

## EXPLORE: Newsies Clip

- *Let's take a look at this in action. I'm going to play a short clip from the Broadway production of Newsies.*
- Ask if anyone knows what the show is about. *Newsies tells the story of a group of young boys, mostly orphans and from poor families, who make ends meet by delivering newspapers in New York City in 1899. When they realize they are being taken advantage of by the large publisher, they decide to band together and do something about it: strike!* Play the clip.
- *What did you think about the performance?*
- *Did you see the characters move up the emotional staircase? Why do you think they began dancing?*
- *What qualities did the actors have that made the performance so entertaining?*
- Draw a stick figure on the board and list all the qualities with arrows coming from the stick figure.
- *These are skills we'll be working on as we train to be great musical actors.*

You can play any clip you'd like here that shows an energetic performance, but I highly recommend Newsies because the music and characters are relatable to young actors, and it will get even the "coolest" boys excited about singing and dancing.

If you happen to be using chart paper, save this sheet. It will come in handy for creating the performance rubric in Lesson 12.

The story of Newsies is based on true events. If you'd like to go in more detail with your students about the strike, I've included a newspaper article excerpt on Page 66 in the bonus section.

## ACTIVITY: Emotional Staircase Improv

- Give a funny improv example of moving up the emotional staircase: talking, then singing, then dancing. For example, you're watching TV with your friend to see if you've won the lottery (speech), the numbers are being drawn and you sing that this could finally be your chance (sing), you win the jackpot (dance!)
- Ask for volunteers, 2 at a time, to come up and improv their own progression up the staircase. Provide them with specific conflicts or ask the class for suggestions (i.e. Class starts in 5 minutes and your homework is due but you haven't even started yet. They should begin by talking, then singing, then dancing as the emotional level rises.
- Optional: You can use **[Music Cues #1-5]** as underscoring.
- *How did it feel as an actor? As an audience member?*

## REFLECTION

- *Drama Journal: Draw a picture of the emotional staircase.*
- *Newsies is a musical about a real historical event. Can you imagine an event from history that could inspire a musical? What would be the title of the hit song? Write it in your journal.*