Unit 04: Improvisation_Character Work

Content Area: **Template**
Course(s):
Time Period: **Full Year**
Length: **FY**
Status: **Published**

Standards Alignment

New Jersey Student Learning Standards

VPA.1.1.12.C	Theatre
VPA.1.1.12.C.3	Apply the basic physical and chemical properties (e.g., light, electricity, color, paint, scenic construction, costumes, makeup, and audio components) inherent in technical theatre to safely implement theatre design.
VPA.1.2.12	All students will understand the role, development, and influence of the arts throughout history and across cultures.
VPA.1.2.12.A	History of the Arts and Culture
VPA.1.2.12.A.1	Determine how dance, music, theatre, and visual art have influenced world cultures throughout history.
VPA.1.3.12.C	Theatre
VPA.1.3.12.C.2	Create and evaluate performances by citing evidence of specific physical choices, sustained vocal technique, and clearly motivated actions.
VPA.1.4.12	All students will demonstrate and apply an understanding of arts philosophies, judgment, and analysis to works of art in dance, music, theatre, and visual art.
VPA.1.4.12.A	Aesthetic Responses
VPA.1.4.12.A.1	Use contextual clues to differentiate between unique and common properties and to discern the cultural implications of works of dance, music, theatre, and visual art.
VPA.1.4.12.A.2	Speculate on the artist's intent, using discipline-specific arts terminology and citing embedded clues to substantiate the hypothesis.
VPA.1.4.12.A.3	Develop informed personal responses to an assortment of artworks across the four arts disciplines (dance, music, theatre, and visual art), using historical significance, craftsmanship, cultural context, and originality as criteria for assigning value to the works.
VPA.1.4.12.A.4	Evaluate how exposure to various cultures influences individual, emotional, intellectual, and kinesthetic responses to artwork.
VPA.1.4.12.B	Critique Methodologies
VPA.1.4.12.B.2	Evaluate how an artist's technical proficiency may affect the creation or presentation of a work of art, as well as how the context in which a work is performed or shown may impact perceptions of its significance/meaning.

Integration of Career Readiness, Life Literacies and Key Skills

CRP.K-12.CRP1	Act as a responsible and contributing citizen and employee.

CRP.K-12.CRP2	Apply appropriate academic and technical skills.
CRP.K-12.CRP3	Attend to personal health and financial well-being.
CRP.K-12.CRP4	Communicate clearly and effectively and with reason.
CRP.K-12.CRP5	Consider the environmental, social and economic impacts of decisions.
CRP.K-12.CRP6	Demonstrate creativity and innovation.
CRP.K-12.CRP7	Employ valid and reliable research strategies.
CRP.K-12.CRP8	Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
CRP.K-12.CRP9	Model integrity, ethical leadership and effective management.
CRP.K-12.CRP10	Plan education and career paths aligned to personal goals.
CRP.K-12.CRP11	Use technology to enhance productivity.
CRP.K-12.CRP12	Work productively in teams while using cultural global competence.

Technology / Integration of Computer Science and Design Thinking

Interdisciplinary Connections: NJSLS for ELA, Social Studies, Science and/or Math Section

Capacities of the Literate Individual
Students Who are College and Career Ready in Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening, & Language

They demonstrate independence.

They build strong content knowledge.

They respond to the varying demands of audience, task, purpose, and discipline.

They comprehend as well as critique.

They value evidence.

They use technology and digital media strategically and capably.

They come to understand other perspectives and cultures.

LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W	Writing
	Text Types and Purposes

LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W1	Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W3	Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.SL	Speaking and Listening
	Comprehension and Collaboration
LA.W.11-12.1.C	Use transitions (e.g., words, phrases, clauses) to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships between claim(s) and reasons, between reasons and evidence, and between claim(s) and counterclaims.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.SL1	Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
LA.W.11-12.1.D	Establish and maintain a style and tone appropriate to the audience and purpose (e.g., formal and objective for academic writing) while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.SL3	Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.
LA.W.11-12.1.E	Provide a concluding paragraph or section that supports the argument presented (e.g., articulating implications or the significance of the topic).
	Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.SL4	Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.SL6	Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and communicative tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.L	Language
	Conventions of Standard English
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.L1	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
LA.W.11-12.3.B	Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
LA.W.11-12.3.C	Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole and build toward a particular tone and outcome (e.g., a sense of mystery, suspense, growth, or resolution).
LA.W.11-12.3.D	Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.
	Knowledge of Language
LA.W.11-12.3.E	Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.L3	Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.L6	Acquire and use accurately a range of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when encountering an unknown term important to comprehension or expression.
LA.SL.11-12.1	Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with peers on grades 11–12 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

