

*“The Drama King”
Los Angeles Times*

Teacher Training PD and Curriculum Implementation References Packet

Mr. Jonas Basom

Instructor/Presenter

Drama Education Network

jbasom@DramaEd.net

P.O. Box 484

Hawthorne, CA 90250

(310) 289-4410 phone

(310) 289-4485 fax

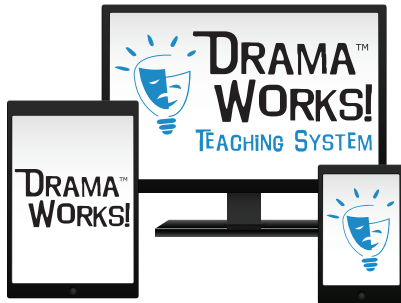


Approved provider for drama residencies and teacher PD
Grants available to pay for programs, PD, or curriculum



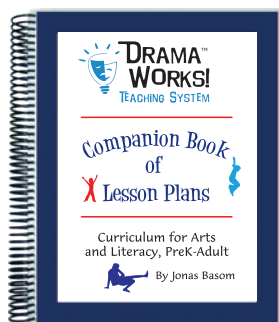
Curriculum For K-12

- Theatre - ELA - Arts Integration



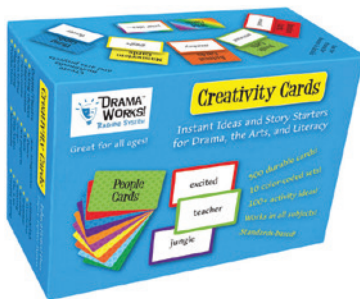
Drama Works! Online (1yr)

- The entire curriculum in digital format
- Access DW from computer, tablet, or phone
- Read, project, or print digital content
- Standards alignments/correlations (current)
- Annual updates to content and features



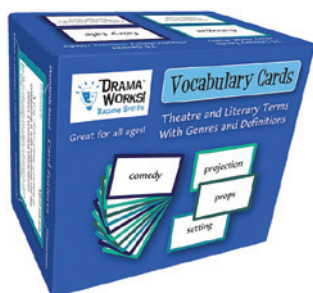
Companion Book of Lesson Plans

- 150 lesson plans, 65 indexes, and glossary
- Work offline to quickly find and lead lessons
- Save time and cost of printing from DW
- Custom plastic binding/covers/tabs/pocket



Creativity Cards

- 500 cards from DW in 10 color-coded sets
- Instant ideas and story starters for acting, arts integration, and vocabulary development
- 3x5" size, wild cards, tabs, booklet, and box



Vocabulary Cards

- 300 cards from DW in 4 color-coded sets
- Standards-based theatre and literary terms with definitions, examples, and bonus content
- 3x5" size, durable tabs, booklet, and box



Staff Development

-Theatre - Arts - ELA - STEAM - SEL



Presenter: Mr. Jonas Basom

- Author of Drama Works! Teaching System
- Bravo Award: Outstanding Arts Educator of CA
- Professor of arts education courses for teachers
- Approved PD provider for Arts Ed Collective
- Has trained thousands of teachers since 1990



Teacher Training Workshops

- Teachers playing, creating, laughing, & learning
- Classroom management system, arts integration
- Using Drama Works! digital and print materials



Model Demonstration Lessons Day

- Mr. Basom leads 3 1-hr lessons with students
- Teachers observe; guided reflection after
- See DW materials and strategies in action!



Teacher Coaching Day

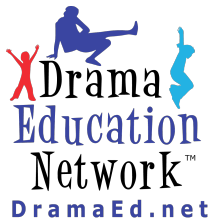
- Design arts integration lessons with teachers
- Teachers lead lesson; Mr. Basom observes/helps
- Guided reflection and feedback (ind. and group)



Video Conferencing Sessions

- Affordable ongoing PD support for teachers
- Follow-up PD: review, new activities/topics, Q&A
- Individuals, small groups, or whole staff

For rates and availability contact us at 310-289-4410 or jbasom@DramaEd.net



P.O. Box 484, Hawthorne, CA 90250
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Toll Free 866-88-DRAMA
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orders@DramaEd.net

