

GRADE THREE THEATRE CURRICULUM
Lesson Sequences/Lessons

Introductory Lesson:

Literature: *The Camel Dances* from Fables by Arnold Lobel

Module 1: Foundational Skills: Actors make creative choices by understanding the use of body, voice and imagination.

Lesson	Title	Recommended Literature	Comments
One	Building Actor's Tools: Pantomime		
Two	Building Actor's Tools: Projection and Articulation	<i>It's the Pichilingis Again</i> from <i>Drama of Color</i> by Johnny Saldana	
Three	Character	<i>Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs</i>	
Four	Character (Part 2)	<i>Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs</i>	
Five	Setting	<i>The Adventure of the Three Little Rabbits</i>	
Six	Setting (Part 2)	<i>The Adventure of the Three Little Rabbits</i>	
Seven	Improvisation /Conflict (Part 1)		
Eight	Improvisation /Conflict (Part 2)	<i>Felicity Meets Priscilla</i>	
Nine	Improvisation/Conflict (Part 3)		

Performance Task - Working with a partner, choose a setting and two characters. Through improvisation, create a problem for the characters and a way to solve it. Identify the 5 Ws in the scene: who, what, when, where and why. Present the scene to classmates.

Module 2: Stories in Action: Stories from around the world have universal characters, conflicts and themes.

Lesson	Title	Recommended Literature	Comments
One	Introduction of Tricksters	Wide variety of Trickster tales	
Two	Classical Tricksters	<i>Fox and Crow</i> by Aesop	

Three	African Tricksters	<i>A Story, A Story</i>	
Four	African Tricksters (Part 2)	<i>A Story, A Story; Zomo the Rabbit</i> by Gerald McDermott	
Five	Fairy Tale Tricksters	<i>The Emperor's New Clothes</i>	
Six	Fairy Tales Tricksters (Part 2)	<i>The Emperor's New Clothes, The Principal's New Clothes</i> by Stephanie Calmenson	
Seven	American Tricksters	<i>Coyote: A Trickster Take from the American Southwest</i> by Gerald McDermott	
Eight	American Tricksters (Part 2)	<i>Mistah Fox's Funeral from Sister Tricksters: Rollicking Tales of Clever Females</i> retold by Robert D. San Souci	
Nine	American Tricksters (Part 3)	Four Dollars and Fifty Cents by Eric A. Kimmel	
Ten	Basic Staging (Part 1)		
Eleven	Basic Staging (Part 2)		
Twelve	Basic Staging (Part 3)		

Performance Task - Working with a partner, create and perform a scene that shows traits of a universal theme (for example, a fool can be easily fooled, good things come in small packages, one good deed deserves another, if you want a friend be a friend). In your journal identify one universal theme.

Module 3: Theatre in the World: Theatre has origins in myth, storytelling and ritual.

Lesson	Title	Recommended Literature	Comments
One	Personal Ritual		
Two	Introduction to Native American Ritual (Part 1)	Arrow to the Sun by Gerald McDermott	
Three	Introduction to Native American Ritual (Part 2)	Arrow to the Sun by Gerald McDermott	
Four	Native American Ritual: Rain Dance		

Five	Development of Native American Rituals: Story		
Six	Development of Native American Rituals: Poetry		
Seven	Development of Native American Rituals: Performance		
Eight	Performance Task Preparation	<i>The Legend of the Bluebonnet</i> by Tomie DePaola	

Performance Task - Work with the class to create and perform a ritual based on Native American culture.

Module 4: Playmaking: We can create plays based on human experience.

Lesson	Title	Recommended Literature	Comments
One	Regular Family Rituals		
Two	Rituals Interrupted		
Three	Letting Swift River Go (Part 1)	<i>Letting Swift River Go</i> by Jane Yolen, <i>Into the Story</i> by Carole Miller and Juliana Saxton	
Four	Letting Swift River Go (Part 2)	<i>Letting Swift River Go</i> by Jane Yolen, <i>Into the Story</i> by Carole Miller and Juliana Saxton	
Five	Letting Swift River Go (Part 3)	<i>Letting Swift River Go</i> by Jane Yolen, <i>Into the Story</i> by Carole Miller and Juliana Saxton	
Six	Personal Stories (Part 1)		
Seven	Personal Stories (Part 2)		
Eight	Personal Stories (Part 3)		

Performance Task - In small groups, tell your own story based on a family ritual. The group will choose one story. With your ensemble, perform that story using basic blocking and stage areas.

Audience Preparation Module: Attending Live Theatre: The audience evaluates elements of the play that help to tell the story.

Lesson	Title	Recommended Literature	Comments
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One			
Two			
Three			
Four			
Five			

Performance Task - With your class, develop a rubric to evaluate a play you plan to attend. Base your rubric on the 5 Ws. Use the rubric to write a critique about how well the play develops character (who), setting (where and when) and conflict (what and why).