

SIX IDEAS FOR PROPS

Here are six ideas for *Props* (most of them stolen from great teachers, who themselves borrowed them or invented them with the help of students):

- **“The Hitter.”** You say, “Let’s give Clarice a Hitter.” Your kids pretend to toss a ball and swing a bat at it. They shield their eyes as if to glimpse its distant flight. Then they mimic crowd noise suitable for a home run for some fraction of a full second.
- **“The Lawnmower.”** You say: “Let’s give Jason a Lawnmower.” Your kids reach down to pull the chord to start the mower and yank upward twice. They make engine sounds, grip the imaginary handles, and smile for some fraction of a full second before the *Prop* ends.
- **“The Roller-Coaster.”** You say: “Oh, man, that answer deserves a Rollercoaster.” Your kids put their open hands in front of them pointing upward at forty-five degrees, palms down. They “chug, chug, chug” (three times only) with their hands mimicking a roller coaster slugging its way up the last steep hill. Then they shout “Woo, woo, woo” three times as their hands mimic a coaster speeding over three steep hills after the big drop.
- **“Hot Pepper.”** You say: “An answer like that deserves a Hot Pepper.” Your kids hold up an imaginary hot pepper, dangling it above their mouths. They take a bite and make a sizzle sounds “tsssss” for exactly one second.
- **“Two Snaps, Two Stomps.”** You say: “Two snaps, two stomps for Jimmie P.!” or a variation on the sounds. Your kids deliver two snaps and two thundering stomps that end perfectly on cue.