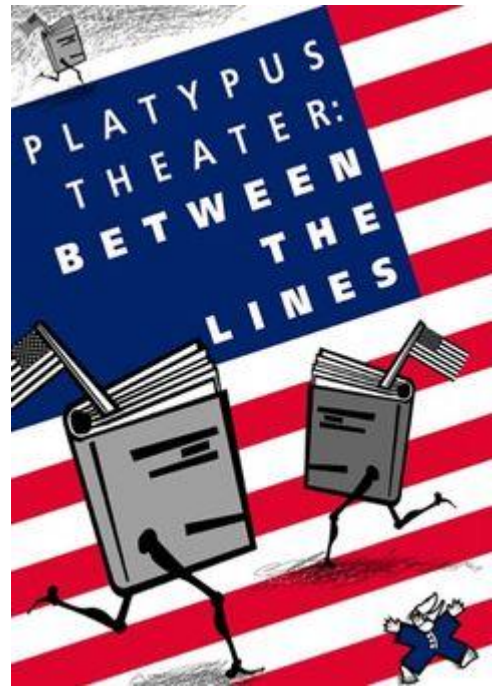




**Short description**

Have you ever thought about what your school books do when you are sleeping at night? Well, the book-heroes in this play come to life! It’s the end of the school year. The last three English textbooks “Red”, “White” and “Blue” are now back in the school library. That’s where they overhear the school principal’s plans: they are to be thrown away! The books believe they are far too young to be recycled into toilet paper! They still have so much to offer. There is a solution: run away! Red, White and Blue find out that Ms. Neldner, the English teacher, is going to the U.S.A. for the summer holidays so they stowaway in her suitcase. Next thing you know, they are in the U.S.A. and have to use their textbook-knowledge in real life. There is only one problem: real life is different from school book life ... Red, White and Blue are going to face some challenging situations as they travel through the U.S.A. Will Ms. Neldner find out about them ...? Will Red, White and Blue survive...?



**Vocabulary**

Dear Students,

You should know most of the words in the play. Sometimes we use words that you may not know. Here is a list of words and phrases and their explanations.

furious..... very angry

I.D..... from “identification”, your passport, your driver’s license, official document.

appropriate ..... fitting, suitable

I’m freaked out..... I’m very scared

a remote control..... a device with which you change the station on your television set

room service ..... in a hotel you can order food to your room by calling room service

a pillow..... you lay your head on this at night in bed

to be indiscreet ..... to say or do things that should be secret

to remind..... to cause someone to remember someone or something

on the house..... the drinks are on the house...they don’t cost anything.



upgrade ..... raise (something) to a higher standard  
strange..... unusual or surprising  
the usual please ..... same as always please  
a creature of habit..... someone who does the same thing at the same time at the same place  
pop it into a bag ..... place or put it in a bag  
American humor ..... what Americans think is funny  
clothing donation box..... people throw their old clothes in this box: later poor people may get them  
nearby..... very close  
deep..... extending far down from the top or surface  
a hobo..... a travelling worker with no fixed address  
reception..... the place where you book into a hotel  
trespassing ..... to be on someone's property without permission  
breaking and entering..... the crime of entering a building by force so as to commit a burglary  
possession of stolen goods . having things with you that are not yours  
fictional ..... something that is invented, not true  
turn ourselves into books..... change ourselves into books  
exhausting ..... tiring  
a collect call ..... the person who receives the telephone call pays for it, not the person who makes it  
to run out of gas..... to have no petrol  
you are wasting our time..... our time is valuable, you are misusing it  
spurn me..... reject me  
cut throat business ..... a business in which there is a lot of competition  
three ring binder ..... American way of saying ring binder (= Aktenordner)  
you have to be streetwise .... you have to be clever, know about life as it really is.  
shotgun..... this refers to whoever sits in the front seat of a car next to the driver



## Exercises/Games

Ideally, these games should take place in a room free of furniture.

Form six groups of four students.

Imagine you are standing at the top of a New York skyscraper. It's very high skyscraper but you have a pair of binoculars so you can see better. What activities can you see down on the street? Act out an activity out but don't speak. Let the others in your group guess what you are doing. If you are guessing what the person is acting out you could try and use a Gerund.

e.g. **walking** a dog, **washing** a car, **stealing** a purse

What can you see? I can see a man walking his dog.

If you have fun doing this in your groups of four, you may want to perform some of these mimes in front of the whole class. This could create a very interesting New York street scene.

## True or False Game

Divide the class into two groups. Two groups form two queues, as if you are lining up to buy tickets for a concert. Place two chairs about 5 meters in front of these queues. One of these chairs has an "F" on it (False). The other chair has a "T" on it (True).

The teacher or master of ceremonies calls out a statement which is either true or false.

e.g. Brooklyn Bridge is the bridge between Staten Island and Liberty Island.

The first person in the queue runs to the appropriate chair. The first one to reach the correct chair wins. The people in the queues can advise the player who has to run to the chair. The teams collect points.

Here are some more statements.

- The school days starts in many US schools with The Pledge of Allegiance.
- Seattle is a small town in Wisconsin.
- The White House is in Washington D.C.
- The border between the U.S. and Mexico is over 3000 kilometres long.
- Florida has many earthquakes.
- In case of an earthquake you should climb onto the roof.
- Chicago is very close to Lake Michigan.
- Latinos are people who speak Latin and come from Rome.
- Ellis Island is famous because it has a big baseball stadium.
- Over 85% of America's tomatoes are grown in Silicon Valley.
- Four million hamburgers are eaten in Disneyland every year.