LA.SL.11-12.1.A	Come to discussions prepared, having read and researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence from texts and other research on the topic or issue to stimulate a thoughtful, well reasoned exchange of ideas.
LA.SL.11-12.1.B	Collaborate with peers to promote civil, democratic discussions and decision-making, set clear goals and assessments (e.g., student developed rubrics), and establish individual roles as needed.
LA.SL.11-12.1.C	Propel conversations by posing and responding to questions that probe reasoning and evidence; ensure a hearing for a full range of positions on a topic or issue; clarify, verify, or challenge ideas and conclusions; and promote divergent and creative perspectives.
LA.SL.11-12.1.D	Respond thoughtfully to diverse perspectives; synthesize comments, claims, and evidence made on all sides of an issue; resolve contradictions when possible; and determine what additional information or research is required to deepen the investigation or complete the task.
LA.SL.11-12.3	Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric, assessing the stance, premises, links among ideas, word choice, points of emphasis, and tone used.
LA.SL.11-12.4	Present information, findings and supporting evidence clearly, concisely, and logically. The content, organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
LA.SL.11-12.6	Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating a command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.
LA.L.11-12.1	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
LA.L.11-12.1.A	Apply the understanding that usage is a matter of convention, can change over time, and is sometimes contested.
LA.L.6.1.C	Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in pronoun number and person.
LA.L.8.1.D	Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb voice and mood.
LA.L.6.1.E	Recognize variations from standard English in their own and others' writing and speaking, and identify and use strategies to improve expression in conventional language.
LA.L.11-12.3	Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.
LA.L.7.3.A	Choose language that expresses ideas precisely and concisely, recognizing and eliminating wordiness and redundancy.
LA.L.11-12.3.A	Vary syntax for effect, apply an understanding of syntax to the study of complex texts.
LA.L.6.3.B	Maintain consistency in style and tone.
LA.L.11-12.6	Acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.
LA.L.4.3.B	Choose punctuation for effect.
LA.L.3.3.A	Choose words and phrases for effect.

Integration of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Climate Change; Informational and Media LiteracyNew Section

see Crosswalks

21st Century Life and Careers

Stage I: Desired Results

Transfer/Overview/Rationale

Transfer / Overview / Rationale
Unit Rationale The purpose of this unit…

Meaning

Essential Questions

Essential Questions

1. How can improvisation be enhanced?
2. In what ways can improvisation be used in theatre?
3. How does imagination play a role in improvisation?
4. How can an actor "find" or become a character?
5. How can personal experience enhance improvisation?

Enduring Understanding/Indicators of Understanding

Enduring Understanding/Indicators of Understanding

1. Improvising involves creating scenes and dramatic moments without a script.
2. Improvisation is used as a way to explore specific themes or challenge a students' intuition and instincts.
3. Improvisation should have a story to provide foundation for the imagination.
4. The drama of improvisation comes from the imagination and the visceral connection within the actors in the ensemble.
5. There are many ways of "finding" or becoming a character.
6. A character is created using a combination of physicality, voice, mannerism, timing, and reactions.
7. Personal experience is an important reference tool in creating a character's experiences and emotions.

Acquisition (Student Learning Objectives)

Knowledge

Knowledge

Students will know…

- Understand components of group dynamics
- Definitions of: authority over subject matter, synchronicity, abstraction, absurdity, build
- Techniques to control volume
- Timing's effect on theater
- Posture and vocal tone's effects on a character
- Adjustments needed for various circumstances
- Persuasive techniques
- Complex human reactions
- Conflict resolution plans
- Methods to deal with grief and comforting others
- Personal tastes
- Habits formed from TV and movies
- Stereotypes/Generalizations and their births
- Real emotion versus fake emotion
- Imagination, motivation, and spontaneity
- Who and what makes stories
- Visual and aural memory
- Knowing a character in his/her body

Skills

Skills

Student will be skilled at …

- Learn and enhance visualization and open imagination
- Heighten group imagination, spontaneity, synchronicity, memory, physical interpretation and cooperation
- Assist in acquiring "authority"
- Create a meaningful movement, and simple, but diverse, movement and sounds
- Use the body to create and give passion and importance to abstractions/absurdities
- Visualize and create a character written by someone else
- Adjust and respond quickly to any situation
- Persuade an audience regardless of the circumstances
- Acquaint oneself with complex human reactions and make them truthful
- Keep attention

- Articulate feelings and explore one's own taste
- Combining physical reality with verbal facility
- Truly communicating without generalizing
- Apply class techniques to daily life
- Mesh technique and emotional intensity simultaneously
- Deal with grief and physical crisis
- Instill confidence in an introverted person while identifying false emotions
- Follow a simple disagreement to a confrontation
- Stage the beginnings of a scene and create a "build" within a certain period of time
- Identify habits learned from TV and movies.
- Strengthen the ability to perform in front of one another.
- Identify, imitate, and breakdown stereotypes while working on finding character and laughter.
- Acquire awareness of whom and what makes a story
- Being fluent in character motivations, being, and voice.

