



The Snow Queen

Sheet 4: Character study- the trolls and the devil mirror

The devil mirror

At the beginning of the opera, the worst troll of all takes center stage in the plot. It is a devilish troll - the actual Devil. The figure of the devil troll can be introduced via the fairy tale (Material 1 - see online??) or role card (Material 2).



In order to annoy the humans and God, the devil troll has created a magical mirror:

'One day, when he was in a merry mood, he made a looking-glass which had the power of making everything good or beautiful that was reflected in it almost shrink to nothing, while everything that was worthless and bad looked increased in size and worse than ever. The most lovely landscapes

appeared like boiled spinach, and the people became hideous, and looked as if they stood on their heads and had no bodies'(Andersen)

Exercise 1: Warm-up on the stage

The following exercise is a great way to get started on scenic work with the class:

- The students face each other in pairs.
- At first, partner A develops individual movements and facial expressions, which Partner B simultaneously reflects.
- Later, partner B not only takes over the mirrored movement of his partner, but also distorts and exaggerates it as if it was reflected in the devil's mirror. For instance, a nice smile of partner A is mirrored by partner B with an ugly grimace.
- Then the positions are exchanged.

- **Exercise 2: Draw the devil's mirror**

Based on the excerpt from the tale (see above), the students are given the task of drawing a landscape, a human or a facial expression as a mirror image of the devil's mirror.

Clumsy troll and Silly troll

In contrast to what happens in the Andersen tale, the two young trolls appear throughout the entire opera storyline. After being in the center of attention in the first story, they repeatedly appear in the following pictures as "masterminds" or assistants to the Snow Queen. The trolls add a comical element to the operatic action, and children identify with them and with their quirky antics.


Exercise 1: Troll laugh

How does a troll move? What are his facial expressions? Children can try out different troll movements. They show off their facial expressions to the class in a "nonsense circle": for this purpose: a child makes a facial expression, which is imitated by their neighbour on the right. Then this child makes a new grimace, which is imitated by their neighbour on the right, and so on.

This exercise can be modified with the addition of a sound.

Troll laugh: Whenever the trolls think about a nasty trick, they laugh together. The pupils can think for themselves how that might sound.

Then the original laugh from the score can be rehearsed:



Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha!

Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha!



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Kay: Ha ha! Ha ha!

Trlpr.: Ha ha! Ha ha! Kay! Komm

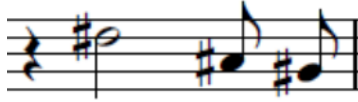
Trltr.: Ha ha! Ha ha! Kay!



Troll peace

The young Silly Troll and Clumsy Troll still go to school. The two are very awkward and goofy. Although they are best friends and like each other, they always argue all the time. Sometimes they even fight a little. But shortly thereafter, they make peace again.

Which movement or what kind of greetings could the trolls perform on the stage during the "Troll Peace"?



Troll Pea - ce!

