Unit 04: Viola Spolin

Content Area: **Performing Arts**
Course(s): **Performing Arts**
Time Period: **Week 10**
Length: **4 classes**
Status: **Published**

Unit Overview

In this unit, students will explore the life of Viola Spolin. They will investigate her contributions to theatre and apply her improvisational techniques and acting game strategies to activities 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.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.

Essential Questions

- What makes improvisation an important skill in creating drama?

Application of Knowledge: Students will know that...

- improvisation is acting as if in real life
- it is important to be present and in the moment of acting
- Viola Spolin was a theatre academic, educator and acting coach
- Viola Spolin was an important theatre innovator of the 20th century

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

- apply Viola Spolin's techniques to creating a character
- apply Viola Spolin's techniques to scene work
- identify Viola Spolin's major contributions to theatre
- use real life circumstance to create a character

Assessments

- written assessment on Viola Spolin
- presentation of scene utilizing Viola Spolin technique
- character demonstration that is built on real life circumstance
- 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

- character breakdown and analysis
- participation in Viola Spolin centered acting games
- rehearsal of short improvisational scenes

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 Viola Spolin test
    - work with Theatre Buddy on improv scenes

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: improvisation, technique, character, analysis

Differentiation to extend learning for gifted students may include:

- research a production that Viola Spolin worked on which utilized her techniques

Integrated/Cross-Disciplinary Instruction

Work with Physical Education classes to consider body movement, placement, and the impact of movement on a student's surroundings.

Resources

Improvisation for The Theatre, by Viola Spolin

Theatre Games for the Classroom, by Viola Spolin

Theatre Games for Rehearsal: A Director's Handbook, by Viola Spolin

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.