

CAREER BRIEF

(Grades 6-8)

ACTOR



WHAT IS AN ACTOR?

Actors use their talents to bring characters to life in performances through television, theatre, radio, film, or animation.

WHAT DO ACTORS DO?

- An actor uses their voice, body, actions and reactions to communicate a specific character to their audience.
- An actor tells a story to their audience by stirring up emotion and thoughts.
- Actors research their roles, rehearse their lines and practice, practice, practice before auditioning.

***Fun Fact:** 11 actors have played Superman with the first being Bud Collyer in 1940, starring in *Adventures of Superman* radio show.

EDUCATION

- Although some actors learn and develop their performing talents through formal education (bachelor's degree), some actors develop their skills at a theater company or a university drama or theater arts program.
- Students are encouraged to take college classes in drama, filmmaking, dance or music to prepare for a career in acting.

TRAINING

- Many actors receive their training through workshops, rehearsals, or find a drama coach to help mentor them.
- Because each acting role is different, an actor may need to learn a new skill to play their character, like learning how to sing, dance, play a musical instrument or sport.
- Many student actors participate in school plays or local theater productions to develop their skills. In television and film, actors usually start out in smaller roles and work their way up to bigger productions.

SKILLS

- Strong communication and speaking skills.
- Creativity in communicating a character.
- Ability to improvise.
- Memorization skills.
- Persistence and ability to accept constructive criticism.