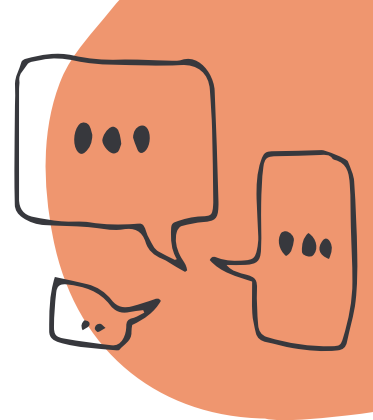


UNIT PLAN BRAINSTORM



Line, Please! (English Language Arts, Theater)

An adaptation doesn't always have to match its source material word-for-word. Challenge your students to adapt and act out a fairytale, minus the dialogue! Start by picking a fairytale that your whole class knows, or read one together, like *Cinderella* or *The Ugly Duckling*. Then, put it on its feet! First, name all of the characters in the story and have your students create physicalities for each one, letting them discover how each character moves and presents themselves. Then, zoom in on certain moments from the story, going from scene to scene, to create frozen tableaux for each plot point, introducing the idea of a stage picture and physical relationships. Finally, try to put the whole thing together using only miming and letting the movements drive the action of the story. Voilà, you've got a show! Perform your fairytale adaptation for another class at school and see if they can guess which tale it is without knowing any of the dialogue! For an extra challenge: choose a singular word as a class that you think embodies the essence of the fairytale and incorporate that word *and only that word* throughout your piece. Have fun saying this word in as many different ways as possible and letting it supplement your movements. Now, you've really let the story speak for itself!

To support this unit, use the [Sound Asleep Activity](#) in the Discover and Create section.

Moral of the Story (English Language Arts, Social Studies)

Fairytales aren't all magic and glamor; they also have very real lessons and morals to teach us. Use the themes in classic fairytale stories to inspire your own classroom's tenets or community agreements. First, have a classroom discussion about the fairytales your students know or your favorite books that you read aloud in class. For each one, unpack the lessons of the story and write them down somewhere visible, creating a list of potential community agreements for your classroom. For example, your class may be inspired by the idea of not judging someone by their appearance after reading *The Princess and the Pea*, which may inspire a classroom agreement to always assume the best in others. Each week, focus on one lesson that you want your students to remember, and together, brainstorm ways to embody this fairytale's moral in your community. Other agreements may be to always lead with honesty (inspired by *Pinnocchio*) or to treat everyone with equality and respect (inspired by *Mulan*). After you've reviewed all of the fairytale lessons, select your favorites to be community agreements for everyone in your classroom to follow. Write these agreements on chart paper and have your students decorate it with colors, stickers and anything that makes them feel joyful! Now, your class can reference your agreements all year long, working toward their own "happily ever after."

To support this unit, use the [Pea is for Ponder Creativity Page](#) in the Discover and Create section.

Clowning Around (Theater)

Time to get down to business... funny business! Explore the world of clowning with your students by playing with physical comedy and characterization! First, introduce the concept of a clown to your classroom by asking questions like: *Have you ever seen a clown? What makes them silly?* Explain that many clowns are larger than life and use exaggeration to find comedy. Have your class practice doing everyday activities in exaggerated ways—the more ridiculous and over-the-top, the better! They can play with their physicality, like the way they stand, walk or wave, and with their emotions, reacting in surprising and dramatic ways to regular events. With these elements under their belts, have each student brainstorm their very own clown character, picking a few characteristics that they explored earlier to be the basis of their clown's identity. Then, have them pick out an absurd outfit to accompany their new character, like wearing all their clothes backwards or a ball of yarn as a wig—bonus points if they craft it themselves! Finally, host a clown parade for another class so your students can show off their physical comedy skills, and make 'em laugh!

To support this unit, use the [Two Peas in a Pod Activity](#) in the Respond and Connect section.