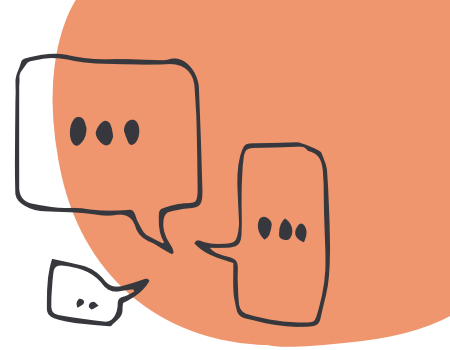


UNIT PLAN BRAINSTORMS




Puppet Party! (Theater, Visual Arts)

Time to dance your cares away! As a class, think of something you want to celebrate—maybe the end of the school year, a special holiday or an event at your school. Tell your class that to make the celebration even more special, you’re going to invite some very extraordinary friends to the party: homemade puppets! Create simple puppets from paper bags or popsicle sticks, decorating them with found objects in the classroom like googly eyes, markers, pom-poms or stickers. For more inspiration, use this [Make Your Own Puppet & Theater](#) sheet from *Jim Henson’s Family Hub* to learn how to create a simple sock puppet. Once your students have their puppets, start preparing the party with decorations and posters. Create a rocking playlist and prompt students to figure out how their puppets like to groove. Encourage everyone to bring food potluck-style for the party, for both the students and the puppets! Once you have the music, food and decor, all that’s left to do is party with your puppet friends. Have fun and rock on!



Old Toys, New Stories (Visual Arts, Social Studies)

Toys aren’t just for kids—even adults have their favorite toys! Prompt your students to connect with people in their community by learning more about toys and trends from the past. First, ask students to choose an adult in their life, such as a family member, teacher or neighbor, to interview. In their interview, students should ask: *What’s a toy you loved growing up? Why did you love it? What memories do you have with it?* As they interview, students should write, draw or voice-record responses. Note: If the adult doesn’t have a favorite toy, students could interview them about their favorite childhood cartoon or television show instead. Afterward, challenge each student to recreate their interviewee’s favorite toy using materials they have at home or in the classroom. One by one, ask students to share the childhood story of their community member along with the toy they made. To culminate, prompt each student to give their DIY toy to the person they interviewed as a reminder of their childhood joy.



One-Page Musical (Theater, English Language Arts, Music, Dance)

Turn one page of your favorite story into a musical! To start, choose your class’s favorite book. Read through it together and decide on just one page that has the most exciting plot point or action. Next, develop this page into a song and dance! Start by creating simple lyrics that describe the main action of the page or express the main character’s thoughts aloud. Turn these lyrics into a chorus by making the last words of each line rhyme and putting them to a catchy melody. You may want to use the melody of a popular song that your students already know, like “The Wheels on the Bus,” “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star” or a current favorite song. Afterward, identify the emotions of the song: *Is it happy or sad? Courageous? Worried?* Try out some gestures or poses that embody these emotions to physicalize them! Next, string all the gestures together to create a simple dance. Feel free to add in any fun dance moves that your class already knows. Now, put the whole thing together by singing the song and doing the dance at the same time. Afterward, reflect on how your one-page musical added to or changed the original story, and perform the song whenever you want to add some theatrical spirit to your classroom!