Story Ninjas! An Actor's approach to storytelling

Six Week Artist-in-Residency
With Bridget Palmer
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In Person Class Description:

Ignite your students' imagination and give them a "Yes…And…" attitude with evocative props and costumes that will have them jumping out of their seats and into the action, creating funny, fantastical, and poignant stories and adventures. In this exciting residency, students will collaborate, imagine and perform original narratives integrating grade appropriate English language arts standards. In accordance with the teacher's goals, specific conflicts or challenges can be woven into the play-making process, providing a rich opportunity for creative problem solving and collaboration around a specific theme. Younger students will present their stories in action and older students will write scripts and perform them.

Questions for Classroom Teachers Discussed at Planning Meeting:

Do you have any goals you want this residency to accomplish?

Areas or curriculum, life skills, etc.

How much emphasis shall we put on Costumes, if this is a Zoom residency?

Zoom Revision: We must accommodate challenges with planning & revising

How's it going with student self-directed work in Break Out Rooms? What can I expect?

Bridget's Residency Goals:

Students Deepen their understanding of the Elements of a Story

Beginning, Middle, End; 5 W's, Characters, Dialogue, Setting

Increase SEL Skills in Collaboration, Imagination, Listening, Self-Expression

Expand Self-Confidence in being Creative

Students Learn Acting FUNdaMENTALS -
Habits of Mind: Yes...And…, Expressive Body, Effective Voice, Imagination, Creative Collaboration, Order
Start to Think of Themselves as “Actors” v. “Spectators”

Residency Activities:
Imagination Exercises
Collaborative Storytelling
Students Practice Narrating as well as Acting
Students Practice Developing Story Details
Students Practice Creative Problem Solving

Expectations of Students:
Sitting or standing during residency
Cameras on, except when we ask them to be turned off
No eating
No doing other activities

Role of Classroom Teacher:
Manage Breakout Rooms
Help Solicit Student Answers, as needed
Help Foster Participation through clear expectations
Suggestion: Lead a brain break right before our Residency Session
Send Bridget a class roster, so she can be more familiar with student names
Choose: Assign Students to Groups or make Random Groups in Break Out Rooms- **If breakout rooms will not have an adult, please choose a student leader. It could be a different person on different days.**
Ensure students have their names visible in Zoom
Sometimes we’ll need Gallery View and Sometimes Speaker View for performing
Enable me to Sharescreen - I generally follow a Slide Show Presentation with Imagery

Lesson One: Story Elements
Beg-Mid-End, Plot, Characters

(5) Introduction to the Residency, Defining Some Terms
(6) Intro to Drama - Acting FUNdaMENTALS
(15) I Am a Tree Game
    Sample
    2 Breakout Rooms, Teacher & Bridget each facilitate a Room
(12) Word Association with Setting - Whole Class Activity
(15) Story Spine Game
    Sample
    2 Breakout Rooms, Teacher & Bridget each facilitate a Room
(5) Reflection

Lesson Two: Characters Physical/Mental Attributes

- **Ask students to bring a costume**

Lesson Three: Feelings
Lesson Four: Characters Costumes & Props

- **Ask students to bring a costume**

Lesson Five: Stories Help Us Resolve Problems
Lesson Six: Putting It Together - Final Creative Collaboration Projects