Teaching Artist Training & Internship Program since 2000

School/Grade/CT(s):   MS 363
Date:
Teaching Artists: Meghan Daniels and Courtney Price

Lesson #:
Theme of Lesson: Collaborative Storytelling

Inquiry Question:
    How can we collaborate to create stories and build community in the classroom?

Opening Ritual
Objective:
Transition from academic time to art time, begin to use our bodies and voices.
Introduce "I" statements.

Activity Name and Brief Description: "Yes/No/Maybe"

Students copy Courtney's movement and vocalization, matching tone and energy.
"Yes. No. Maybe. And it was so hot! And it was so cold! I'm not afraid! Well maybe a little. And I was like, what? And I was like, what?"
Give students the chance to come up with their own I statements, following Courtney's example, and have the class repeat after them.

Intro Activity

Objective: Warm students up for group storytelling, review parts of a story

Activity Name and Brief Description: Parts of a Story

- Pass out copy of Rapunzel story. Meghan prompts students to read aloud as a large group, with each student reading one sentence.
- Read twice through as a class
- In pairs, have students discuss the following questions (will be on handout or written where all students can see.)
    - Who is the main character(s) of the story?
    - What is the setting?
    - What is the problem/solution?
    - What happens in the beginning/middle/end?
- Have students share their group's thoughts with the class and work through any confusion

Main Exercise

Objective: Tell stories collaboratively using first person perspective.

Activity Name and Brief Description: Story Spine
Students use prompts to collaboratively tell stories from a first-person perspective.

Break students into groups of 4
Give each group a handout with the following starting phrases for sentences:

1. Once upon a time...
2. Every day I...
3. But, then one day I...
4. Because of that I...
5. Because of that I...
6. Because of that I...
7. Until, finally I...
8. And, ever since that day I….
9. The End.

Give each group a picture that shows a setting — e.g., castle, pirate ship, desert island, cave, etc.

Have students decide on a main character to focus in their story

Then have each student alternate to fill in the blanks in the story spine.

Here Courtney talks about how we work together to tell stories
- "Say Yes" to other people's ideas, don't "Say No"
- Build on other people's ideas, use them!
- Be generous! Give your classmates easy material to build on

(Before the students begin working in their group, model the first three sentences with Meghan, Courtney, and the classroom teacher talking through each one out loud.)

Once they have completed the story spine, go through the checklist on their handout — "What is the setting?" "What is the problem?" "What is the solution?" "Who is our main character?" "What is the beginning of the story? Middle? End?"

Have students revise the story together using the questions above as a guide.

Then, invite students to share their stories (at least one group, more if there is time).

Ask students to reflect on others' stories as well as their own. What differences did they notice?

Reflection (woven throughout but important to share and notice creative choices)

Objective: Reinforce the activity and help students process and explore their own creative choices as well as those of their classmates.

Brief Description: Question and answer

After both intro activity and main activity, ask students what they noticed about each individual's/group's work.
　　-What was difficult about the activity? Surprising?

Closing Ritual

Objective: Wind down the lesson and give students the chance to reflect on and celebrate one another's work.

Activity Name and Brief Description: Shout outs

Meghan: "Raise your hand if you saw somebody do something awesome today! What did they do?"

Multiple Intelligences Addressed:

Multiple Intelligences
Highlight the intelligences used throughout this lesson plan.

Logical-Mathematical; **Visual/Spatial**; **Linguistic**; **Bodily-Kinesthetic**; **Musical, Interpersonal**; **Intrapersonal**; **Naturalistic**; **Existential**

Classroom Teacher Role:
　　-Help model intro activity and main activity

Creative Elements (skill and theme; i.e. ensemble and love)
Skill(s): Collaborative storytelling, voice/point of view

Theme(s): Growing up, shared experiences and personal differences

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Artists/ Authors/ Works of Art (to be presented as models for skills/themes identified above)**:**

Fairytale used to review and demonstrate parts of a story.

Reflective Anecdotes/Student Development: *(optional)*

Please be mindful of allowing time before class begins to set up the classroom.