



# artsNOW

Integrated learning solutions

## THEATRICAL TEAMWORK Grade Band: K-1 Content Focus: Theatre & ELA



### LEARNING DESCRIPTION

Challenge your students in a brand new way as they work collaboratively to explore critical thinking, creative problem solving, and team work with basic theatrical techniques!

### LEARNING TARGETS

Essential Questions	"I Can" Statements
How can theatre techniques help us collaborate with each other?	I can collaborate with others to accomplish a goal.
How can working together help us accomplish our goals?	I can interact with others to explore ideas and concepts, communicate meaning, and develop ideas through collaborative conversations.
	I can build upon the ideas of others to clearly express my own views while respecting the ideas of others.



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## GEORGIA STANDARDS

Curriculum Standards	Arts Standards
<p><b>Kindergarten:</b>            ELAGSEKSL1 Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about kindergarten topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups. a. Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions (e.g., listening to others and taking turns speaking about the topics and texts under discussion). b. Continue a conversation through multiple exchanges.            ELAGSEKSL6 Speak audibly and express thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly.</p> <p><b>Grade 1:</b>            ELAGSE1SL1 Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about grade 1 topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups. a. Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions (e.g., listening to others with care, speaking one at a time about the topics and texts under discussion). b. Build on others' talk in conversations by responding to the comments of others through multiple exchanges.            ELAGSE1SL3 Ask and answer questions about what a speaker says in order to gather additional information or clarify something that is not understood.</p>	<p><b>Kindergarten:</b>            TAK.CR.1 Organize, design, and refine theatrical work.            TAK.PR.1 Act by communicating and sustaining roles in formal and informal environments.</p> <p><b>Grade 1:</b>            TA1.CR.1 Organize, design, and refine theatrical work.            TA1.PR.1 Act by communicating and sustaining roles in formal and informal environments.</p>

## SOUTH CAROLINA STANDARDS

Curriculum Standards	Arts Standards
<p><b>Kindergarten:</b>            ELA.K.C.8.1 Participate with peers and adults in structured discussions and routines about grade-appropriate topics and texts: a. enter a conversation by greeting, taking turns, and responding to others with statements, phrases, and/or questions; and b. consider the ideas of others while engaging in conversations.            ELA.K.C.9.1 Ask and answer questions in conversation on a topic.</p>	<p><b>Anchor Standard 1:</b> I can create scenes and write scripts using story elements and structure.</p> <p><b>Anchor Standard 3:</b> I can act in improvised scenes and written scripts.</p> <p><b>Anchor Standard 8:</b> I can relate theatre to other content areas, arts disciplines, and careers.</p>



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**Grade 1:**

ELA.1.C.8.1 Participate with peers and adults in structured discussions and routines about grade-appropriate topics and texts: a. enter a conversation by greeting, taking turns, and responding to others with statements, phrases, and/or questions; and b. consider the ideas of others by restating what they say during conversations.

ELA.1.C.9.1 Listen to others to ask and answer questions on a topic.

**KEY VOCABULARY**

Content Vocabulary	Arts Vocabulary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <u>Collaboration</u> - The process of two or more people working together to achieve a common goal by sharing knowledge, learning, and building consensus</li> <li>● <u>Diverse perspectives</u> - The variety of viewpoints, experiences, and ideas that individuals from different backgrounds, cultures, and life experiences bring to a discussion or decision-making process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <u>Theater</u> - Dramatic literature or its performance; drama</li> <li>● <u>Voice</u> – An actor’s tool, which we shape and change to portray the way a character speaks or sounds</li> <li>● <u>Body</u> – An actor’s tool, which we shape and change to portray the way a character looks, walks, or moves</li> <li>● <u>Improvisation</u> - A creation that is spoken or written without prior preparation</li> <li>● <u>Ensemble</u> - All the parts of a thing taken together, so that each part is considered</li> <li>● <u>Conductor</u> - The director of an orchestra or symphony</li> <li>● <u>Signal</u> - Non-verbal cue</li> </ul>

**MATERIALS**

- Whiteboard
- Markers
- Blank index cards
- Clipboards, paper and pencils
- Balloon or beach ball

**INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN**

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## Opening/Activating Strategy

*Classroom Tips: This activity works best in an open space with chairs around the perimeter of the room.*

- Start with a general physical warm-up to get the students' bodies ready. Use exercises such as:
  - **Stretching:** Stretch all major muscle groups.
  - **Shaking Out Limbs:** Shake out arms, legs, and the whole body to release tension.
  - **Energy Passes:** Stand in a circle and pass a clap or a simple motion around to build group focus and energy.
- **UP IN THE AIR:** This ensemble building warm-up is a good exercise to keep coming back to throughout the year. You will see how your students start to work as a team as the school year passes. You can use a balloon, beach ball, etc. for this activity.
  - Arrange students in a circle.
  - Explain that the goal of the activity is to keep the balloon or ball in the air. The balloon/ball cannot hit the floor. A player cannot hit the balloon/ball twice in a row.
  - Ask students to help you come up with some guidelines for the game. All players must agree on the guidelines. Post these where the class can see them (such as written or typed on a smart board).
  - Tap a balloon or beach ball into the air!
  - Allow students to continue tapping the balloon or ball without it hitting the floor. (No one can hit the balloon two times in a row, but he or she can hit the balloon more than once in the sequence.)
  - All students must audibly count to ten; the goal is to keep the balloon from hitting the floor before the number ten is reached. If the balloon hits the floor, the process must be repeated.
  - At the end of the activity, ask students to reflect on how they had to work together to achieve their goal.
  - *Modifications: Students can also sit in a circle on the floor and roll a ball from student to student instead of tapping a balloon or ball in the air. Reduce the number from ten to five.*

**ORCHESTRAL THEATER:** This exercise invites students to discover the actor or actress within!

- Ask students to define the word conductor. Ask students for some examples of conductors (e.g., Bach, Debussy, Liszt, Beethoven).
- Discuss this role and identify what signals he/she uses to tell the musicians to slow down, speed up, get louder and softer, and eventually stop. Show students a segment of an orchestral performance and discuss the body language, postures, signals, etc. that students notice.
- Arrange students in groups of three. One student will be the conductor and the other two will be the orchestra.
- Tell the students who are the conductors to think of a name for themselves.
- One at a time, each conductor will come forward and choose two cards.
- Each card will have a topic with suggestions for unusual instruments (drumbeat on a cup, etc.).



