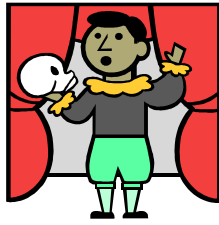


Rendezvous with the Renowned



Theme: Biography
Concept: Challenges

Grade Level: 4th & 5th

Time needed for lesson: (2) 45 minute

Overview: *Students will learn and use theatre skills to understand the challenges faced by historical figures.*

Objective: Students will research, analyze and portray historical figures.

Essential Question: In what ways can I connect to greatness?

Preparation for Lesson:

Using a variety of sources, students select famous individuals to research.

Lesson Activities:

1. Students learn basic theater techniques focusing on voice, body and imagination.
Example: Greeting by numbers: The class forms 2 lines that face each other. One side may only speak the numbers, "1, 2, 3, 4," the other side responds with "5, 6, 7, 8." The group is given different scenarios that will prompt the students to use a range of expression in their body and speech. Some possible examples would be: old people crossing the street in the rain; aliens meeting earthlings for the first time. Use your imagination.
2. Students select three items that best represent subject.
3. Students will have conversations with each other posing as their historical figure.

Extension of Lesson:

Students make a life sized puppet of their historical character. Based on their research, students choose a person with whom the historical figure had a relationship. A letter is written to the historical figure from that person's perspective.

Materials Needed: miscellaneous materials to create costumes

Vocabulary: biography, autobiography, portrait, projection, stance, body language, intonation, vocal quality, nuance, range, expression,

mannerism, gesture, names of historical figures and terms related to their time period

Benchmarks

Language Arts:

Students will analyze causes, motivations, sequences of events from qualities based on knowledge of plot, setting, appearance and research.

Students will make inferences and draw conclusions about characters. Develop and expand vocabulary.

Engage audience with words, facial expression and gesture.

Whole Child

Thinking/Cognition: making inferences, drawing conclusions, analyzing and researching

Feelings/Emotions: curiosity, excitement, confidence

Doing/Physical: speaking, gesturing, posing

Creating/Intuition: pretending, taking on a new persona

Assessment:

Student self assessment: (on a scale from 1 to 5)

1. Did I project my voice so that the whole class could hear me?
2. Was my voice expressive?
3. Did my body language reflect the character's personality?
4. Did I do enough research to understand my character?

