

The Ugly Duckling

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6th grade — Virtual Theatre Class — 45 minutes

Stage 1- Desired Results

Content Standards:

Organize and develop artistic ideas and work. Develop essential events that make up the dramatic structure in an improvised or scripted theatrical work. (5-6.T.2)

Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work. Use specific vocabulary to identify details about a play or theatre work. (5-6.T.8)

Understandings:

Students will understand the role of 5-part story structure in effective storytelling

Students will develop empathy for each other through community-based storytelling

Essential Questions:

How do we tell a story effectively?

How can storytelling foster community?

Learning Objectives:

Students will know that...

- There is not one way to tell a story BUT there are ways to make it more intriguing
- Collective storytelling is fun and silly!

Students will be able to...

- Identify 5-part story structure (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution)
- Build on each other's ideas
- Create a tableau of the ugly duckling
- Work as a team to tell a story
- Connect story parts to a whole arch

Stage 2- Assessment Evidence

Performance Tasks:

- Final tableau
- Group discussion
- Jamboard

Other Evidence:

- Commitment to warm up activity
- Student participation
- Commitment to both activities and presentation

Stage 3- Learning Plan

WARMUP

Check-in (5 min)

Share a sound and gesture to represent how you are feeling
Students' zoom screens will follow host's, students will share in order. Option to "pass."

Fortunately, Unfortunately (5 min)

Same order as check-in will be followed. Inform students we will be creating a story all together, one sentence at a time. The first student in the circle will begin with introductory sentence, "once upon a time..." 2nd student will continue the story, beginning the sentence with "fortunately..." 3rd student will continue, beginning the sentence with "unfortunately..." Story continues around the zoom until it comes to a conclusion.

Side coaching: remind students to build on previous sentences. Ask students to identify one main character and one setting, and stick to them.

BODY OF LESSON

Turn the Page (5 min)

Divide zoom grid in two, groups A and B (this would mimic standing in two lines across from each other. Let students know you will be reading them a story, and they will take turns acting it out (non-verbally) in groups. Group A will go first, and will switch when they hear "turn the page." Emphasize this, encourage students to say it along with you. Read the Ugly Duckling story aloud, sentence by sentence. At the end of each sentence, say "turn the page," and prompt the groups to switch.

Jamboard Activity (10 min)

Divide class into groups of 3 and prepare breakout rooms. Draw out the story structure on a jamboard and have prompt groups to mark where they think each part of the story goes.

Ugly Duckling Story Arch (15 min)

Return to main room, and create a visual together as we review the story with a shared screen of the story mountain. Students will also receive their own handout. Divide into 5 groups (one for each part of story structure: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution) Prompt: each group is responsible for coming up with a tableau that represents their part of the story. We will watch the tableau in story-order to create a moving slideshow.

REFLECTION (5 min)

Class discussion, students will answer the following prompts:

What did you discover this class?

How can knowing 5-part story structure help us in theatre?

Why is working together important in telling stories?

The Ugly Duckling Story

Once upon a time...A little duckling was very sad because he thought he was the ugliest amongst all his brothers and sisters. They would not play with him and teased the poor ugly duckling. One day, he saw his reflection in the water and cried, "Nobody likes me. I am so ugly." He decided to leave home and went far away into the woods.

Deep in the forest, he saw a cottage in which there lived an old woman, her hen, and her cat. The duckling stayed with them for some time but he was unhappy there and soon left. When winter set in the poor duckling almost froze to death. A peasant took him home to his wife and children. The poor duckling was terrified of the children and escaped. The ugly duckling spent the winter in a marshy pond.

Finally, spring arrived. One day, the duckling saw a beautiful swan swimming in the pond and wanted to be friends. But then he remembered how everyone made fun of him and he bent his head down in shame. When he saw his own reflection in the water he was astonished. He was not an ugly duckling anymore, but a handsome young swan! Now, he knew why he had looked so different from his brothers and sisters. "They were ducklings but I was a baby swan!" he said to himself. He befriended the swan and her family, and they all lived happily ever after.