

GRADE SIX THEATRE CURRICULUM

Lesson Sequences/Lessons

THEATRE IS INTEGRAL TO EVERY CULTURE

Module 1: Foundation: We draw upon self-knowledge to create multi-dimensional characters.

Lesson	Title	Recommended Literature	Comments
One	Character Development	Pictures of characters: Harry Potter, Robin Hood, Mary Poppins, Junie B. Jones, Peter Pan	
Two	Using Observations	<i>Theatre Games for Young Performers</i> by Maria C. Novelly, <i>The Young Actor's Book of Improvisation</i> by Sandra Caruso, and <i>Theatre Games for the Classroom</i> by Viola Spolin	
Three	Character Monologues	<i>Theatre Games for Young Performers</i> by Maria C. Novelly, <i>Theatre Games for the Classroom</i> by Viola Spolin, <i>A Picture Book of Jesse Owens</i> by David A. Adler	
Four	Developing Monologues Part I	<i>SRA Theatre Arts Connections</i>	
Five	Developing Monologues Part II	<i>SRA Theatre Arts Connections</i>	
Six	Creating a Monologue		

Performance Task - Create an original monologue based on text, subtext, and context. Perform the monologue demonstrating your character's complexity, depth, objective, and motivation.

Module 2: Stories in Action: Theatre can be used to represent knowledge to persuade and to educate.

Lesson	Title	Recommended Literature	Comments
One	Persuasion: Convincing others to believe you		
Two	Using theatre to persuade and convince an audience		
Three	Theatre to Educate	<i>Cootie Shots</i> , edited by Norma Bowles, <i>Easy to Read Folk and Fairy Tale Plays</i> by Carol Pugliano, <i>Favorite Folktales & Fabulous Fables</i> by Lisa Blau, <i>Revolutionary War</i> by Dallas Murphy, <i>Dr. Stockmann Takes a Stand</i> adapted from Henrik Ibsen's <i>An Enemy of the People</i> (SRA Theatre Connections)	
Four	People's Theatre	<i>People's Theatre</i> by David Bradby and John McCormick, <i>Three Hundred Years of American Drama and Theatre</i> by Garff Wilson, <i>The Federal Theatre Project</i> edited by John O'Connor, <i>Hallie Flanagan</i> by Joanne Bentley, <i>Theatre of the Oppressed: Games for Actors and Non-Actors</i> ; <i>The Rainbow of Desire</i> (three major	

		works by Augusto Boal), <i>The San Francisco Mime Troupe Reader</i> edited by Susan Veneta Mason	
Five	Preparation/Rehearsal for Performance Task		

Performance Task - Working with an ensemble, choose an appropriate topic and create a brief persuasive scene.

Module 3: Theatre in the World: Theatre of today has traditions rooted in the historical cultures of Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas.