Curriculum and Teacher Training PD: References for Mr. Jonas Basom

Contact Person

Christina Desiderio
Principal
Woodland Hills Elementary (LAUSD)
(818) 347-9220
c.desiderio@lausd.net

Laura Schulz
Curriculum Dean of Fine Arts
Rockford Public School District 205
(815) 490-4150
laura.schulz@rps205.com

Marta Castillo
Executive Director for Elementary Education
La Joya ISD
(956) 323-2672
m.castillo2@lajoyaisd.net

Sara Brown
Arts and Community Outreach Coordinator
iLEAD and SCVi Charter Schools
(661) 705-4820
sara.brown@ileadschools.org

Fabio Kayama
VAPA Coordinator
Norwalk La Mirada Unified School District
(949) 235-1485
fkayama@nlmusd.org

Walter Smith
Director of Fine Arts (former)
Houston ISD
(713) 556-6823
wsmith3@houstonisd.org

Curriculum and Teacher PD Services Provided

2014-2024
Drama Works! for 3 schools (90 teachers TK-5)
6-hr and 2-hr Teacher Training Workshops (21)
Model Demonstration Lesson Days (34)
Virtual 1:1 Teacher PD Sessions (30)
Coaching Days (co-planning lessons) (9)

2023-2024
Drama Works! for all K-12 theatre teachers (15)
6-hr and 2-hr Teacher Training Workshops (3)
Model Demonstration Lesson Days (1)
Virtual 1:1 Teacher PD Sessions (11)

2018-2021
Drama Works! for 4 schools (110 teachers K-5)
Full-day Teacher Training Workshops (8)
Model Demonstration Lesson Days (8)
Coaching Days (co-planning lessons) (8)

2019-2020
Drama Works! for K-8 teachers (30)
Full and half-day Teacher Training Workshops (4)
Model Demonstration Lesson Days (6)
Virtual 1:1 Teacher PD Sessions (9)

2018-2019
Drama Works! for K-5 teachers (20)
6-hr and 2-hr Teacher Training Workshops (3)
Model Demonstration Lesson Days (6)
Coaching Days (co-planning lessons) (3)

2015-2017
Drama Works! for K-5 teachers (167)
Full and half-day Teacher Training Workshops (4)
Model Demonstration Lesson Days (2)
Virtual PD Sessions for Groups (2)

Reference letters attached from schools/districts that have used our curriculum and teacher PD

Contact Mr. Jonas Basom with any questions at jbasom@DramaEd.net

Mr. Jonas Basom

Biographical Information

Jonas Basom is a passionate educator, artist, consultant, and author. He is an international presenter in arts and literacy for schools, organizations, and education conferences. His hands-on trainings empower teachers to use drama pedagogy to create an optimal learning environment for all subjects and ages. He has trained thousands of teachers since 1999. Jonas is the author and creator of *The Drama Game File* and *Drama Works! Teaching System*, curriculum programs used at schools and universities worldwide.

As an artist, Jonas grew up in Seattle, where he received world-class training and professional experiences in the performing arts. He developed his craft from the age of ten at Seattle Children's Theatre and later at Roosevelt High School, a national top-ten theatre program. His professional credits include dozens of productions for stage, film, television, and radio. His performing skills include acting, pantomime, puppetry, tap dance, clowning, singing, improvisation, stage combat, and voice-over work.

As a teacher, Jonas has worked with students from preschool to college in both private and public schools since 1993. He is the winner of the Bravo Award for Outstanding Arts Specialist of Southern California. For 7 years, he created and managed the Drama Program (PreK-8) for the prestigious Buckley School in Los Angeles. For 9 years, he taught as a traveling theatre teacher (K-6) for the Los Angeles Unified School District, training teachers in standards-based arts integration methods. As program director for The Media Workshops, Jonas organized and taught hundreds of high school and college students from around the country in summer seminars at UCLA. He received his BA in English and French from Amherst College, and his MA in Education with Multiple Subject Teaching Credential from Pepperdine University.

Jonas has instructed current and future teachers how to integrate drama and the arts in the classroom as an adjunct professor at Pepperdine University, Cal State L.A., University of Phoenix, and Glendale Community College.

Jonas lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Susy. Their son and daughter are now both in college and have spent their lives exploring and performing in the arts.



