Scene Study

Content Area: **Music**
Course(s):
Time Period: **Marking Period 2**
Length: **6 weeks**
Status: **Published**

Brief Summary of Unit

Students will apply previous acting methodologies but also discover and utilize new techniques to create an approach to scene study that is uniquely their own. Students will explore staging options, balancing emotional truth with audience perspective and work collaboratively with their partner. There will be two scenes for public consumption and one for the class. Additionally, students will engage in deep script analysis, reflective self-evaluation, and constructive peer critiques to refine their artistic process.

Revised: August 2026

Standards

Information Literacy

This unit challenges students to locate, evaluate, and use information effectively. Information literacy includes, but is not limited to, digital, visual, media, textual, and technological literacy. Lessons may include the research process and how information is created and produced; critical thinking and using information resources; research methods, including the difference between primary and secondary sources; the difference between facts, points of view, and opinions, accessing peer-reviewed print and digital library resources; the economic, legal, social, and ethical issues surrounding the use of information.

ELD standards:https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wdmsiGOdCHlrjU-WPvAtENnEgi0EStZXo0uiFYv1Nu4/edit

1.4.12adv.Cr1a	Synthesize knowledge from a variety of theatrical conventions and technologies to create the visual composition of devised or scripted theatre work.
1.4.12adv.Cr1b	Create a complete design for devised or scripted theatre work that incorporates multiple elements of technology.
1.4.12adv.Cr1c	Integrate dramaturgical analysis with personal experiences to create a character that is believable and authentic.
1.4.12adv.Cr2a	Collaborate as a creative team to make informative and analytical choices for devised or scripted theatre work.
1.4.12adv.Cr2b	Collaborate as a creative team to make original artistic choices in devised or scripted theatre work.

1.4.12adv.Cr3a	Explore physical, vocal and psychological characteristics to create a multidimensional character that is believable and authentic in devised or scripted theatre work.
1.4.12adv.Cr3b	Transform devised or scripted theatre work using the rehearsal process to re-imagine style, genre, form, and theatrical conventions.
1.4.12adv.Cr3c	Originate and construct technical design choices that support the story and emotional impact of a devised or scripted theatre work.

Essential Questions

- What does it mean to build a character?
- How do you create a role?
- How do you analyze a character within a structure of a given play?
- What is the scene's relationship to the play?
- How can the actor utilize scene analysis to inform performance?
- How can you draw upon prior knowledge and context clues to prepare for a scene performance?
- Can you incorporate physicality, tactics, movement, blocking, stage pictures, character voice, emphasis, and memorization into a scene performance?

Enduring Understandings

- Effective character development requires a deep, comprehensive analysis of the script, actively integrating the character's objectives, tactics, and given circumstances.

- A single scene functions as a small piece of the entire play; understanding its context within the broader narrative is crucial for authentic storytelling.

- Theatre is a highly collaborative art form where actors must actively listen, adapt to their partners, and work dynamically to balance emotional truth with audience perception.

Objectives

- Students will be skilled at analyzing a character within the structure of the play.
- Students will be skilled at determining the intentions of a character and use it to get what the character wants.
- Students will know how the scene relates to the play.
- Students will know how to discover the facts of the character and use them to develop an onstage persona.
- Students will know the historical context of the play and character.
- Students will be skilled at organically blocking their own scene, balancing emotional truth with audience perception.
- Students will be skilled at memorization techniques for learning lines and blocking.
- Students will be skilled at performing scenes in which their characters demonstrate a culmination of several aspects of their artistic creativity including costume, makeup, movement, voice, and use of

props.

Learning Plan

- Provide scripts for cold reads and collaboratively choose and cast scenes for public performance.
- Provide scripts and allow students to independently read, choose, and cast scenes for class performances.
- Have students critique professional work divining purpose of character behind the choices of other actors.
- Have students synthesize new techniques based on foundational skills learned at previous levels.
- Have students rehearse their scenes both on their own and for the whole class with group participation and discussion.
- Have students perform their work for an outside public audience with a full design.

- Introduce focused script analysis workshops emphasizing beat changes, scoring a script, and identifying character tactics.

- Conduct midway check points were students can demonstrate their progress to allow for instructor adjustments and peer review before final memorization is set.

Assessments

- Students will demonstrate an understanding of character portrayal through the demonstration of a character's intention and what the character wants.
- Students will discover the purpose of performed scenes and how they fit in the story of the play by discussion and written reflection.
- Students will demonstrate understanding of blocking and how it helps define the character for the audience by blocking their own scenes in class exercises and rehearsals.
- Students will demonstrate a mastery of performance of character through public presentation of monologues, scenes, and devised work.

Materials

Published plays and online resources of scripts

Reflective Journals

Suggested Strategies for Modifications

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1A-PxTb-SqSbhdiTWm8sCR69UJhJ2Oq_ixoy_hgPpInc/edit?gid=1426178898#gid=1426178898