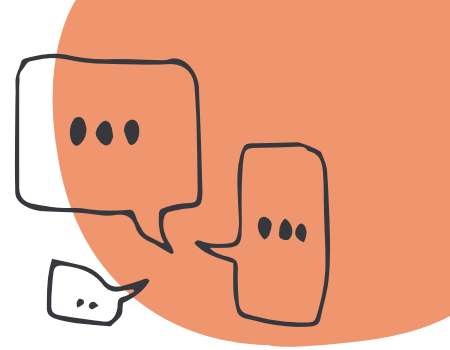


UNIT PLAN BRAINSTORMS



A Grimm Past (English Language Arts, History, Theater)

A girl in a red cape on her way to grandmother's house, a mischievous being who can spin straw into gold, a frog who transforms into a prince. These are all grim tales—the Brothers Grimm, that is! And these stories have been told time and again, in many different ways, for centuries. Tell your students that they will be setting off on an adventure: a research project centered around the brothers who put fairy tales on the map. Have them visit the library and work in small groups to discover more about the history of storytelling, folklore and, ultimately, how the Brothers Grimm became so well known. Guide them with prompts like: *How and where did their famous stories originate? In what ways, if any, did the stories change once the brothers collected them? When comparing and contrasting their stories, what do you notice about the different ways these stories have been told over time? How have their stories lasted all these centuries? How relevant are these stories in the 21st century?* After they've done their research, have each group present to the class—via creative storytelling, song, dance, etc.—a brief history of the Brothers Grimm or an adaptation of one of their famous fairy tales!

Unboxing a Jukebox Musical (English Language Arts, Music, Theater)

To make a musical, all you need is a compelling story and some music—and who says it can't be the music you listen to every day? With your class, select a well-known story and break the story into a couple bite-size scenes that you can bring to life. Assign your students to small groups, one group per scene. Ask each group to dissect their scene, discussing and writing down what emotions and conflicts are explored on a large piece of chart paper. Next, go song searching! Prompt each group to find a song that encapsulates one of the emotions they've written down. This may be a pop song, a beloved oldie or something from the radio. For example, if a character is feeling stressed, they may choose "Under Pressure" by Queen and David Bowie, or if they're feeling resilient they may pick "Stronger" by Kelly Clarkson. Next, ask them to stage their scene, incorporating their song. This may be through acting out the movements of the scene while their song plays or even including some lines from the original source material. If your students want, they can even lip sync or sing the lyrics aloud! To culminate, ask each group to present their scene in chronological order, and you've just made your very own jukebox musical!

Let's Devise Together! (English Language Arts, Theater)

Fairy tales are often rooted in folklore—stories carrying cultural significance that have been handed down from generation to generation. But what exactly makes a fairy tale a *fairy tale*? As a class, brainstorm the different parts that make up a captivating tale, like a fantastical setting, a loveable hero, a devious villain, plenty of magic and a moral lesson at the end. Then, work as an ensemble to devise a play, perhaps with musical elements, based on a text you're reading or have read in class. But you must adapt it into a fairy tale! As a class, or in small groups, choose and read a piece of literature—this could be a poem, short story or a full book. Over a period of time, have your students examine the text's themes (topics), plot (what happens), characters (who's in the story) and setting (where the story takes place), and then have your students collaborate to create an interactive experience based on their chosen text. **Hint:** *Remind students that they are free to use different art forms such as movement or music when creating their show.* Once they've devised and created their work of art, showcase it for family, faculty or another class!