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Woodland Hills Elementary
Charter for Enriched Studies

22201 SAN MIGUEL STREET, WOODLAND HILLS, CALIFORNIA 91364
(818) 347-9220 SCHOOL ♦ (818) 347-2365 FAX

Alberto M. Carvalho
Superintendent

Joseph Nacorda
Local District Northwest Superintendent

Christina Desiderio
Principal

June 28, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been working with Jonas Basom and Drama Education Network since 2014 when I first saw his program at a statewide conference for gifted education. His curriculum materials and teacher training PD services are so outstanding that I have brought him to 3 different elementary schools where I have been the principal.

In 2014 I purchased his curriculum program, *The Drama Game File* (CD-ROM, companion book, and character cards box set) for all 35 teachers (grades K-8) at Yerba Buena Elementary in Las Virgenes USD, and, with Jonas' guidance, developed a PD plan that included 3 full-day trainings, 3 afternoon workshops, and 10 virtual 1-on-1 coaching sessions for teachers. Jonas also led 10 model demonstration lessons for 3 groups of students (grades 1, 3, and 5) with teachers observing. His excellent work led to the district funding a group of 11 teachers from other schools to receive the curriculum and 3 full days of PD.

In 2016 I purchased his new curriculum program, *Drama Works! Teaching System* (online subscription, Companion Book of Lesson Plans, Creativity Cards, and Vocabulary Cards) for all 28 teachers at Stevenson Elementary in Burbank USD, and worked with Jonas to craft a PD plan that included a full-day training in August, 2 afternoon workshops, then 6 model lessons for 3 groups (grades K, 3, and 5) with teachers observing and Jonas leading guided reflection afterwards. In the spring, Jonas led 5 coaching days in which he worked 1-on-1 with teachers to design and teach a lesson integrating *Drama Works!* with a specific curriculum topic. The teacher led the lesson and Jonas provided guided reflection and feedback. Despite some initial reluctance, teachers felt this process was very beneficial. In years 2 and 3, we renewed our *Drama Works!* subscriptions, and Jonas focused his PD workshops, demo lessons, and coaching days on integrating drama with our new science curriculum.

In 2021 I purchased the complete *Drama Works! Teaching System* for all 32 teachers (grades TK-5) at Woodland Hills Elementary. During remote teaching, Jonas led 4 virtual PD trainings and 1 model lesson for every class TK-5. In year 2, returning to campus, Jonas led 3 afternoon workshops with teachers, 6 model demonstration lessons for 7 groups (TK-5) with teachers observing and reflecting afterwards, plus virtual 1-on-1 coaching sessions for teachers.

Drama Works! is a wonderful curriculum for elementary teachers. The lesson plans are comprehensive. The cross referencing helps the teacher find activities that integrate with ELA, the arts, and all school subjects. The Creativity Cards provide creative ideas to try during the activities while also building English vocabulary. This is not an add-on program; it trains teachers how to integrate drama with their existing curriculum. It meets Common Core ELA and CA Arts standards, reaches different learning styles, addresses social emotional learning, and develops 21st Century skills such as creativity and collaboration.

Jonas' work with my teachers and students has been exemplary. During workshops, he keeps teachers engaged and actively participating throughout the day while providing useful integration ideas across the curriculum. He makes them feel comfortable and confident to lead drama on their own with his detailed system of classroom management that balances creativity and control. He is professional and responsive to teachers' needs, challenges, and questions. Jonas is a master teacher of students. His in-person lessons are dynamic and engage students of all ages and abilities while demonstrating creative and effective ways to teach specific curriculum topics (my teachers have seen character, setting, plot, grammar, idioms, weather, biomes, states of matter, the Industrial Revolution, and the water cycle). His model lessons are powerful. Teachers have felt inspired by the positive impact on the students in only 6 lessons. When incorporating *Drama Works!* activities and strategies in their own classrooms, teachers have reported great success, noting high levels of engagement and effectiveness.

The customer service provided by Jonas and Drama Education Network has been superb. He is flexible, responsive, and clear in handling paperwork, contracts, pricing, communications, and scheduling. He provides free usage reports, PD evaluations, and teacher handouts. He continues to collaborate to discover new ways to inspire and empower my teachers. We plan to renew our annual subscription to *Drama Works!* and bring Jonas back to continue working with our students and teachers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christina Desiderio".

