Coastal Charades
Ages 3–6

Objectives:

1. Students will work with others to recreate a story through nonverbal communication (such as pantomime/mime)
2. Students will use body and voice to communicate character traits and emotions in a guided drama experience.
3. Students will make choices about using their body and/or voice to imitate a variety of characters, conditions, and emotions.

Materials:

- Copy of *Hello, World! Ocean Life* by Jill McDonald (animated read aloud here)
- Open classroom space
- Optional: charades cards (attached)
- Bag or jar for charades cards

Directions:

- Begin by telling students: "When you come to the Gaillard Center, you will see *The Littlest Cove,* a performance by Treehouse Shakers. In this show, performers use movement, sound, and imagination to bring a coastal environment to life."
- Read *Hello, World! Ocean Life* by Jill McDonald (animated read aloud here). Point out characteristics of the animals.
- Explain to students, "Performers don't always use words. Sometimes they use their bodies to portray different characters, animals, or environments."
- Ask students:
    - What animals live near the ocean?
    - How do they move?
- Model movement
    - Encourage students to move like different coastal animals:
        - **Fish** – glide smoothly, sway side to side, float and swim
        - **Waves** - arms and body flowing from side to side
        - **Seaweed** - flowy arm movements
        - **Crab** – move sideways, bend knees low, use "claws" with hands
        - **Seagull** – flap arms like wings, soar high, land softly
        - **Dolphin** – jump, dive, and move in curved flowing motions
        - **Sea Turtle** – slow, heavy movements, wide arm flippers

Activity directions:

Charades

1. Explain: “We are going to play a charades game where you act like a coastal animal without using words.”
2. Have charades cards prepared (attached) and place them into a bag or jar for students to pick as they come to the front of the room.
3. Choose 1-2 students to come to the front of the room.
4. Have them select a charades card from the bag or jar. If needed, whisper the selection in their ear.
5. Student acts out the card using:
    a. Body movement
    b. Facial expression
    c. Gestures
6. The class guesses:
    a. What animal/thing is it?
    b. What clues helped you know?
7. Continue until all cards have been used or all students have had a turn to act.

Conclusion:

Say, “In *The Littlest Cove*, performers use movement and imagination to show ocean life and nature. While you watch, notice how performers’ bodies help tell the story.”

SCCCR Standards:

- T.CR NM.1- I can work with others to recreate a story through nonverbal communication (ex: Pantomime/ mime)
- T.P NL.3 - I can use body and voice to communicate character traits and emotions in a guided drama experience.
- T.P NM.3.1- I can make choices about using my body and/or voice to imitate a variety of characters, conditions and emotions.
- Goal CD-5 - Children demonstrate self-expression and creativity in a variety of forms and contexts, including play, visual arts, music, drama, and dance.
- Goal CD-10 - Children observe and describe characteristics of living things and the physical world.
- Goal APL-4 - Children demonstrate creativity, imagination, and inventiveness.
- Goal LDC-8 - Children develop interest in books and motivation to read.

- ELA.AOR.1 - Evaluate and critique key literary elements that enhance and deepen meaning within and across texts.

Charade Cards

Starfish	**Fish**	**Dolphin**	**Seaweed**
Sea Turtle	**Ocean Waves**	**Palm Tree**	**Crab**
Seagull	**Shark**	**Seal**	**Octopus**
Stingray	**Jellyfish**	**Whale**	**Tides**
Scuba Diver	**Fisherman**	**Boat Captain**	**Squid**