

Unit 5: Give Us the Story!

Dance Grades 7 and 8

15 Meetings

Created July 2020, revised May 2021, May 2022

Essential Questions

- How does the choreography in a musical tell a story?

Enduring Understandings with Unit Goals

EU 1: Dance can tell a story in a musical by moving the plot forward through choreography.

- Analyze how the plot moves forward with dance in a piece of musical theater.
- Demonstrate and create a piece of musical theater choreography that is plot driven.

EU 2: Dance can tell a story in a musical by reflecting the characters and setting of the show.

- Distinguish the difference between a musical number where the setting of the show is highlighted through choreography and a musical number where the choreography moves the plot forward.
- Analyze the kind of movement a choreographer chooses for specific characters.
- Organize, plan and produce a piece of musical theater dance that reflects the setting and characters of the musical.

Standards

National Core Arts Standards:

DA:Cr1.1.8 a. Implement movement from a variety of stimuli (for example, music, observed dance, literary forms, notation, natural phenomena, personal experience/recall, current news or social events) to develop dance content for an original dance study or dance.

DA:Cr1.1.8 b. Identify and select personal preferences to create an original dance study or dance. Use genre-specific dance terminology to articulate and justify choices made in movement development to communicate intent.

DA:Cr2.1.8 a. Collaborate to select and apply a variety of choreographic devices and dance structures to choreograph an original dance study or dance with a clear artistic intent. Articulate the group process for making movement and structural choices

DA:Cr2.1.8 b. Define and apply artistic criteria to choreograph a dance that communicates personal or cultural meaning. Discuss how the criteria clarify or intensify the meaning of the dance.

DA:Cr3.1.8 a. Revise choreography collaboratively or independently based on artistic criteria, self-reflection, and the feedback of others. Articulate the reasons for choices and revisions and explain how they clarify and enhance the artistic intent.

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DA:Pr4.1.8 b. Analyze and select metric, kinetic, and breath phrasing and apply appropriately to dance phrases. Perform dance phrases of different lengths that use various timings within the same section. Use different tempi in different body parts at the same time.

DA:Pr4.1.8 c. Direct energy and dynamics in such a way that movement is textured. Incorporate energy and dynamics to technique exercises and dance performance. Use energy and dynamics to enhance and project movements.

DA:Pr5.1.8 a. Embody technical dance skills (for example, functional alignment, coordination, balance, core support, clarity of movement, weight shifts, flexibility/range of motion) to replicate, recall, and execute spatial designs and musical or rhythmical dance phrases.

DA:Pr6.1.8 a. Demonstrate leadership qualities (for example commitment, dependability, responsibility, and cooperation) when preparing for performances. Use performance etiquette and performance practices during class, rehearsal and performance. Document efforts and create a plan for ongoing improvements. Post- performance, accept notes from choreographer and apply corrections to future performances.

DA:Re.7.1.8 a. Describe, demonstrate and discuss patterns of movement and their relationships in dance in context of artistic intent.

DA:Re.7.1.8 b. Explain how the elements of dance are used in a variety of genres, styles, or cultural movement practices to communicate intent. Use genre- specific dance terminology.

DA:Re8.1.8 a. Select a dance and explain how artistic expression is achieved through relationships among the elements of dance, use of body, dance technique and context. Cite evidence in the dance to support your interpretation using genre specific dance terminology.

DA:Re9.1.8 a. Use artistic criteria to determine what makes an effective performance. Consider content, context, genre, style, or cultural movement practice to comprehend artistic expression. Use genre-specific dance terminology.

DA:Cn10.1.8 a. Relate connections found between different dances and discuss the relevance of the connections to the development of one's personal perspectives.

DA:Cn11.1.8 a. Analyze and discuss, how dances from a variety of cultures, societies, historical periods, or communities reveal the ideas and perspectives of the people.

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ISAAC Vision of the Graduate Competencies

Competency 1: Write effectively for a variety of purposes.

Competency 2: Speak to diverse audiences in an accountable manner.

Competency 3: Develop the behaviors needed to interact and contribute with others on a team.

Competency 4: Analyze and solve problems independently and collaboratively.

Competency 5: Be responsible, creative, and empathetic members of the community.