Christina Desiderio, Principal



HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

4400 West 18th St.
Houston, TX 77092-8501
Phone: 713-556-6000

May 30, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

This is an open letter of recommendation for the curriculum products and teacher training services of Mr. Jonas Basom and Drama Education Network. As the K-12 Fine Arts Manager for the Houston Independent School District, I oversaw the Houston ISD textbook adoption process as part of Proclamation 2015. We adopted ***Drama Works! Teaching System*** to empower our elementary classroom teachers to meet the K-5 Theatre TEKS mandated by Texas House Bill 5. We purchased the complete package of digital and print components for every one of our 176 elementary schools and arranged for Mr. Basom to lead multiple trainings for teachers.

Our experience adopting textbooks with Drama Education Network has been exemplary. Print materials were delivered in excellent condition and delivered in a timely manner. Teacher login credentials are well-organized and changes can be made at no additional cost. Mr. Basom, a theatre teacher and former actor, delivers the professional development himself. The training is hands-on and teachers are highly engaged. It has a high-quality built-in classroom management component. The targeted audience is both degreed theatre teachers, as well as properly certified generalist teachers. The teachers thoroughly enjoyed the trainings and successfully implemented the theatre strategies when they returned to their classrooms.

Drama Works! Teaching System is a comprehensive curriculum for both theatre and elementary classroom teachers. It is the only Texas state-approved textbook for Theatre Arts in grades K-8. It is very cost effective compared to traditional textbooks because only one kit per teacher has to be purchased; there are no books to purchase for every student. Not only does it meet 100% of the K-5 Theatre TEKS, but it empowers the generalist teacher to integrate drama in all subject areas, reach ELL students, reach academically challenged students, and develop students' academic and social skills. It is perfect for adding arts integration to any school or district moving from STEM to STEAM. The activities and lesson plans are written in clear detail for teachers with no drama experience to succeed. The "Creativity Cards" increase variety for acting and story choices by teachers and students while also building English vocabulary. The "Vocabulary Cards" cover theatre and literary terminology from the TEKS standards in clear detail with helpful examples.

I witnessed Mr. Basom lead a number of full-day and half-day workshops with our teachers. As a staff development presenter, he is truly outstanding. He kept all of our teachers engaged throughout the training, participating and reflecting on his exciting drama activities and arts integration strategies. By the end of the day, the teachers understood why and how to integrate drama effectively. Mr. Basom took them through his complete classroom management system, which was essential to helping them feel more comfortable and confident to try drama on their own. Teacher feedback was very positive. We also had Mr. Basom lead model demonstration lessons with our elementary students while teachers observed. He then led them in guided reflection after each lesson. Mr. Basom motivated and inspired both our students and teachers during his demonstrations. Teachers saw the immediate positive benefits for students and learned more about how to incorporate the *Drama Works!* posters, flash cards, activities, and classroom management system.

Houston ISD teachers and students have benefited enormously from Jonas Basom's curriculum and teacher training services. We plan to continue bringing Mr. Basom here to train more teachers as we expand the implementation of *Drama Works! Teaching System* across the district. I strongly recommend any school or district to invest in these outstanding curriculum materials and Professional Development trainings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Walter Smith, Jr.".

Walter Smith, Jr.
Manager, K-12 Fine Arts
Houston Independent School District

July 10, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to commend Mr. Jonas Basom and Drama Education Network for their outstanding curriculum materials and professional development services for teachers that we have implemented in Tyler ISD during a four-year span. We chose him to help us empower our elementary classroom teachers to meet the K-5 theatre TEKS (Texas standards mandated by state law) and learn how to integrate the arts across the curriculum. We purchased licenses and print components for more than 250 teachers K-12, and arranged for 18 teacher training days with Mr. Basom here in Tyler, Texas.

