

Curriculum Title:

Vocabulary Use in Social Studies, Science, Math, and/or Language Arts

Arts Organization:

Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati

School:

Roselawn Condon Elementary School

Grade:

2nd and 3rd

Academic and Classroom Goals:

Language Arts, acquisition of vocabulary skills, ability to utilize new vocabulary words

Arts Content Goals:

To encourage new ways of thinking of new vocabulary words, and of expressing the definitions. And to be an aid to the teaching staff in these goals.

Overview:

Initially, the teaching artists will foster an atmosphere of safety for expression, by playing games that encourage self-expression and imagination. Next semester each of 3 classes will study the definitions of chosen vocabulary words and investigate movement and sound which will help them retain and apply the meanings, all activity culminating in a short play which uses the vocabulary words.

Research Question:

How can we use our imaginations to retain new vocabulary words and how can we use these new vocabulary words to enhance written and oral communication skills?

Brief Step by Step Art Integrated Activities including date/goals:

1/12 – We'll begin the new year by revisiting some of the games the children enjoyed most, and introduce the idea of creating a play using the vocabulary words that the teachers have chosen.

1/19 – We will begin the work of creating our play, by asking the classes for input into time, place, characters and situations for our play.

1/26 – Begin writing the play. Giving each child one of the vocabulary words, we will go around the class, asking each child to add a sentence to our story, using his or her particular vocabulary word.

2/2 – Once our play is completed, we will play some vocal games, in order to decide which children will play speaking roles in the play, and

which will be supporting cast members.

2/9 – Our cast list being complete, we will begin rehearsing our play. This will include blocking, working on lines, and creating the environment in which the play takes place.

2/16 – Continue rehearsals, working toward the goal of being able to perform the play without prompting

2/23 –Final rehearsal.

This session will culminate in a performance, though we are unsure as to the date. The performance will be for all the primary grades, and any parents who wish to attend.

Extended Activity Designed by Teaching Artist – Taught by Classroom Teacher

This entire term we are asking the teachers to reinforce the 20 vocabulary words they have chosen, as we are doing the same by incorporating them into our play. We are also asking the teachers to help us identify students who are willing to play speaking roles, and those who might be happier in crowd scenes or helping to “stage manage” the plays. We have already established a great rapport with most of the 6 teachers (2 teachers per class for us), and look very forward to allowing them to see how each other’s classes have used their imaginations to create different plays from the same set of words.

Field Research from Sources Outside the School:

Students attended the play SLEEPING BEAUTY at Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati. This play was about the many meanings of the word “beauty”. The classes will also perform their original plays for the rest of the school sometime in early March.

Assessment used for this Unit:

For this unit, the focus will be on learning the meanings of the specific vocabulary words chosen by the teachers (all classes will use the same 20 words.) We will focus on what the words mean, how they are used in context, and how to express them both verbally and physically within the structure of a play.

Reflections from Teaching Artist, Teachers, Students and Parents:

We have already seen many children “come out of their shells” as we have played our theatre games with them. Their imaginations are fertile ground from which to write plays. One of the classes is creating a play around a child being lost in the mountains and having to use her wits to find her way home. Very exciting and fun stuff! The children also seem very pleased to be responsible for creating their own play, as opposed to having a play given to them to do.

Authors (Teaching Artist and Teacher)

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Date:

1/24/05

Art Links Integrated Curriculum Unit

Curriculum Unit Form 8-27-04