

# I am Using My Voice!

to explore vocal expression, character traits & emotions

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**This warm up** uses rhythmic, call & response to explore vocal choices, emotion & character in unison, building expressive skills & confidence.

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## Planning

Choose the vocal choices, character traits or emotions that you want to prompt your students to explore.

### Tips for choosing your prompts:

Consider what your class is “warming up” to do.

- **Do you want them to build their vocal expressive skills** when they speak, read aloud or enact dialogue through puppetry or as actors? Choose vocal prompts to familiarize them with the vocal choices they can make about volume, speed, pitch and quality.
- **Will you be asking them to express character traits or emotions** using their puppets, as actors or through writing? Choose character trait prompts that you want them to have concrete understanding of.
- **Do you want them to explore characters from a book?**

### Options:

#### Vocal Volume, Speed & Pitch:

loud, quiet, slow, fast, high, low

#### Vocal Quality:

soft, harsh, smooth, staccato, shaky, rough, melodic, sing song, robotic, whiny, growly

#### Core emotion words:

happy, mad, sad, scared, surprised, confused, disgusted.

#### Advanced emotion vocabulary:

See the [Advanced Emotion Vocabulary Resource](#)

#### Social Character Traits:

friendly, sweet, kind, helpful, grouchy, impatient, aggressive

#### Energetic Character Traits:

brave, powerful, confident, meek, timid, energetic, relaxed, stuffy

#### Archetypal Character Traits:

mysterious, wicked, sneaky, tricky, bossy, silly, goofy, clever

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## Preparation

### How will you support visual, kinesthetic & multi language learners in your class?

Options to consider

- Use a visual aid like an [emotion mapping tool](#).
- Use an instrument such as a drum keep the rhythm and encourage participation and unity.
- Use a puppet to lead the game.
- Have students use puppets they've created to play the game.

### Before the activity, practice...

- **using your voice to express each prompt you choose in a variety of ways.** Try out different ways to express each word vocally (quiet, loud, soft, harsh, gentle, melodic, shaky, gravelly, fast, slow). Remember that there is not one right way to express the same prompt. Find a few different ways, so that you can repeat each prompt and vary your interpretation a bit each time.
- **saying the words in a rhythm or beat** (keep it simple! You can tap your hands to your thighs, alternating hands). Adjust the speed of the rhythm to express different vocal choices. For example, you may speed up to express "excited" or slow down to express "bored".

**Visit the Bridges Vocal Expression Activities webpage to see video of what this looks like in a classroom. QR code below.**

