

Acting: Animal Exercises

(character development)

Which Animal Should I Choose?

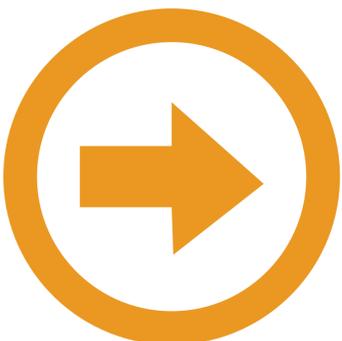


Have you ever met someone and thought that they reminded you of an animal? Maybe they move quietly like a mouse, or perhaps they are excitable like a puppy?

List anyone you have met that reminds you of an animal and why... *My friend reminds me of a squirrel because she is always nervous.*

Below are some character traits you might find. Can you name an animal for each one?

- Playful -
- Powerful -
- Sneaky -
- Lonely -
- Grumpy -
- Graceful -



A good way to try 'animal exercises' is to watch your pets if you have any. You will already have an idea of your pets personality so you will find it easier to copy.

Watch the Animal

Time to watch your animal closely



This is easiest if you have a pet but there are plenty of videos on the internet of animals in the wild/zoo. Why not take a walk and see which animals you can see?



If you are using this exercise to work on a certain character then pick an animal that has things in common with that characters personality (calm/loud/silly etc)

Answer these questions...

Try to look at the animal with as much detail as possible.

How is your animal shaped?

How does it move?

How is the back curved?

Does it have a tail?

How does it feel?

Does it have fur? Scales? Feathers?

Does it move a lot?

How does it eat and drink?

What is the animal thinking?

How does the animal feel?

What would the animal say?

Character

What animal were you?

Would the character be big or small?

Would the character be friendly?

Would the character be fast or slow?

Would the character be lazy?

What words would you use to describe the character?
(e.g. *Excited/Nervous/Scared*)

Favourite Character

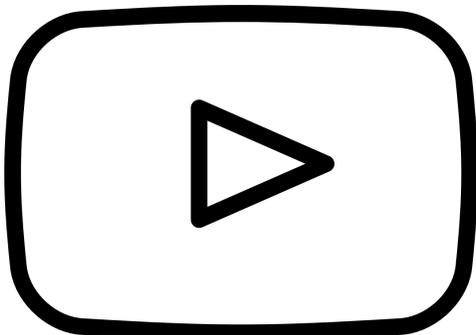
Try the animal exercise with your favourite character..

Who is your favourite character from film, T.V or stage?

What animal do you think is similar to your favourite character?

Why did you choose this animal?

Go through the animal exercise again with this animal. Does this change how the character moves and thinks? Why?



Don't forget to check out the video to go with this worksheet over on our YouTube Channel:
https://youtu.be/DvFM_y93aTc