create a costume for that character, prepare a short monologue paragraph for the character and plan and perform a frozen tableau for that character. As audience members approach each "statue," they pantomime pressing a button that makes that statue come to life as the actor presents their memorized original monologue or selection from represented literature.