Stage 3: Learning Plan

Resource and Mentor Texts

Resources and Mentor Texts

- IPods/IPhones
- Theater/Stage
- Paper
- Pens/Pencils
- Children's Stories
- Various Props
- Scene Divider
- Chairs
- Costume pieces
- Scene/Character/Situation cards
- Hat/Bin

Formative Assessment Strategies

Formative Assessment Strategies

- Cycle Participation (willingness, effort, attendance)
- Following guidelines of each activity
- Task completion
- Incorporation of movement with voice
- Ability to think on one's feet and react instantaneously

Learning Activities/Unit of Study

Note: Learning activities are presented as possibilities not expectations

- Object Creativity
- Storytelling
- Truth vs. Lie
- Sport
- Monster
- Dubbing 1
- Dubbing 2
- Creature Creation
- Hat Choice 1
- Hat Choice 2
- Scene Gone Wrong
- Infomercial
- Family Dinner
- Context
- Prop Scene
- Subtext
- Confidence
- Academy Award
- Survivor
- Debate
- Name Calling
- First meeting
- Issue-Oriented Improvisation Scenes
- Dealing with Death
- Giving Comfort
- Scene Starters
- Bore Me
- Remote Control Scene
- Exploring Stereotypes
- Emotional Stereotypes
- Imitation
- Character-Building 1
- Character-Building 2
- Interaction
- Transformation
- Reaction Effects
- Bringing Life to Fiction
- Couples
- Hot Seat
- Solo Improvisation
- Advanced Solo Improvisation

Modifications and/or Accommodations
Suggested Modifications (ELL, Sp. Ed, GIfted, At-risk of Failure)

English Language Learners

Native language support: The teacher provides auditory or written content to students in their native language.

Adjusted Speech: The teacher changes speech patterns to increase student comprehension. This could include facing the students, paraphrasing, clearly indicating the most important ideas, and speaking more slowly.

Visuals: The teacher uses graphics, pictures, visuals, and manipulatives. This helps ELL students better understand and comprehend the subjects at hand.

Front-Loading Vocabulary: The teacher front loads vocabulary. This means providing students with a list of important vocabulary words they will need to know for a book, lesson, etc. prior to the lesson being taught. Including pictures to go with the vocabulary words is also very beneficial for the students.

Special Education Students

Chunking: The teacher presents information in a way that makes it easy for students to understand and remember. Chunking is based on the presumption that our working memory is easily overloaded by excessive detail. The best way to deliver information is to organize it into meaningful units. Because students with special needs get overloaded easily, chunking is an effective strategy to use with them.

Checking for Understanding: It is important to constantly check for understanding, especially for students who have accommodations. Teachers want to make sure students understand the concepts being covered in a way that makes sense to them.

Extra time: The teacher provides students with special needs extra time to complete work or answer questions. It is important to give students enough time to process their thoughts.

Oral Reading: The teacher will read work orally to students. Class work such as tests and literature circles may need to be read aloud to the student.

Timers: The teacher will use timers as an instructional tool. The use of timers is beneficial for students who have trouble completing tasks. Timers can be helpful so the student is aware of how much time they have to complete an assignment.

Students with 504 Plans

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Gifted & Talented Strategies

Extensions/Enrichments: Teachers will provide gifted and talented students with extension/enrichment projects. Students will be challenged to further their understanding, to apply acquired knowledge, and/or to produce something in reference to acquired knowledge.

Modify/Change Activities: Teachers will monitor and modify activities to accommodate those students who need to be challenged further. Additional reading, problem-solving, writing, or project work is necessary for those students who are ready to move on at a rate more accelerated than their peers. In this way, G & T students are provided the same opportunity for support as special needs students.

Students at Risk of School Failure

Directions or Instructions: Make sure directions and/or instructions are given in limited numbers. Give directions/instructions verbally and in simple written format. Ask students to repeat the instructions or directions to ensure understanding occurs. Check back with the student to ensure he/she hasn't forgotten.

Peer Support: Peers can help build confidence in other students by assisting in peer learning. Many teachers use the 'ask 3 before me' approach. This is fine, however, a student at risk may have to have a specific student or two to ask. Set this up for the student so he/she knows who to ask for clarification before going to you.

Alternate or Modified Assignments: Always ask yourself, "How can I modify this assignment to ensure the students at risk are able to complete it?" Sometimes you'll simplify the task, reduce the length of the assignment or allow for a different mode of delivery. For instance, many students may hand something in, the at-risk student may jot notes and give you the information verbally. Or, it just may be that you will need to assign an alternate assignment.

Increase One to One Time: When other students are working, always touch base with your students at risk and find out if they're on track or needing some additional support. A few minutes here and there will go a long way to intervene as the need presents itself.

Contracts: It helps to have a working contract between you and your students at risk. This helps prioritize the tasks that need to be done and ensure completion happens. Each day write down what needs to be completed, as the tasks are done, provide a checkmark or happy face. The goal of using contracts is to eventually have the student come to you for completion sign-offs.

Hands On: As much as possible, think in concrete terms and provide hands-on tasks. This means a child doing math may require a calculator or counters. The child may need to tape record comprehension activities instead of writing them. A child may have to listen to a story being read instead of reading it him/herself.

Tests/Assessments: Tests can be done orally if need be. Break tests down in smaller increments by having a portion of the test in the morning, another portion after lunch and the final part the next day.

Seating: Seat students near a helping peer or with quick access to the teacher. Those with hearing or sight issues need to be close to the instruction which often means near the front.