

TYPES OF DRAMA – CHILDREN’S THEATRE

AGES: Elementary School, Middle School, High School

DESCRIPTION

Students will understand the structure, strategies and performance style of producing a show for children, but performed by adults.

FULL LESSON PLAN

TEACHING STRATEGIES:

Background on Children’s Theater, Theaterworks USA and school tours.

Elements of Children’s Theater.

Instructions for original children’s theater work.

Rehearsal time.

Performance.

Notes/Comments.

PROCEDURES:

Brief explanation to the class of what “children’s theater” is in terms of theater performed by adults for young audiences. Performance style and strategies that can be used to engage the audience include audience participation, breaking the fourth wall, and unique audience seating (in the round, $\frac{3}{4}$ round, etc). Examples of audience participation would be having audience members boo the Big Bad Wolf when he enters or have audience members play the house of bricks and sticks in the show. An example of breaking the fourth wall would be having the Big Bad Wolf ask the audience if they know where the three little pigs are. An example of unique seating would be having the audience sit on the ground in a circle

There does not need to be a written script, but the show should be rehearsed and not just purely improvised.

Students should be encouraged to use whatever props are on hand in class or to create simple accessories and masks for animal characters.

Ideally, this exercise works best when students have the remainder of class to prepare/rehearse and then return the next class period to perform their shows.