Unit Content Overview

1. Learn storytelling through dance from two musical numbers in a musical.

Examples:

- Newsies, *Seize the Day*
- Newsies, *Carrying the Banner*
- **Key Terms and Vocabulary**
 - Ensemble
 - Tableau
 - Musical Theater
 - Plot
 - Setting
 - Conflict

2. Character Introduction in a song.

- Understand the purpose of an opening number.
- Dance the abbreviated choreography in the number.
 - **Key Terms and Vocabulary:**
 - Opening Number
 - Character

3. Conflict told through a dance number.

- Understand how the plot moves forward through this number.
 - **Key Terms and Vocabulary**
 - Plot
 - Setting
 - Conflict

4. Create a character and story driven dance piece.

Interdisciplinary Connection:

- Social Studies: Cultures, history
- Music: Rhythm, music styles, tempo
- Math (Geometry): Lines, shapes, angles in movement
- Theater: Storytelling through dance
- ELA: Parts of a story

Daily Learning Objectives with *Do Now Activities*

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Students will be able to...

- Construct six different tableaux to depict the plot of the Musical.
 - *In your dance journal write down the ways you get the news. 4 corners activity.*
- Examine the characters in the musical
 - Gallery walk of character photos.
- Arrange and produce a dramatization of Day in the Life of a character using a song from the show.
 - *Think about how you got ready for your day today.*
- Apply choreographic concepts to create movement based on character and story.
 - *Practice character statues from last lesson.*
- Compare and contrast 2 musical numbers in the show.
 - *With a partner, practice movement we created last class.*
- Design movements to illustrate the character's response to the conflict.
 - *Prepare newspapers to dance with them.*
- Arrange and assemble movements to create choreography that adds to dance technique vocabulary**
 - *With a partner review basic dance steps from Unit One.*
- Devise a choreographed unified piece working in small groups and evaluate each groups' piece through constructive feedback **
 - *Fill in graphic organizer with choreography.*
- Assemble tableau and movement to create a unified piece.
 - *Continue to fill in graphic organizer by writing down choreography.*
- Create verbal introductions for the dance piece giving necessary background knowledge.
 - *Talk to a partner about where the transitions in the dance occur.*
- Produce a complete dance.
 - *Look over your notes on the dance before rehearsal.*

Instructional Strategies/Differentiated Instruction

- Whole group instruction
- Visuals of instructions for assignments
- Plan for the Day (Visual and Aural)
- Scaffolding (Building on dance skills)
- Repetition
- Imagery
- Silent Cues
- Visual learning, Aural Learning, Kinesthetic learning
- Paragraph frames and sentence starters
- Student-led instruction
- Teacher modeling
- Written feedback
- Think-pair-share and small-group discussions
- Accountable talk
- Homework
- Small group instruction

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- Small group devising
- Conferencing

EL Differentiated Instruction

- Word walls with visuals of dance vocabulary
- TWPS (Think, write, pair, share)
- Pre-reading strategies
- Culturally responsive teaching
- Explicit modeling of dance steps by teacher
- Key Vocabulary
- Graphic organizers
- Strategic grouping
- Non-verbal Assessment

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Assessments

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENTS:

- Do Now (Warm-up)
- Student discussions and responses
- Accountable Talk Discussions
- Freeze frame plot tableau (EU 1)
- Musical Plot Worksheet (EU 1)
- Character Statue (EU 1)
- Small group choreography devising
- Constructive responses to peer work
- Performance Task- “Give us the Story!” Dance Performance of a devised musical number. (EU 1 & 2)
 - Future Rubric Assessment in 2021-2022

SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS:

- Choreography
- Performance Task- “Extra! Extra- Give us the Story!” (EU 1 & 2)

Unit Task

Unit Task Name: “Give us the Story!”

Description: In this task, students will employ dance skills to create a performance that reflects the plot, setting and characters of a musical. Students will start by identifying the plot of the story as well as how choreography helps to move the plot forward. They will then employ choreography using dance technique skills we have learned in class to create our own version of a specific song in a musical. (EU 1) Students will also analyze how an opening number in a musical helps to inform the audience of the setting and characters. Through improvisational activities, they will design choreography to introduce the setting and characters in the story. (EU 2). They will then perform our devised versions of the songs.

Evaluation: Summative Assessment and Future Rubric in 2021-2022 school year

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Unit Resources

- Musical materials such as videos, soundtracks, and plot summaries.
- Laptops
- Desks
- Smart Boards
- Google Slides/ Power Point Presentations
- Music
- Speakers
- Paper
- Pencils/ Pens