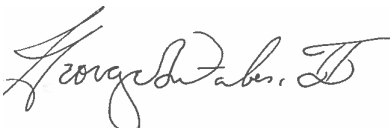
Mr. Basom's drama curriculum and lesson plans are very teacher friendly. Our teachers love how easy it is to find fun and effective activities to meet state standards, develop creative and academic skills, and teach content in any school subject. The flash cards provide the teacher and students with creative ideas to select during activities while building English vocabulary. After making our Curriculum and Instruction Executive Director aware of the benefits of the drama curriculum for ESL and literacy development she made funds available to help assist the purchase for additional kits and professional training. She understood that this was not an add-on program, but a way of training multi-subject teachers how to integrate drama activities with their existing curriculum to develop literacy, reach different learning styles, and develop 21st Century skills such as collaboration and problem solving.

We hired Mr. Basom to lead full-day workshops with our teachers during the summer. Teachers were fully engaged and participating throughout the day, laughing, learning, and reflecting on Mr. Basom's versatile drama activities and strategies. He made teachers feel comfortable and excited about taking a risk to try another strategy to teach their subject. They enjoyed his classroom management system, which is perfect for enhancing creative expression while maintaining structure and fostering respectful behavior.

We followed up on the initial PD training for teachers by bringing Mr. Basom to lead model demonstration lessons with our students at four different elementary campuses. Teachers observed lessons, then reflected on what they learned with Mr. Basom's guidance. Mr. Basom is a master teacher with students. He encouraged students to think for themselves in a supportive and caring way. It was amazing how he established a demanding yet nurturing environment in such a short time. The model lessons caused principals and teachers to realize that they needed more of these skills and strategies.

We also scheduled video conferencing sessions with Mr. Basom from Los Angeles every few months throughout the school year. By scheduling different grade level groups for each session, Mr. Basom was able to address concerns and curriculum specifically for that group. During these follow-up trainings, Mr. Basom answered questions, addressed new topics, and even led hands-on activities remotely. The "share screen" mode allowed him to show teachers where to go in his digital curriculum to find appropriate lessons, posters, or other content.

Working with Mr. Jonas Basom and Drama Education Network has been a wonderful experience for our teachers and students. Each of the professional development services we used helped our teachers use the curriculum materials more frequently and effectively. Teachers have applied what they learned and have used the curriculum materials with numerous positive benefits for their students' academic and social development. Having been an educator, principal and now Director of Visual and Performing Arts, I have tried to help others understand that the Arts are the 4th "R" (Reading, Writing, Arithmetic and the Arts) that develop the whole child. I would recommend Mr. Basom's products and teacher training services for any elementary teacher and for any school looking to meet the K-5 theatre TEKS, incorporate arts integration, move from STEM to STEAM, or bring creativity to the classroom.



George Faber

Director of Fine Arts

Tyler Independent School District, Texas

IN THE CLASSROOM

'Some of the kids have blossomed in drama. They talk more. They're more expressive. They feel free to be wild and silly because [Basom] is so silly.'

June Lew, first-grade teacher at Marquez Elementary School in Pacific Palisades

This Educator Makes a Production of Teaching

Roving drama teacher
Jonas Basom gets pupils in character to improve reading comprehension.

By JIA-RUI CHONG
Times Staff Writer

Jonas Basom wasn't satisfied with the Marquez Elementary School second-graders' begrudging, listless "Good afternoon."

"How boring," said Basom, a rotating drama teacher for the Los Angeles Unified School District. "I'm going to fall asleep."

Squinting one eye and crooking his arm, Basom showed why the county's Music Center in downtown Los Angeles recently honored him with a \$2,000 Bravo Award for innovative arts education.

"Now say good afternoon like a pirate," the 32-year-old said, leaning toward the youngsters.

Giggling and exaggerating Basom's body language, all 16 children perked up. "Argggghhh," they growled out of the right sides of their mouths. "Good afternoon. Grrrrrrrrr."

Now that he had their attention, Basom pointed to the chalkboard where he had written "beginning/characters," "middle/conflict" and "end/conclusion." He began his real lesson: teaching them about plot and training their teacher, Susan Schwartz, to use the drama games to improve reading comprehension.

For Basom and the two other Bravo winners this year, the arts are both an end and a means to help children understand traditional subjects such as literature and math better.

