

Introduction to Plays, Playwrights, and Theatre History

Content Area: **Music**
Course(s):
Time Period: **Marking Period 4**
Length: **40**
Status: **Published**

Summary/Introduction

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

The focus of this unit is to introduce students to plays, playwrights, and other forms of theatre throughout history.

Revised: August 2019

TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Cn	Connecting
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Cr	Creating
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Pr	Performing
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Re	Responding
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Cr1	Generating and conceptualizing ideas.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Cr2	Organizing and developing ideas.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Cr3	Refining and completing products.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Pr4	Selecting, analyzing, and interpreting work.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Pr5	Developing and refining techniques and models or steps needed to create products.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Pr6	Conveying meaning through art.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Re7	Perceiving and analyzing products.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Re8	Interpreting intent and meaning.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Re9	Applying criteria to evaluate products.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Cn10	Synthesizing and relating knowledge and personal experiences to create products.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Cn11	Relating artistic ideas and works within societal, cultural, and historical contexts to deepen understanding.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Cr1a	Research to construct ideas about the visual composition of devised or scripted theatre work.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Cr1b	Explore the impact of technology on design choices in devised or scripted theatre work.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Cr1c	Use script analysis to generate ideas about a character that is believable and authentic.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Cr2a	Explore the function of history and culture in the development and subsequent interpretations of devised or scripted theatre work.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Cr2b	Examine the collaborative nature of the actor, director, playwright, and designers, and explore their interdependent roles.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Cr3a	Use script analysis to inform choices impacting the believability and authenticity of a

	character.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Cr3b	Practice devised or scripted theatre work using theatrical staging conventions.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Cr3c	Explore technical design choices that support the story and emotional impact of a scripted or devised theatre work.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Pr4a	Rehearse various acting exercises to expand skills in a rehearsal for devised or scripted theatre performance.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Pr4b	Use technical elements to increase the impact of design for a theatre production.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Pr5a	Identify and explore different pacing options per character to better communicate the story in a theatre work.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Pr5b	Explore and discover character choices using given circumstances in devised or scripted theatre work.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Pr6a	Perform devised or scripted theatre work for a specific audience.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Re7a	Utilize personal reactions and reflections to artistic choices in a theatrical work for a formal theatre critique.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Re7b	Collaboratively analyze how artistic choices in a theatrical work affect personal and peer reactions.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Re8a	Examine a devised or scripted theatre work and identify the supporting evidence/criteria for its effectiveness to communicate the central message considering the play's history, culture, and political context.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Re8b	Evaluate the aesthetics of the production elements in a devised or scripted theatre work and their ability to support or extend the storyline.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Re8c	Formulate a deeper understanding and appreciation of a devised or scripted theatre work by considering its specific purpose or intended audience.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Re9a	Analyze and compare artistic choices developed from personal experiences in multiple devised or scripted theatre works.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Re9b	Identify and compare cultural perspectives and contexts that may influence the evaluation of a devised or scripted theatre work.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Re9c	Justify personal aesthetics, preferences and beliefs through participation in and observation of devised or scripted theatre work.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Cn10a	Investigate how cultural perspectives, community ideas, and personal beliefs impact a devised or scripted theatre work.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Cn11a	Integrate knowledge of cultural, global and historic belief systems into creative choices in a devised or scripted theatre work.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Cn11b	Use basic research methods to better understand the social and cultural background of devised or scripted theatre work.
WRK.9.2.12.CAP.5	Assess and modify a personal plan to support current interests and post-secondary plans.
WRK.9.2.12.CAP.6	Identify transferable skills in career choices and design alternative career plans based on those skills.

Essential Questions/Enduring Understandings

- Who are the playwrights and what are the plays that have influenced theater throughout the ages, and how have they affected history and culture?
- What was the beginning of theater history?
- Who are the influential contemporary playwrights and what are their plays?
- What are the differences between western theatre and eastern theatre?

Objectives

- Students will know the development of theater from Greco-Roman times to the present.
- Students will know the difference between different types of theater across the world.
- Students will know the importance of plays and their ability to make a difference in the world.
- Students will know biographical and historical relevance of playwrights and plays.

Learning Plan

- Read a variety of plays or selections from plays and discuss the significance of playwrights in society, included but not limited to: Oedipus Rex, Macbeth, Betrayal, A Doll's House, The Cherry Orchard.
- Research historical context in plays using the internet and present findings to the class through discussion and performance.
- Have students map a timeline from the Greco-Roman period to now marking important moments in Theater History.
- Watch performances from other cultures and different types of theater and have students reflect upon differences in the acting and aesthetics of the shows.
- Have students research and perform one piece from an unfamiliar culture of theatre.

Assessments

- Students will brainstorm about the essential questions through regular written reflections in the Actor's Journal.
- Students will use gathered data from group research to create a comprehensive class timeline of theater.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of foreign theater through performance in that style.
- Students will study a specific playwright and compose an oration about how that playwright influenced modern times.

Materials

- Journals
- Computer
- Paper
- Writing Utensils

Suggested Strategies for Modifications

[Elements of Acting Accommodations](#)