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- The conductor will give each member of his or her orchestra one of the peculiar instruments to play or be. *The conductor may use the suggestions on the card or make up his/her own instrument.*
- The orchestra members will use a sound and a movement to create/play this instrument. Give students a designated amount of time to create a musical composition.
- Tell students that the conductor will need to use signals to indicate whether the orchestra members should play faster or slower, louder or quieter, simultaneously or individually (eye contact and focus are important for both the conductor and the instruments). They cannot use words.
- Finally, the conductor and orchestra will generate a name for the piece of music.
- Each group will perform their musical composition for the class. *Teacher note: Discuss appropriate audience participation and etiquette prior to performances.*
- The conductor should introduce him or herself with their chosen name and the name of the composition.
- After the performance, all students should take a bow and the audience should applaud.
- Debrief the process with students asking questions such as what was easy about the exercise and what was challenging. Was it easy or hard to lead (the conductor)? To follow (the orchestra)? Why?

**GROUP POEM:** This exercise allows students to vocalize their thoughts as a group. It enhances and strengthens the ensemble. The poem can be based on any theme that you wish to explore with your students. You can tie your theme to a particular issue that your class is dealing with, such as teamwork, a unit of study, or an attribute that you are exploring.

**Theme based:**

- Have students sit in a circle.
- Discuss what it means to collaborate and respect diverse opinions. Ask students for examples of what this might look like. Establish agreed-upon guidelines for the activity and post them somewhere that everyone can see so that the class can refer back to them if needed.
- Tell students to call out the first thing that comes to their minds when you say a particular word such as "heart". Listen for answers and then call out another word such as "love".
- Once the students feel free to talk and explore, head toward the theme. *(Option: Start with low-stakes words such as "candy" to help the group get comfortable sharing. Then, transition to deeper words like "heart" or "love".)*
- Tell students that now you are going to start a phrase and they should finish it for you (based on your chosen theme).
  - Examples: "It's hard to be kind when....." or "Saying sorry means....."
- Write down answers as they are called out. Make sure to scribe word for word.
- Read the title ("It's hard to be kind when") and then read all of the student's comments aloud in poem form.
- Type the poem up and display it for students on the following day.

**Person to Person:**

- Discuss what it means to collaborate and respect diverse opinions. Ask students for examples of what this might look like. Establish agreed-upon guidelines for the activity and post them somewhere that everyone can see so that the class can refer back to them if needed.



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- Say to students, “We all have things we want to tell people in our lives but don’t always feel comfortable saying to them in person. if you could say anything to a particular person (ie, your mom, dad, teacher, friend, etc.) Who would you speak to?”
- Allow time for students to reflect.
- Say to students, “Let’s all talk to the same person today—to tell that person something that you don’t feel comfortable telling them face to face or you just haven’t ever told them before.”
- Ask students, “Who are some people you might want to talk to?”. Allow time for answers and write them down.
- Tell students that now you will take a vote to see who we will all talk to today.
- Call out a list and have everyone vote one time.
- Teacher: “Today we are going to talk to.....(the principal). Let’s title our poem, “Students to Principal”.” (Insert the appropriate people based on your students and the person they voted to talk to.)
- Ask students to now close their eyes and think about standing in front of this person, face to face. Ask students to volunteer to share with the group what they would say to them.
- Write down answers as they are called out. Make sure to scribe word for word.
- Read the title (“Students to Principal”) and then read all of the student’s comments aloud in poem form.
- Type the poem up and display it for students on the following day.

### Closing/Reflection

- Allow students to reflect on the process by asking them to share something that was interesting to them about the lesson, something they noticed about themselves or that was challenging for them in the lesson, and one question or comment they have about the lesson.
- Provide time for students to either share with the whole class or with a partner.

## ASSESSMENTS

### Formative

Teachers will assess students’ understanding of the content throughout the lesson by observing students’ participation in the activator, contributions to group activities, and collaboration with classmates.

### Summative

#### CHECKLIST

- Students can collaborate with others to accomplish a goal (up in the air, orchestral theatre and collaborative poems).
- Students can interact with others to explore ideas and concepts, communicate meaning, and develop ideas through collaborative conversations.
- Students can build upon the ideas of others to clearly express their own views while respecting the perspectives of others.

## DIFFERENTIATION



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**Acceleration:**

- Arrange students in collaborative groups for poems so that students can work at their own pace.
- Have students complete a written/illustrated reflection that builds upon the ticket out the door.
- Let this lesson launch into a narrative writing piece about a time that students had to use teamwork and collaboration to accomplish a goal.

**Remediation:**

- Spend time unpacking the activities with examples. Provide examples of responses for the group poem and the person to person poem.
- Arrange students in collaborative groups so that students can work at their own pace.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

NA

*\*This integrated lesson provides differentiated ideas and activities for educators that are aligned to a sampling of standards. Standards referenced at the time of publishing may differ based on each state's adoption of new standards.*

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