

Theme Skits

Sixth Grade ELA and Drama

CORE SUBJECT AREA

ELA

ART FORM + ELEMENTS

Drama
Skits

OBJECTIVES

1. TLW determine the theme of a story.
2. TLW perform a skit that represents the theme of their story.

MSCCR STANDARDS

RL.6.2: Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot; provide an objective summary the text.

RI.6.2: Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship ideas; provide an objective summary of the text.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Commonlit stories- www.commonlit.org

ReadWorks stories- www.readworks.org

NewsELA stories- www.newsela.org

LESSON SEQUENCE

TTW play a youtube video about how to find a theme in a story.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AXPbijjMnV8>

1. TTW review theme with the learners and how to find it in a story. TTW explain that sometimes a writer puts a theme into story to teach us a lesson.
2. TTW refer to her anchor chart on the board of many different common themes that are present in a lot of stories.
3. TTW then read a poem called “Mother to Son” by Langston Hughes with the learners and we will determine the theme of the story together.
4. TTW have the learners back up their responses with evidence from the text.

MSCCR CREATIVE ARTS STANDARDS

TH:Pr5.1.8: Practice various acting techniques to expand skills in a rehearsal or drama/theatre performance.

TH:Pr6.1.1: Perform a scripted drama/theatre work for a specific audience.

DURATION

One 1.5hr class

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. Several different small stories- many can be found in your literature books and/or different websites online.
2. Positive attitudes

VOCABULARY

Theme
Literature
Acting
Performance
Skit
Drama

5. TTW then break the learners into groups of 4. Each group will receive a different short story or poem that they will analyze. (You can choose any stories from Commonlit. They have tons on there that deal with theme.)
6. TTW explain that they are going to read the story and find the theme. Once they find the theme of the story and it is approved by the teacher, TLs will then complete a skit that demonstrates the theme of the story.
7. Before they begin the teacher will explain a few rules about acting in her class. We will discuss that it's okay to laugh but know when it's time to get serious then we all get serious.
8. TTW give pointers when acting such as make sure everyone faces the audience, project your voices, and speak clearly. Also make sure your emotions are dramatic because that's how everyone will know what you are talking about.
9. TTW demonstrate this last technique by being very dramatic with a few different emotions such as sad, happy, and mad. TTW then have the learners demonstrate their acting skills by doing the same thing.
10. TLs will then read their short stories or poems and determine the theme. They will tell the teacher what they think their theme. Once everyone has correctly identified their themes, they will have only 15 minutes to come up with a skit that represents the theme. Each skit should only be about 1-minute long.
11. After each group goes, the rest of the class will try to guess what their theme was.
12. Every group will go and once everyone has presented, TTW review them one more time with the learners.

EXTENDED LEARNING ACTIVITIES

You could have the learners create their own stories to familiar themes.

SOURCES

“Mother To Son” Poem by Langston Hughes- www.poetryfoundation.com/poems/47559/mother-to-son
www.commonlit.org
www.readworks.org
www.newsela.com

TIPS + FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Pick out your stories ahead of time.

Set your ground rules first so that everyone knows your expectations.

Have the learner practices their skits in different parts of the room to prevent crowding.

Don't be afraid to fail.