- Martin Luther King was a black leader who wanted equal rights for all people.
- Immigrants from England and Europe took land from the Native Americans.
- The Grand Canyon National Park is in California.
- Hermann is the capital city of Missouri and is named after the famous German author Hermann Hesse.
- Ferguson is famous because of the riots which happened in August 2014.
- The names of the characters in the play BETWEEN THE LINES are Red, White and Blue.

In BETWEEN THE LINES there is a scene in which Red and Blue do a role play about a date.

Here's a game you may like to play:

### **Speed Dating in English**

Each student has three minutes to think of a character who he or she will play. Have fun with inventing a character. Use your imagination. Here is a great chance to tell some lies! Exaggerate!

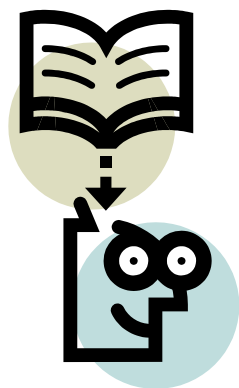
This character should be an American. What is this character's name? In which part of America does this character live? In a city or in the country? How old is this character? What sort of a family does he or she have? What are his or her hobbies and likes and dislikes.

e.g. My name is Ryan. I am 18 years old. I live in Santa Monica, California. My father and mother run a surf shop. I am a champion surfer. My Dad taught me how to surf when I was five years old. I have five brothers and one sister. Besides surfing, I like to play guitar and watch TV series like the Big Bang theory. I also like to play beach volleyball. Last year I almost drowned in a surfing accident.

e.g. My name is Caitlyn. I live in Salt Lake City. I am very religious. My parents are very religious too. We always go to Church on Sundays. I am really good at math and computing. I have developed a smart phone APP which Microsoft wants to buy from me. I never watch TV or go to movies. I am a Vegetarian and last year I was the homecoming queen. Although I have just turned 16 I have my driver's licence already.

All students walk around room. Master of ceremonies rings bell. Students stop moving and do a three minute speed dating with one person who is near them.

At the end of this game, in a feedback session, you may wish to tell the big group about the interesting people that you met.





## **Dating Scene 2**

Break up into groups. E.g. Four groups of six pupils.

Make three different static images statues (like one box in a comic).

The theme for making these static images is “a date that went wrong.” A disastrous date.

When you have made your “picture” you should “freeze” in the position. Keep still.

Let the “audience” tell everyone what they can see.

An example:

### **Static image one**

A boy and girl are on a date. They are having a cup of coffee or a milk shake. A waiter is standing at the table. There is another couple (or trio) at a table next to them. Everything is going well.

### **Statue two**

Boy spills milk shake over girl’s dress or the other way round. Both the boy and girl are shocked. The other people nearby react. The waiter reacts.

### **Statue three**

Girl is annoyed and angry. She stands up and prepares to leave. Boy tries to calm her and clean up. Other people nearby try feel disturbed. Waiter wants them to be quiet. Girl wants to leave.

### A variation of the same game

Someone stands behind each of the people in the statue and says what this person is thinking, in English of course.

### Another variation

Construct the first two scenes and show them to the audience. Then let the audience decide on what should be in the third scene.

### A different theme

In BETWEEN THE LINES there is a scene about a Hollywood casting. You could do the same game and have the theme “A disastrous Hollywood casting”



**Here are some sentences from different scenes of the play: These sentences are from different scenes, they are not in any order, nor are they connected. Read the sentences all together in the big group. Make sure everyone knows what they mean.**

- Somebody broke into my room.
- You've been here one day and one night and you have a job already?
- I'm outdated. Now I know why they want to throw me away.
- I haven't done anything wrong officer.
- I wouldn't tell anyone I promise.
- She always said that you and I would be perfect for one another.
- Oohlala! What are you two doing?
- To make it short, we don't want you.
- Are you doing the embarrassing moments exercise?
- It's my money and I'm keeping it for myself.
- Three strangely dressed people were seen crawling out of the room with towels on their heads.
- Did you fancy that policeman?
- I think we should give him a chance.
- Look Mr. Pinkman, I've had a long flight and I need a rest.
- Give me an upgrade or I'll post this on facebook or trip advisor.

**Now the class should split into e.g. 5 groups of five. Each group should take one of these sentences and develop a short scene which includes this sentence. The sentence you choose could be at the beginning of the scene or the middle or the end. Practice these scenes in your group of five, then present them to the big group.**

**Some of the topics we touch on in our play:**

- The way school books get treated by pupils
- The future of books
- The future of e-books
- High Rise buildings, skyscrapers
- Hotel rooms
- Reality TV



- Poetry Slam
- Role Plays
- An audition (Casting)
- Working in a café, giving “tips”
- Hermann. The small town in Missouri, which was settled by German immigrants in 1837
- Travelling in a car

(like this Cadillac)



The preparation paper was conceived by Bettina Frank and Peter Scollin.

If you have managed to read and work through all of this you will be very well prepared for our play. We hope you enjoy it. You can send us feedback about the play once you have seen it: [mail@platypus-theater.de](mailto:mail@platypus-theater.de)

*Peter Scollin and the Platypus team*