

VIRTUAL LESSON***LET'S LEARN ABOUT PLAYS:*****Week 1*****The Day the Internet Died***

by Rene BeVier Dill

Week 1: A virtual introduction to plays and drama. The students will do research on both of the playwrights, in this case, Ian McWethy and Jason Pizzarello. Students will learn about one-act plays versus full-length plays. As an extension of their learning, students get to build a paper drama mask (teaching them about comedy and drama genres).

Age Group: Middle School

**STUDENT WORKSHEET**

1. Ian McWethy and Jason Pizzarello wrote the play that we will be reading, called "The Day the Internet Died." What are people who write plays called?

2. By using this website, answer these questions about **Ian McWethy**.

[Ian McWethy bio](#)

- Where does he live?
- Name two countries his plays have been performed in besides the US?
- Besides plays, what else has he written?

3. By using this website, answer these questions about **Jason Pizzarello**.

[Jason Pizzarello bio](#)

- What is he the current founder of, which is what?
- What are some countries his plays have been performed in?
- What are some of his other accomplishments besides playwriting?

4. This is a one-act play. (Visit this website to answer this question as well as the next. **Put your answer into your own words.**) [*The Play's the Thing and Types of Plays*](#)

- a. What is a one-act play? What is the running time of a one-act play?
- b. What about a full-length play? How long does it run?

5. This play is a **comedy**, which is a type of play. Use the following website to answer to find the missing words in the sentences below or answer the questions: [Creating Theatre](#)

- a. What type of people are in comedies?
- b. Where did comedy originate?
- c. When did drama begin? (Time period)
- d. Drama portrays characters whose desires come into conflict with... (Fill in the two needed words.)

6. History of Greek Drama Masks.



These are our modern versions of comedy and tragedy masks.

Google says: "The two **masks** are associated with **ancient Greek drama** with the smiling and frowning faces. They are the Comedy and **Tragedy masks** that were worn in **ancient Greece** during the golden age, around 500 – 300 BC, and are paired together to show the two extremes of the human psyche."

Use this following website to answer the questions:

<https://historyofgreekdrama-rubybourke.weebly.com/masks-in-greek-theatre.html>

- a. Why did actors wear masks?
- b. Name three materials the masks were made out of.

Create your own comedy **or** tragedy mask with paper!



*Here is a video with instructions. [How to Make a Paper Mask](#)

Supplies you will need:

- Paper (white copy paper or construction paper or you can use manilla folders if you have any lying around.)
- Scissors

Not Required, but helpful:

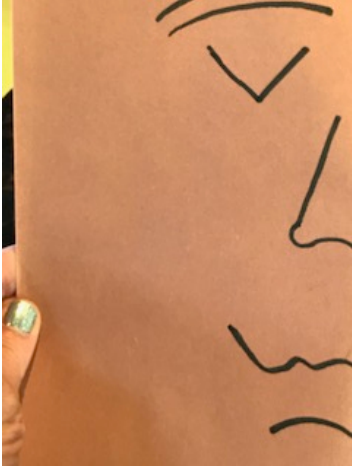
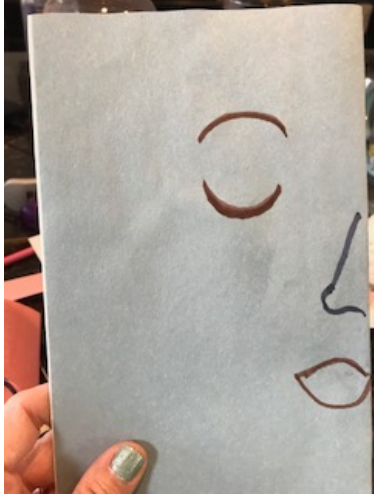
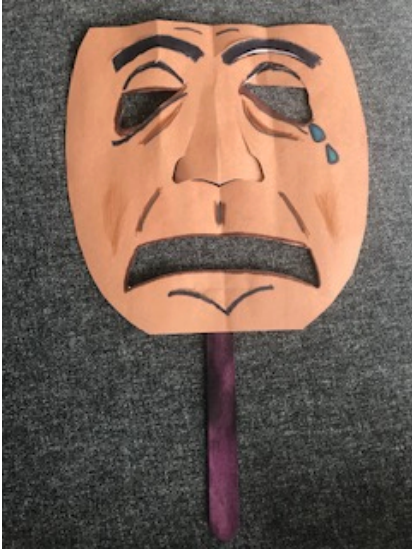

- Glue
- String, yarn, or twine
- Stapler
- Popsicle stick
- Markers, colored pencils
- String or a popsicle sticks

Here are written instructions from Mrs. Dill:

- If you have thicker paper, like construction paper, it works better.
- I glued white printer copy paper to construction paper to make my mask thicker...
- Fold your paper in half.
- Draw the nose, eyes, mouth, and eyebrows. On the video, she also does a chin.
- You might want to make the mask fit where your eyes, nose and mouth are, so put it over your face and either mark the spots, or indent the paper slightly.
- For a tragedy mask, have the mouth corners go down. For a comedy, have it go up.
- If you want to do more of a realistic looking mask, the eyes are not triangular. You would cut $\frac{1}{2}$ circles swooping down. (Example picture shown on page 2)
- If you want the mouth to remain closed, then you don't need to cut the mouth.
- Begin cutting the nose, and mouth. To cut the eyes, you will need to change your fold in the middle of the eye shape you drew. This is shown on the video.



- After you cut out you will need to fold the eyes and nose back and cut them.
- Then decorate the mask. Have fun and be creative. You can add images to make your mask unique. I added sunflowers, music notes, and stars because these images communicate things I like or enjoy doing.
- Figure out how you will hold up or secure to your face for your presentation. (Stapled with string, popsicle stick, another way?)

<p>This was how my mask looked before I cut my tragedy mask. However, I then shaped the eyes after I cut the triangles. I later went back and changed the mouth as well to shape down.</p>	<p>This was how my mask looked before I did my “comedy” mask. Notice the shape of the eye and eyebrows.</p>
	
	

Take a short video (no more than 1 minute) of your mask and put it on our class Flipgrid. Explain why you chose either a comedy or a tragedy mask, and the reasoning behind your images.

Have fun! If you would like to share images of your classes masks with us, send them to Maria@yourstagepartners.com

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