



Theater Lesson Plan

Performing – Anchor Standard 6: Convey Meaning through the Presentation of Artistic Work

Process Component

Share, Present

Enduring Understanding

Theatre artists share and present stories, ideas, and envisioned worlds to explore the human experience in diverse cultures.

Essential Question

- What happens when theatre artists and audiences share a creative experience?

Lesson Title

It's a Group Thing!

Grade Level

2nd Grade

2.TH.Pr6

Contribute to group [guided drama experiences](#) and informally share with peers.

Objectives

As part of an ensemble (group), the learner should be able to act out a role in a scene, which is shared with peers or an audience.

Materials

Sample passage from student's favorite story book, or use "Lincoln's Choice," which is listed in the instructional resources below.

Instructional Resources

Lincoln's Choice

Source: Public Domain, adapted by Center for Urban Education, may be copied with citation.

This is a story that someone told about Abe Lincoln.

Abe Lincoln saved my life. We had been going to school together one year. The next year we had no school, because there were so few students to attend, there being only about twenty in the school the year before. Consequently Abe and I had not much to do; but, as we did not go to school and our mothers were strict with us, we did not get to see each other very often.

They knew there were dangers in the countryside. One Sunday morning my mother waked me up early, saying she was going to see Mrs. Lincoln, and that I could go along. Glad of the chance, I was soon dressed and ready to go. After my mother and I got there, Abe and I played all through the day. We were out in the hills near the river.

While we were wandering up and down the little stream called Knob Creek, Abe said: "Right up there"—pointing to the east—"we saw a lot of blueberries there yesterday. Let's go over. We can bring a lot home."

The stream was too wide for us to jump across. We saw a foot-log and decided to try it. It was narrow, but Abe said, "Let's do it." He was like that; he would take a chance if it was important to do something.

He went first and reached the other side all right. I went about half way across, when I slipped. He shouted, "Don't look down nor up nor sideways, but look right at me and hold on tight!" But I fell off into the creek and the water was about seven or eight feet deep. I could not swim, and neither could Abe.

I was splashing and calling out. So he got a stick and climbed out and held it out to me. I came up, grabbing with both hands, and he put the stick into my hands. I clung to it, and he pulled me out on the bank, almost dead. He got me by the arms and shook me well. Then he rolled me on the ground, and the water poured out of my mouth. I was all right very soon.

We promised each other that we would never tell anybody about it, and never did for years. My mother would have been so angry. I never told anyone. But I can tell you now. He was a great problem solver even when he was a boy.

Vocabulary

guided drama experience: A leader guides participants during a process drama, story drama, or creative drama experience (see the definitions) through side-coaching, narration, and prompting; the action of the drama does not stop in order for the leader to support the students; facilitator may guide participants in or out of role.

Instruction/Motivation

Student will make a story come to life, by bringing it off of the page, and onto “the stage,” and performing for others. Ideally, they will work with a favorite story of theirs, for maximum engagement.

Procedure

1. Read the story or passage to the student, or have them read it aloud.
2. Decide which role the student would like to act out.
3. If costuming/prop materials are available, the student should incorporate these into their retelling.
4. Emphasize with the student, that they will be using their movements and gestures to convey emotion in their acting.
5. Working with the parent/teacher guide, and other participants, the student will recreate their part of the story. The group will ideally perform the scene for an audience.

Closure

- Ask the student what they liked about working with a group on the scene?
- Ask the student how their suggestions were incorporated into the presentation of the scene?
- Ask them how they felt their performance was received by the audience? Which parts of it were most effective?

Evaluation

- Did the student recreate their part of the scene effectively?
- Did the student work with other members of the group to shape the presentation of the scene?
- Did the student have an understanding of how the audience reacted to their presentation?