

Drama Workshops

Getting Started with Drama Integration (Part 1): *The Basics*

Audience: Classroom teachers and arts educators grades 1-8

Length: 3 hours

When learning to instruct drama, teachers often wonder "How do I begin?" This workshop provides an answer for teachers new to the art form or experienced teachers who are looking for alternative ways to deliver drama. Through simple movement activities and enacted story, participants learn to effectively set introductory management structures, build collaborative classroom communities, and introduce the tools of drama – body, mind, and voice. Story elements, the skills of self-management, imagination, and concentration, are also explored. Drama is a powerful tool for learning and experiencing literature, history, science, and human interaction. The right beginning insures success.

(The book Getting Started with Drama is recommended for this workshop. This manual provides on going teacher support for delivering drama and includes: classroom management tips, planning and teaching strategies, lessons, stories, objectives aligned with standards, lesson planning worksheets, and more.)

Getting Started with Drama Integration (Part 2): *Managing the Lesson*

Audience: Classroom teachers and arts educators of grades 1-8

Length: 3 hours

Picking up where Part 1 leaves off, this workshop demonstrates how the drama process can be transferred to students by introducing a model for independent planning and practicing, through a lesson called The Circus for younger students or The School Crisis for older students. More management techniques are introduced including: viewing student work, storytelling and evaluating group cohesiveness along with advanced acting skills in working with space and playing a variety of characters. Stories that integrate the curriculum are presented along with step-by-step lesson plans that can be altered to coincide with your classroom content in a variety of academic areas.

Integrating Drama with the Early Childhood Curriculum

Audience: Teachers of Pre-K through 1st grade

Length: 3-6 hours

Telling and acting out stories is a hallmark of childhood. When utilized effectively, storytelling, drama, and play can teach fundamental language, self-management, and character-building skills. This hands-on session begins with creating and acting out an original story that follows Henry and his magic hat through imaginative adventures. Then explore ways to guide students in expanding nursery rhymes into a complete narrative and work with a piece of literature, *The Carrot Seed* by Ruth Krauss, to connect science and language arts with dramatic action and beginning dialogue. You'll also examine the developmental stages of young children and discuss how these stages create a context for the activities presented with drama teaching artist Karen L. Erickson.

Drama: A Safe Place to Learn

Audience: Classroom teachers and arts educators of grades 1-8

Length: 3 hours

Participants experience hands on activities they can use immediately to introduce drama into their classrooms. The workshop focuses on key classroom management strategies such as concentration, self-management, interpersonal skills, decision-making, safety, and listening. Many drama concepts such as teamwork, ensemble, space, imitation, and

transformation are also introduced. Participants will explore how teaching and implementing drama knowledge and skills can enhance classroom management.

Drama: the Missing Link in Teaching Literacy

Audience: Classroom teachers and arts educators of grades 1-8

Length: 3 hours

Build vocabulary skills, improve reading comprehension, and expand writing techniques through drama activities designed in a step-by-step process used by hundreds of teachers with great success. Gain insight into the nature of arts integration and what it means to create quality integrated lessons. Transform language arts lessons into active, student-centered explorations of story elements, word choice, fluency, comprehension, writing, and characterization through drama strategies such as expressive movement and character development. Learn about activities that develop teamwork and creative problem solving skills in students. Acquire activities that will help teach grammar, predicting, adding detail, setting, and inferring.

Powerful Partners: Improving Student Writing through Drama

Audience: Classroom teachers and arts educators of grades 4-8

Length: 3 hours

Guide students on the path to improved writing through the integration of creative drama techniques. Partnering writing and drama sharpens students' narrative, descriptive, and persuasive writing skills and helps them discover their "author voice." In this workshop, explore how creative drama concepts of characterization, story elements, movement, and dialogue help students to write with added detail, consider appropriate word choice, and include tone color.

Exposing Expository Material to Drama

Audience: Classroom teachers and arts educators of grades 4-8

Length: 3 hours

Drama is a way to engage students where the struggle with text decoding is removed. Learn how drama can encourage student engagement with expository texts, enhancing literacy. This workshop explores the five expository text structures and drama objectives that can be integrated with literacy objectives. Text samples are used in hands-on activities to demonstrate drama teaching techniques.

History Alive!

Audience: Classroom teachers and arts educators of grades 4-8

Length: 3 hours

This workshop takes the study of the Colonial Period, Egypt, and/or the Middle Ages and integrates drama to make history live for Middle/Jr. High school students. Participants experience creating tableaux, working with literature, and creating spontaneous improvisations that can be used to enhance these or other units of social studies. Teaching strategies, story adaptations, and advanced delivery techniques are presented.

The Drama of Science

Audience: Classroom teachers and arts educators of grades 1-8

Length: 3 hours

In this workshop, explore a step-by-step process of integrating science concepts and drama techniques in the classroom. Transform science lessons into active, student-centered explorations of earth science, simple machines, and biology through drama strategies such as expressive movement and enacted story. Learn about activities that develop teamwork and creative problem solving skills in students. Acquire techniques for

classroom management and building group dynamics while exploring several types of integration designs.

Building Character through Drama

Audience: Classroom teachers and arts educators of grades 1-8

Length: 3-6 hours

Explore a drama/theater process that impacts and integrates character education, team building, collaboration, and conflict resolution teaching. Participants experience a series of activities that engage students in thinking about concepts of Drama as well as their own behavior. Through text interpretation, ensemble work, movement, voice characterization, and problem solving, learn new techniques for combining these areas of the curriculum.

Who's the Bully?

Audience: Classroom teachers and arts educators of 1st-8th grade

Length: 3-6 hours

This workshop demonstrates a variety of advanced drama techniques to use with literature and conflict resolution curriculum, focusing on the theme of bullying. The students discuss the nature of a bully, and the role others play in supporting or stopping bully actions. Classroom teachers learn how to take a rich piece of literature and explore it through a variety of drama activities. Activities include partner and small group scene work, full class improvisation, using visual stimuli to enhance understanding, and building a full class drama through pantomime, improvisation, and rehearsed scenes. (The book *The Daydreamer* by Ian McEwan is recommended for purchase to accompany this workshop.)

Who's the Hero?

Audience: Classroom teachers and arts educators of 6th-9th grade

Length: 3-6 hours

Using the arts before engaging students in discussion, reflection, and reaction to bullying behaviors is a powerful addition to a character education program. This workshop provides a variety of beginning to advanced drama and other art techniques which focus attention on conflict, resolution, and bullying. Exploring the role of hero, bystander, instigator, and bully, participants learn how to engage students in experiencing each character type and about the role each plays in contributing to or resolving bullying activities. Visual image work, poetry, movement, and short improvisational scenes are included in the workshop. Participants will be encouraged to think of how they might expand or revise activities for use in their own classrooms.