# Unit 1: What is Theatre?

Content Area: **Performing Arts**
Course(s): **Performing Arts**
Time Period: **Week 1**
Length: **3 weeks**
Status: **Published**

## Unit Overview

In this unit, students will form their own definition of theatre and compare it to the dictionary definition. Students will review and compile what they may already know about the subject and will be introduced to what they will learn throughout the year. Students will also understand why and how trust is one of the primary elements in the theatre world.

## Standards

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| VPA.1.2.5.A.1 | Recognize works of dance, music, theatre, and visual art as a reflection of societal values and beliefs. |
| VPA.1.2.5.A.CS1 | Art and culture reflect and affect each other. |
| VPA.1.4.5.A.1 | Employ basic, discipline-specific arts terminology to categorize works of dance, music, theatre, and visual art according to established classifications. |
| VPA.1.4.5.B.CS3 | While there is shared vocabulary among the four arts disciplines of dance, music, theatre, and visual art, each also has its own discipline-specific arts terminology. |

## Essential Questions

- What is theatre?
- What is trust when it comes to an actor and ensemble?

## Application of Knowledge: Students will know that...

- In acting and theatre trust with ensemble members and director is most important
- Theatre can help more introverted people come out of their shell
- Theatre helps individuals break down barriers between cultures, religions and races
- Theatre helps people discover a sense of self
- Theatre is a building or outdoor area where plays and other presentations are given
- Theatre is a play or other activity considered of dramatic quality
- Theatre is the activity or profession of acting in,producing,directing or writing plays

- Trust is the firm belief in reliability,truth, ability, or strength of someone or something

## Application of Skills: Students will be able to...

- Acknowledge and understand the universal definition of Theatre
- Create personal definition of Theatre
- Define trust and acting in the theatre world
- Use the idea of trust in exercises related to theatre

## Assessments

- Theatre Pre-Test
- Define theatre through research and written demonstration
- Demonstrate trust exercises
- Journal responses
- Information from this unit will be included on a locally developed, end of course benchmark assessment that may take the form of a test, performance based project, or other summative assessment.

## Suggested Activities

- Engage in Pre-Test to gage knowledge of class
- Create personal definition of theatre
- Create a classroom definition together
- Research and learn the dictionary defined term theatre
- Engage in various trust exercises that are used in theatre to help a cast or ensemble bond
- Reflect in weekly journal entries

## Activities to Differentiate Instruction

**Differentiation for special education:**

- General modifications may include:
    - Modifications & accommodations as listed in the student's IEP
    - Assign a peer to help keep student on task
    - Modified or reduced assignments
    - Reduce length of assignment for different mode of delivery
    - Increase one-to-one time

    - Prioritize tasks
    - Think in concrete terms and provide hands-on-tasks
    - Position student near helping peer or have quick access to teacher
    - Anticipate where needs will be
    - Break tests down in smaller increments

- Content specific modifications may include:
    - Written assignments may be altered to oral
    - Assign a peer or theatre buddy that will keep the student comfortable during physical moments

**Differentiation for ELL's:**

- General modifications may include:
    - Strategy groups
    - Teacher conferences
    - Graphic organizers
    - Modification plan
    - Collaboration with ELL Teacher
    - Working with peer group on written activities

- Content specific vocabulary important for ELL students to understand include: trust, theatre, ensemble

**Differentiation to extend learning for gifted students may include:**

- Exploring and reporting who initiated the first trust exercises in theatre.

## Integrated/Cross-Disciplinary Instruction

Cross-reference with English language arts as well as social studies and health in the formulation of definitions, the way we look at language, and the application of the concept of trust.

## Resources

- Teacher generated worksheets/handouts
- Merriam Webster Dictionary
- Wilderdom.com
- Script-to-screen.com