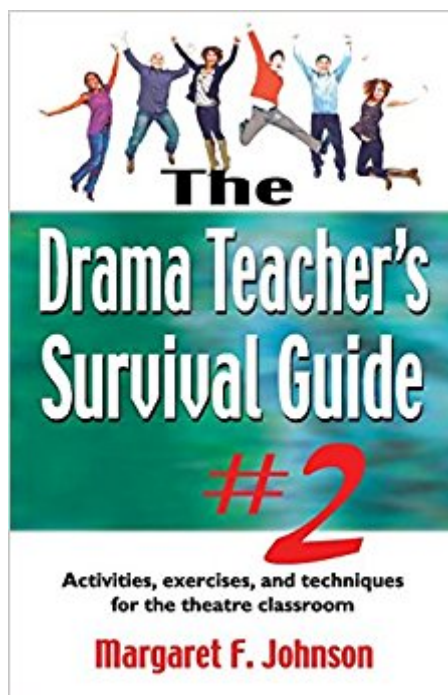




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# The Drama Teacher's Survival Guide #2: Activities, Exercises, And Techniques For The Theatre Classroom



## Synopsis

Ms. Johnson's followup to her wildly popular Drama Teacher's Survival Guide focuses on teaching drama in the classroom. She breaks the book down into units that can either stand alone or be used together. These highly informative units include: The First Week, Technical Theater, Choral Reading, Mime, Stage Fighting, Solo and Duo Acting Activities, Working with Monologues, and Students Writing Their Own Show. Each chapter contains in-depth descriptions of activities to further the students' understanding of the subjects, illustrated examples of scenes and products created by real students, detailed explanations of theatre techniques, and timelines for how long the unit should take. This book is an incredible resource both to new drama teachers searching for inspiration and experienced drama teachers looking to spice up their lesson plans, and reproducible forms, tests, and handouts add even more value to this survival kit. As with the original book, it will banish your stress and guarantee your success!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

During her thirty-seven years as a drama teacher, Margaret F. Johnson produced much more than great shows she inspired many of her students to become theatre professionals. A few of her "kids" are now nationally-known Broadway actors, film stars, and backstage technicians. Among them are Kathleen McNenny, a Broadway actress who was recently seen, with her husband Boyd Gaines, in *Our Town*; Scott Michael Campbell, a television and film actor featured in the motion picture *Brokeback Mountain*; Tom Valach, a freelance designer in the Palm Springs area; and John

Shaffner, an Emmy Award-winning designer for many television productions and past president of the The Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. Margaret served as the Montana State Thespian Director from 1972 1992 and established the yearly state convention in partnership with the University of Montana. She has directed over 190 productions, from children's theatre to full-blown musicals. Though she is now retired, Margaret continues to teach acting at the Osher Life Long Learning Institute at the University of Montana, and when her time permits, she accepts acting roles at the Missoula Community Theatre where she works with former students. When she isn't acting or teaching, she enjoys living in her restored Victorian home in Missoula, MT.

Wonderful book for the new theatre teacher. I've been teaching seven years, and I'm so happy that I bought this book. I can't wait for next year to start so that I can implement these units.

Great resource for teachers. Lots of activities laid out in a step by step manner. Even contains example letters to parents, tests and makeup tests. Some units such as choral reading are a bit outdated for my use, but others such as monologue work will be very useful. Arrived in excellent condition and in a timely manner.

I teach a Saturday morning youth workshop and this book has saved my life! I have used many of its lessons and the kids love them! Thank you thank you thank you!

A great read

Thank heaven for Margaret Johnson and her pair of books, The Drama Teacher's Survival Guide Volume 1, which deals with the staging of high school theatre, and this volume, which delves into the actual meat of a day-to-day drama classroom. Even though I had taught college theatre courses for a decade, I could not have survived my semester of student teaching -- and then my sudden and unexpected acquisition of a job as "real drama teacher" -- without either of Johnson's books. Backed by years of experience, Johnson provides enough in-depth resources (including theatre games, monologue and scene-work assignments, and specific play suggestions) that a novice theatre teacher should have no problem applying her suggestions, laid out in clearly designed units. This book features units on the selection and staging of student-written shows, how to safely practice stage combat, and beginning of the year letters for parents of drama students. If you are a drama teacher, a coach, or a teacher unexpectedly handed anything theatrically related, you must

buy this book. Margaret Johnson, a seasoned actress, director, designer, and teacher, will never steer you wrong.

Wonderful book - bought for my daughter who is a creative writer. Lots of ideas if you are teaching. I bought both her first book as well as this one - first book is useful to start as a teacher (almost felt like cheating) and this one had even more advanced techniques in working with students in acting ( anything from monologues to stage fighting). Most helpful will likely be the exercises to introduce topics. She writes from 15 yrs of experience and feels like you have a colleague at your side helping you prepare your lessons!

I highly recommend this book! I am a high school teacher and was assigned a drama class to teach. I was provided no text books or curriculum; what I taught was entirely up to me and I had to find all of the materials. This book was a lifesaver! It has many wonderful activities my students really enjoyed. In my semester long drama class, about 80% of what I did came from this book!

This is a handy-little guide for how to set up a drama class with some great ideas. I particularly liked some of the improv games, especially the ready made scenarios and examples that I could use directly out of the book. Johnson separates the entire span of a class into several units, providing rationales for including them, including choral reading, mime, improv, stage fighting, technical theater, and potentially writing a show. Overall, it was quite a worthwhile purchase and I still refer to it from time to time; it pretty much carried me through my first year of teaching drama.

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