Unit 06: Lee Strasberg

Content Area: **Performing Arts**
Course(s): **Physical Education**
Time Period: **Week 20**
Length: **6 Classes**
Status: **Published**

Unit Overview

In this unit, students will explore the life of Lee Strasberg which included served as stage manager, director, educator, author and developer of The Actors Studio. Students will learn his Method Acting Techniques and be able to apply them to performance pieces in the classroom.

Standards

VPA.1.1.8.C.2	Determine the effectiveness of various methods of vocal, physical, relaxation, and acting techniques used in actor training.
VPA.1.2.8.A.1	Map historical innovations in dance, music, theatre, and visual art that were caused by the creation of new technologies.
VPA.1.3.8.C.1	Create a method for defining and articulating character objectives, intentions, and subtext, and apply the method to the portrayal of characters in live performances or recorded venues.
VPA.1.3.8.C.2	Create and apply a process for developing believable, multidimensional characters in scripted and improvised performances by combining methods of relaxation, physical and vocal skills, acting techniques, and active listening skills.
VPA.1.4.8.A.2	Identify works of dance, music, theatre, and visual art that are used for utilitarian and non-utilitarian purposes.
VPA.1.4.8.A.4	Compare and contrast changes in the accepted meanings of known artworks over time, given shifts in societal norms, beliefs, or values.

Essential Questions

- How can the act of routine enhance acting?
- Can an actor create a reality?

Application of Knowledge: Students will know that...

- Lee Strasberg formed the Group Theatre
- Lee Strasberg was a driving force in The Actors Studio
- Lee Strasberg was a top acting teacher of the 20th Century

- Lee Strasberg was influenced by Stanislavsky
- Method Acting was developed by Strasberg which made actors call upon their own emotions and experiences and incorporate them into any performance.
- the secret to Method Acting is creating a reality for themselves and submerging themselves in that reality

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

- create reality and apply it to performance pieces
- demonstrate the Method Acting Technique
- identify the major contributions of the Group Theatre
- list the major contributions of Lee Strasberg as a teacher and director as well as an actor
- research and discuss the continued importance of the Actor's Studio session on today's professionals

Assessments

- written assessment on Lee Strasberg and his contributions to the actor
- demonstration of the Method Acting Technique in a simple scene
- performance of a scene where actors create reality and utilize full Method Acting Techniques
- creation and performance of an original Actor's Studio episode
- 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

- handouts on the life of Lee Strasberg
- Method Technique exercises
- rehearsal of scenes utilizing Method Technique
- view clips of the Actor's Studio
- rehearsal of mock T.V. episode of Actor's Studio with partner

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

    - Working contract between you and student at risk
    - 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:
    - provide notes for Lee Strasberg assessment
    - work with Theatre Buddy on the Actor's Studio assignment

Differentiation for ELL's:

- General modifications may include:
    - Strategy groups
    - Teacher conferences
    - Graphic organizers
    - Modification plan
    - Collaboration with ELL Teacher
- Content specific vocabulary important for ELL students to understand include: method, reality

Differentiation to extend learning for gifted students may include:

- oral/written report on Lee Strasberg

Integrated/Cross-Disciplinary Instruction

Work with Language Arts classes in writing, prior to production of the Actor's Studio project.

Resources

Training of the Actor, by Arthur Barlow

A Dream of Passion: The Development of the Method, by Lee Strasberg

teacher generated handouts/worksheets

21st Century Skills

CRP.K-12.CRP2.1	Career-ready individuals readily access and use the knowledge and skills acquired through experience and education to be more productive. They make connections between abstract concepts with real-world applications, and they make correct insights about when it is appropriate to apply the use of an academic skill in a workplace situation.
CRP.K-12.CRP4.1	Career-ready individuals communicate thoughts, ideas, and action plans with clarity, whether using written, verbal, and/or visual methods. They communicate in the workplace with clarity and purpose to make maximum use of their own and others' time. They are excellent writers; they master conventions, word choice, and organization, and use effective tone and presentation skills to articulate ideas. They are skilled at interacting with others; they are active listeners and speak clearly and with purpose. Career-ready individuals think about the audience for their communication and prepare accordingly to ensure the desired outcome.
CRP.K-12.CRP6.1	Career-ready individuals regularly think of ideas that solve problems in new and different ways, and they contribute those ideas in a useful and productive manner to improve their organization. They can consider unconventional ideas and suggestions as solutions to issues, tasks or problems, and they discern which ideas and suggestions will add greatest value. They seek new methods, practices, and ideas from a variety of sources and seek to apply those ideas to their own workplace. They take action on their ideas and understand how to bring innovation to an organization.