



Affiliated with the national Young Audiences
Arts for Learning network



Instant Theater

Educator Guide

Enriching the lives of children and promoting creative learning by uniting arts and education

About the Program

Content Standards

English Language Arts

Recount stories, including fables, folktales and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message, lesson or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text.

Describe in depth a character, setting or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text.

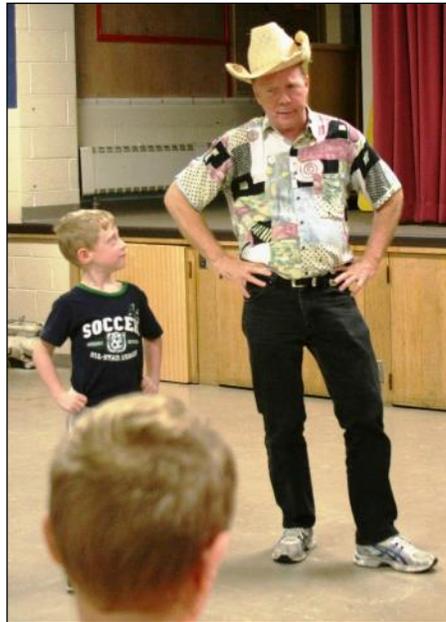
Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).

Theater

Identify the plot and retell the sequence of events in a story, play or theatre experience.

Retell the beginning, middle and end of stories in proper sequence.

Explain how the cultural and physical setting of a dramatic and theatrical work affects characterization.



Using a classic fable, suitable for the age of the children, students will learn the basics of creating a theatrical performance from **SignStage's Bill Morgan**. As an assembly, this interactive performance teaches students the fundamentals of theatre, including stage/acting, vocabulary and directions. Students join as characters in a fairy tale and create a theatre performance. See how quickly a play can be staged

when your students become the actors. As a residency, every student in the workshop will participate and learn lines, blocking (stage directions) and how to duplicate the emotions of their characters.

Objectives

1. **Experience** the thrill of becoming the characters in a play.
2. **Perform** with the teaching artist in several theatre exercises.
3. **Exercise** their imaginations and their five senses to express simple emotions.
4. **Learn** stage directions and theatre vocabulary.

Before the Program

Choose a classic children's story and have your students volunteer to "Act Out" the character's actions as it's being read. If you have access to different styles of hats, bring several into the classroom.

Have students take turns choosing a hat and talking as they would imagine the character wearing the hat would talk.

Have students create facial expressions and body language that match emotional words like; Happy, Sad, Hot, Cold, etc.

After the Program

Give students a writing exercise where they invent a new character and add it to the plot of the story that was acted-out on stage during the workshop. Have them describe the character and draw a picture of it. Have them create a new plot line that connects their character to the story in the workshop.

Vocabulary

Blocking: The movement of an actor on stage as they deliver their lines

Curtain Call: Taking a bow after a performance thanking the audience for their attention

Prop: An item either carried or picked up on stage used by an actor while performing

Places: The "place" on or off-stage where an actor waits to enter as the performance begins

Story Theatre: The art of acting-out a story as it's being narrated

About William Morgan of SignStage

William Morgan is the Artistic Manager for CHSC (The Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center) where he controls the daily activities of SignStage, a theatre program. Bill is a nationally and internationally recognized playwright and has directed locally and nationally for over 30 years. His programs... "brings out the best in his student's imaginations." He has been a teaching artist in North-east Ohio for the past 17 years, focusing on Drama and teaching many extensive residencies. He specializes in teaching Drama to Deaf Children and often integrates Sign Language within his programs for Hearing children.

Resources

Applit Study Guides

www2.ferrum.edu/applit/studyg/

Disney Introduces Story Theater Apps for Kids

www.mediabistro.com/appnewser/disney-introduces-story-theater-apps-for-kids_b36495

Royal Shakespeare Company Noughts and Crosses

www.rsc.org.uk/explore/other-writers/noughts-and-crosses.aspx



About the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning

Through a balance of demonstration and audience participation, the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning teaching artist performances and workshops introduce students to an art form, support various curricular areas, and inject excitement and wonder into the school day.

