

LESSON PLAN: INTO THE WOODS JR. EXERCISE

AGES: Elementary and Middle School

DESCRIPTION

Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of team work and the role cooperation in achieving life goals and how musical theater can communicate that message.

MATERIALS

- Script of Into the Woods Jr.
- Film of Broadway production

FULL LESSON PLAN

Open a discussion of working together and when students have worked together in the past.

Describe the setting and background of the story and what the Baker and his wife are trying to achieve. In addition, explain how the baker did not want his wife to help him and tried to do it alone.

Play the scene from the movie where the Baker does not want his wife to come along (after "Hello, Littel Girl") and then play the scene where they realize they need each other's help ("You've Changed").

Have the students read both scenes aloud to the class: scene #12 and 13, then 24 and 25. They can act them out if they like or just read them.

The students will then have a discussion in small groups as to the meaning behind the scenes and how it applies to life. They should try to come up with times in their lives when they have tried to go it alone, but either wanted help or ended up working with someone else.

They should also try to come up with situations in life and work life where they might use team work to achieve an end instead of working alone. Then discuss how theater can communicate and teach this idea to students.