

ELIXIR MIME

<http://elixirmime.com/>

AUGUST 2013

“Working with the community for the community.”

9-day Summer English/ Mime/ Storytelling Camp for teenagers from foster homes and low-income families in Dniprodzerzhynsk, Ukraine.

Photo to right

Learning about acting out a story by using a poem as inspiration: *Be Grateful* by Edgar Guest



Working together with the Dnipropetrovsk Regional NGO “Simya”, we were able to give 12 underprivileged teens a unique opportunity to **learn English and gain basic acting skills** in a friendly environment. It taught them to work together, to be creative and to express **themselves through storytelling**. They gained self-confidence and communication skills. They learnt positive values through first studying and then acting out in mime the parables taught by Jesus.

We look forward to developing more projects with Simya in the near future.

There was a marked improvement at the end of the camp when each team performed their story.

Here are some **comments** from the participants.

This was the first time we did anything like this so it was a unique experience. ”
“The assignments incorporated all the theories we learned. I liked the performances and acting out the poems or stories. I have to act in school plays and this workshop will give me confidence to play roles better.”
“I learned not to be afraid of the audience and not to be afraid to do crazy things.”
“I learned to open up, be flexible, and to get out of my routine to see how other’s think and feel.”
“In playing a character, I learned that the small details are important. For others to believe my acting, I have to believe it myself and take what I am doing seriously and not ruin it by laughing nervously.”
“I liked acting out the poems, showing emotions, and the tennis ball game. It was all great fun!”



On performance day—acting out the parable of the Unjust Judge and the Persistent Widow. Luke 18



Warm up exercises using dance steps to loosen up.



Left: One of the teams studying and scripting their story performance. Each team was given a checklist to follow to develop the theme and block the action.

Please let us know if you would like to help in any way with our community projects. Thank you very much! Please contact us at e-mail: new2mailbox@yahoo.com