

**Honoree:** Luther W. Seabrook, Ph.D.

**Grade Level:** 3-8

**Subject:** Theatre

**Introductory Statement:** Luther Seabrook is an educator and school reform activist. He created a learning environment called the Highland Park Free School. The process of performance is similar to teaching, as an actor hopes to communicate new thought, ideas, and emotions as they perform.

**SC Standards Addressed:**

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

T4-6.5 Act out career and social roles.

T6-2.2 Develop physical control and expression through improvisation and pantomime.

T6-4.3 Recognize side coaching in improvisations, theatre games, and other theatre activities as part of the directing process.

**Goals/Objectives:** To teach a simple process without the benefit of speech, thus employing non-verbal skills to transfer information.

**Items/Materials Needed:** A copy of Viola Spolin's book *Improvisation for the Theatre Classroom*.

**Steps/Strategies:** Students read and discuss the rules to Viola Spolin's game, "Gibberish Teaching"

**Activity One:** Individually, the students select one simple process to try to teach to the class, using only gibberish noises, and physical and facial expression to communicate. The student divides the process into smaller steps and performs the "lesson" for the class. The class responds to the performance by stating whether they were able to understand what was being taught, and what smaller steps were presented.

**Activity Two:** After a teacher-led discussion of what is essential to teach a simple concept or process, the students re-teach the process, incorporating feedback from their teacher and classmates.