In the face of cutbacks in education funding, Music Center officials said it was more important than ever to reward high-caliber arts teaching: \$2,000 apiece for Basom and Dana Howard, a fifth- and sixth-grade

teacher at Lehigh Elementary School in Montclair, and \$5,000 to the South Shores/Cal State Dominguez Hills Magnet School for the Visual and Performing Arts in San Pedro.

Established in 1983 during the lean years of arts funding after Proposition 13 capped property taxes, the Bravo Awards seek to raise the profile of arts education, said Lynda Jenner, the center's director of community partnerships. Competition has grown fiercer, she added, with 51 candidates this year.

The judges said the integration of dance, music, drama and visual arts into the regular classroom at South Shores earned the L.A. Unified arts magnet school its Bravo Award. The school's third-graders, for instance, familiarize themselves with fractions by singing about pizza slices.

Judges said Dana Howard impressed them by instilling an appreciation for arts and encouraging independent thinking. Judge Althea Woods, who saw Howard teach a lesson on ancient Egypt with about 50 ceremonial masks, said she admired the way Howard's fifth- and sixth-graders respectfully handled them and painted their own without copying each other.

"People need to realize that teachers can make an indelible impression through the arts — whether it's math, history or Matisse," Jenner said. "It's the way lessons are absorbed."

Basom landed his first professional stage role in the fifth grade as a lunch-stealing bully in a Christmas play at the Seattle Children's Theatre. As a teenager, he talked up beach shorts in radio ads and belted out songs in high school musicals. While earning a bachelor's degree in English and French at Amherst College, he performed in a musical revue. He also studied at Rainbow's Clown College in 1995 and ran his own party entertainment company.

In 1999, Basom began developing drama lesson plans as he worked toward his master's degree in education at Pepperdine University. He refined the games — which now total 101 — while teaching at the private Buckley School in Sherman Oaks.

With the Los Angeles district since 2000, Basom usually divides his week among three schools, visiting about four classrooms a day in addition to holding a resource session with teachers. The wandering minstrel wheels his supplies — which include lesson plans, "character cards," masking tape, a tambourine and a black magic hat — from room to room on a small luggage cart.

Basom believes drama can help explain even the most abstract of concepts. For example, he said, "Science and theater work together brilliantly well because both are energy-oriented."

Basom illustrated by explaining how he adapted "The Mingle Game" to re-create the water cycle for third-graders: Students move around the classroom mimicking ocean waves, jump up to the ceiling to enact evaporation, grumble loudly and gather together to form a rain cloud, make a bursting sound as they fall to the ground like droplets, and mingle like waves again.

The exercise shows how drama can engage "kinesthetic learners" — children who learn best by doing — Basom said. It also shows how such drama games can reinforce social skills for learning, such as cooperation, listening, clear speaking and self-confidence.

"Drama is tremendously successful for special-education students and English learners because it is universal in the ways people express themselves: through emotion, actions and gestures," Basom added.

The quieter children seemed to light up one recent afternoon when Basom had them reenact "The Little Red Hen" in June



AL SEIB Los Angeles Times

DRAMATIC! Teacher Jonas Basom makes a point with second-graders Shannon Dunn, left, and Mallory Culbertson in Julie Yoshida's class at Marquez Elementary School in Pacific Palisades.

Lew's first-grade class at the Marquez campus in Pacific Palisades.

After adding adjectives to describe the characters of the duck, pig and mouse in the story, Basom asked the children to do their own character impressions.

Though Kristopher Davis said little, nodding to show he enjoyed Basom's class and naming "The Freeze Dance" as his favorite activity, Davis quacked, wiggled his limbs and scurried with the other 19 children during

Basom's exercise.

"Some of the kids have blossomed in drama," Lew said after Basom's class. "They talk more. They're more expressive. They feel free to be wild and silly because he is so silly."

The 15-year teaching veteran said Basom's connection with the children also helps.

"What's so impressive about him is that he introduces pantomime or some concept like plot or setting and in 10 to 15 minutes the kids get it," she said. "They

go around reminding each other to 'articulate' and go around saying, 'Projection: to speak loudly on stage!'"

Second-graders at Marquez insisted that they learned a lot from Basom. Though Hailey Biscow couldn't find the words to define "plot" after class, she did remember another word not often heard in second-graders' vocabulary.

"Tableau?" she said triumphantly. "It's a frozen picture. It's a French word."