

Title: Telling Stories Through Creative Drama

Grade Ranges:

K-4

5-8

9-12

Subject Tag:

Art and Music: Theatre

Synopsis:

This lesson is intended for a drama class for elementary children, but language arts teachers might also find it useful. The lesson is a small group activity based on simple fairy tales. Students tell stories through a series of sustained tableaux without using their voices. To introduce the lesson, students play a statue game.

Keywords:

fairy tales, myths, folk tales, tableau, drama, acting

Body:

Before class starts, select four to five simple fairy tales that are familiar to your students (or you could use stories that you have read in class). Suggestions include: “Hansel and Gretel,” “Sleeping Beauty,” “Jack and the Beanstalk,” “Little Red Riding Hood,” and “The Three Billy Goats Gruff.”

As an introductory activity for this lesson, ask students to play a statue game. Have students find their own space in the room and stay within their own space. At the sound of an instrument (drum or triangle), each student should strike a pose as a piece of sculpture — and hold that position. When they hear the instrument, they should change into another statue and freeze. Encourage them to use unusual movements and to freeze immediately at the sound of the instrument.

For the main part of the lesson, divide the class into four to five groups and assign a fairy tale to each group. Ask the students to decide on four to five statements that tell the plot (older students can write these down). Next they need to decide what pictures are needed to tell the story, and then they are to create these pictures with their bodies and without using words. They will need to “cast” their stories, but tell students that they can also be props and settings. For example, a student can play a door or a tree.

Give students 15 minutes to practice their series of tableaux. Students can then present their stories to the other members of the class. You can be the accompanist and play the instrument to signal the transition to the next tableau, or you can give this job to a responsible student in each group.

Features:

- Contains special education tips (might be used with some special education students)
- Quick Activity (less than 30 minutes; story starter)
- Requires Internet access for students to complete

Objectives:

1. Students will be able to create living tableaux based on the plot of a fairy tale.
2. Students will be able to communicate through effective body language without using their voices.

Standards:

NY: 1: Students will actively engage in the processes that constitute creation and performance in the arts and participate in various roles in the arts.

NYC: A5a. Work with others to complete a task.

NJ: 1.1: All students will acquire knowledge and skills that increase aesthetic awareness in dance, music, theater, and visual arts. **1.2:** All students will refine perceptual, intellectual, physical, and technical skills through creating dance, music, theater, and/or visual arts.

CT: 1. Creating. Students will create theatre through improvising, writing and refining scripts.

Prerequisite Skills:

none required

Time Required:

30 minutes

Technology and Materials Needed:

1. a musical instrument used to signal the next tableau (drum, triangle, recorder)

Assessment Criteria:

1. group grade based on participation

Recommended Lesson Plan Review Date:

NA

Review Comments:

NA