



West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District
Intro to Theatre Arts
Grades 6-8

| Unit 1: Scenes and Monologues | |
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| Content Area: Theatre | |
| Course & Grade Level: Intro to Theatre Arts, Grades 6-8 | |
| Summary & Rationale | |
| The purpose of this unit is to provide students with the necessary tools for approaching character in an audition or performance setting. Students will explore the importance of physicality, vocality, and personality when creating or approaching a character, and will learn warm ups and exercises that can be used outside of class. The class will also focus on some on-camera work, and show students the distinctions and differences between these two different performance styles. All of these skills will culminate in 3 separate final assessments- a fully memorized scene with a partner, a monologue in a mock audition, and a mock on-camera screen test. | |
| Recommended Pacing | |
| 30 Days | |
| National Core Arts Standards | |
| Creating | |
| TH:Cr1.1.8.a | Imagine and explore multiple perspectives and solutions to staging problems in a drama/ theatre work. |
| TH:Cr1.1.8.b | Imagine and explore solutions to design challenges of a performance space in a drama/theatre work. |
| TH:Cr2.1.8.a | Explore the function of history and culture in the development of a dramatic concept through a critical analysis of original ideas in a drama/theatre work. |
| TH:Cr3.1.8.a | Use repetition and analysis in order to revise devised or scripted drama/theatre work. |
| TH:Cr3.1.8.b | Refine effective physical, vocal, and physiological traits of characters in an improvised or scripted drama/ theatre work. |
| TH:Cr3.1.8.c | Implement and refine a planned technical design using simple technology during the rehearsal process for devised or scripted drama/ theatre work. |
| Performing | |
| TH:Pr5.1.8.b | Use a variety of acting techniques to increase skills in a rehearsal or drama/theatre performance. |
| Responding | |
| TH: Re7.1.8.a | Apply criteria to the evaluation of artistic choices in a drama/theatre work. |
| Connecting | |
| TH:Cn10.1.8.a | Examine a community issue through multiple perspectives in a drama/theatre work. |
| Interdisciplinary Standards | |
| NJLSA.R7 | Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words. |
| 21st Century Life & Career Standards | |
| CRP2 | Apply appropriate academic and technical skills |
| CRP4 | Communicate clearly and effectively and with reason |
| CRP6 | Demonstrate creativity and innovation |
| Technology Standards | |
| 8.2 | All students will use digital tools to access, manage, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to solve problems individually and collaborate and to create and |

communicate knowledge.

Instructional Focus

Unit Enduring Understandings

- Playwrights are very specific about what they make their characters say, and what they leave as subtext. Sometimes, what you don't say is more important and more powerful
- The body language and movement of a character can telegraph to an audience who they are and what they want

Unit Essential Questions

- How does an actor connect to and empathize with a character? What questions need to happen in order to build that bridge between "actor" and "character"?

Objectives

Students will know and be able to:

- Students will be able to approach text with confidence, and know what specific elements to look for in order to understand the story, characters, and relationships
- Students will be able to memorize lines in both a script and monologue
- Students will be able to understand the importance of body language and first impressions in an audition setting.

Evidence of Learning

Assessment

Teacher created assessments

Competencies for 21st Century Learners

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---------------------------------|
| X | Collaborative Team Member | X | Effective Communicator |
| X | Globally Aware, Active, & Responsible Student/Citizen | X | Information Literate Researcher |
| X | Innovative & Practical Problem Solver | X | Self-Directed Learner |

Resources

- Teacher and student created scripts, monologues and/or resources
- Teacher-selected scripts, monologues and resources