Lesson	Title	Recommended Literature	Comments
One	Cultural Traditions		
Two	Greek Theatre	<i>The Frogs</i> by Aristophanes, <i>The Oldest of Trees</i> by Marie L. Shedlock (SRA Theatre Connections), <i>The Curtain Rises</i> by Paula Gaj Sitarz, <i>A Greek Theatre</i> by Peter Chrisp, <i>Greek Theatre</i> by Stewart Ross	
Three	Roman Theatre	<i>The Oldest of Trees</i> by Marie L. Shedlock (SRA Theatre Connections), <i>The Curtain Rises</i> by Paula Gaj Sitarz	
Four	Japanese Theatre	<i>The Oldest of Trees</i> by Marie L. Shedlock (SRA Theatre Connections), <i>The Curtain Rises</i> by Paula Gaj Sitarz, <i>The Cambridge Guide to Asian Theatre</i> by James. R. Brandon	
Five	African Theatre	<i>The Oldest of Trees</i> by Marie L. Shedlock (SRA Theatre Connections), <i>African Popular Theatre</i> by David Kerr, <i>African Theatre Playwrights & Politics</i> by Martin Banham, James Gibbs, Femi Osofisan; <i>Pre-Colonial and Post-Colonial Drama and Theatre in Africa</i> by Lokangaka and Devi Sarinjeive	
Six	Commedia dell'Arte	<i>The Curtain Rises</i> by Paula Gaj Sitarz, <i>Lazzi</i> by Mel Gordon, <i>Playing Commedia</i> by Barry Grantham, <i>The Italian Comedy</i> by Pierre Louis Duchartre, <i>Commediadell'Arte</i> by John Rudlin; <i>Bravo, Zan Angelo!</i> by Niki Daly	
Seven	Commedia dell'Arte	<i>The Oldest of Trees</i> by Marie L. Shedlock (SRA Theatre Connections), <i>The Curtain Rises</i> by Paula Gaj Sitarz, <i>Lazzi</i> by Mel Gordon, <i>Playing Commedia</i> by Barry Grantham, <i>The Italian Comedy</i> by Pierre Louis Duchartre, <i>Commedia dell'Arte</i> by John Rudlin; <i>Bravo, Zan Angelo!</i> by Niki Daly, Commedia scenario samples	
Eight	Shakespearean Theatre	<i>The Oldest of Trees</i> by Marie L. Shedlock (SRA Theatre Connections), <i>The Curtain Rises</i> by Paula Gaj Sitarz, <i>Welcome to the Globe!</i> By Peter Chrisp, <i>All the World's a Stage</i> by Michael Bender, <i>Shakespeare</i> by Michael Wood, <i>A Shakespeare Sketchbook</i> by Renwick St. James, <i>Tales from Shakespeare</i> by Tina Packer, <i>Eyewitness Shakespeare</i> by Peter Chrisp, <i>William Shakespeare & the Globe</i> by Aiki, scenes from <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> and <i>Twelfth Night</i>	
Nine	Shakespearean Theatre	<i>The Oldest of Trees</i> by Marie L. Shedlock (SRA Theatre Connections), <i>The Curtain Rises</i> by Paula Gaj Sitarz, <i>Welcome to the Globe!</i> By Peter Chrisp, <i>All the World's a Stage</i> by Michael Bender, <i>Shakespeare</i> by Michael Wood, <i>A Shakespeare Sketchbook</i> by Renwick St. James, <i>Tales from Shakespeare</i> by Tina Packer, <i>Eyewitness Shakespeare</i> by Peter Chrisp, <i>William</i>	

		<i>Shakespeare & the Globe</i> by Ailiki, scenes from <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> and <i>Twelfth Night</i>	
Ten	Latin American Theatre	<i>The Oldest of Trees</i> by Marie L. Shedlock (SRA Theatre Connections)	
Eleven	Theatre of Spain's Golden Age	<i>The Oldest of Trees</i> by Marie L. Shedlock (SRA Theatre Connections), <i>The Curtain Rises</i> by Paula Gaj Sitarz	

Performance Task - Working with a partner or a small group, differentiate the theatrical traditions of cultures throughout the world. Record your findings. Select one culture and write a script demonstrating one distinguishing characteristic of that culture's theatrical tradition.

Module 4: Playmaking: We draw upon many theatre traditions to produce plays.

Lesson	Title	Recommended Literature	Comments
One	Ensemble Building		
Two	Story Development		
Three	Theatrical Staging and Blocking: Jobs of Director/Stage Manager		
Four	Theatrical Design		
Five	Technical/Dress Rehearsal		
Six	Final Dress Rehearsal/Preview Performance		
Seven	Evaluation of Performance Task		

Performance Task - Work with an ensemble to write and perform a scene that includes monologue, dialogue, action, and setting together with a range of character types. In your journal, use the vocabulary of theatre to describe this theatrical experience.

Audience Participation Module: Attending Live Theatre: The audience analyzes the impact of the play.

Lesson	Title	Recommended Literature	Comments
One			
Two			
Three			
Four			
Five			

Performance Task - Write a critique of a live theatre, television, or film performance you have experienced. Evaluate the effectiveness of the creative choices made by the director and the technical artists. Describe how the production values manipulated your mood as an audience member.