

TEACHERS ACTIVITIES

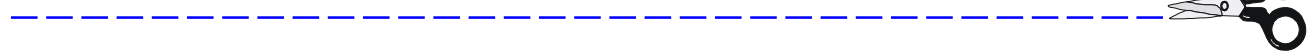


Theme:

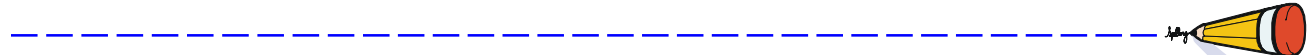
There is a great deal of personal satisfaction in performing, whether it's drama, comedy, music, or dance.

Topics For Discussion:

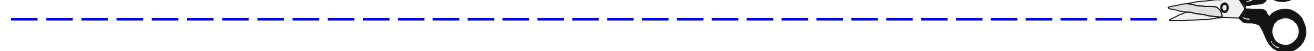
Invite students to share experiences of performing before an audience. How did they feel before, during, and after the performance?



Discuss ways in which students have made someone who was sad or not well feel better.



Ask students if anyone has attended a play or musical. Have them describe the atmosphere. What was it like to wait for the curtain to go up? Was there more than one act? What happened at the end of the performance?



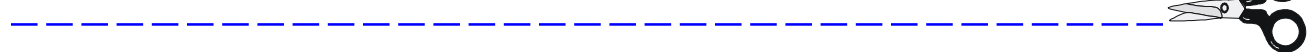
Aunts and uncles are often special people in the lives of children. Invite students to share stories about favorite aunts and uncles.

Curriculum Extension Activities:

Make a request from school staff and students' families for playbills or programs from plays or musicals they have attended. Allow students to examine the playbills and discuss the kinds of information that appears on these types of programs.

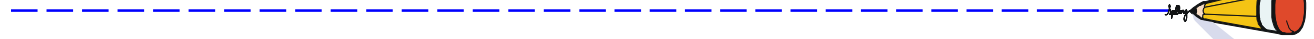


If possible, take a field trip to a community theater. Have someone explain tryouts and rehearsals, and take the class on a tour backstage to see the wings, lights, curtains, etc.



There are some allusions in the stories to oldtime theater (e.g., The Ziegfeld Follies). Enlist the aid of the school library media specialist in researching vaudeville and locating some video film clips of early theatrical performers.

Have small groups of students select a familiar story to perform. Keep props, sets, and costumes simple. Each group is responsible for adapting its story and selecting characters for each part. Have each group make a playbill on a large piece of paper to display in the classroom, announcing the date and time of its performance.



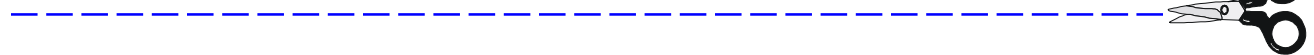
Invite a dance instructor to demonstrate the rhumba, cha-cha, and Charleston, the dances Aunt Lena taught Sophie. Push the desks back and have students try the dances.



Brainstorm lists of favorite entertainers, including actors (male and female, movie and television), singers, dancers, etc. (This is a good opportunity to discuss how friends may have different preferences in entertainment.) Reduce each list to about five or six names and have students conduct a survey of favorites among other classrooms in the school. Graph the results and display the graphs in an area where everyone who participated in the survey can see them.



Have students set a favorite story to song. Brainstorm a list of songs that have very familiar tunes (e.g., "Mary Had a Little Lamb;" "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star;" "On Top of Old Smoky;" "Row, Row, Row Your Boat;" and others). Working in small groups, have students sing a story to one of these tunes. (Here's an example to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb": Baby Bear lost his chair, lost his chair, lost his chair. Baby Bear lost his chair when Goldilocks sat in it. Goldilocks ate the porridge, ate the porridge, ate the porridge. Goldilocks ate the porridge; now Baby Bear has none. Goldilocks fell asleep, fell asleep, fell asleep. Goldilocks fell asleep; the bears scared her away.)



When LeVar is trying to decide which show to see, he reads what others have said about the shows and finds superlatives such as, "Thrilling" and "Smash Hit." Have students think of other words that have similar meanings (e.g., "magnificent," "stupendous," "awesome," etc.). Write these words on paper "word bubbles" and place them on the classroom walls. Encourage students to use these words when paying compliments to each other for actions or work they've done.

Obtain some recordings of Broadway show tunes and play them for the students. Which songs do they recognize? Discuss why they think people enjoy this type of music. Have students choose one or two they would like to learn. Have the music teacher help teach the songs.

Supplemental Books:

SONG AND DANCE MAN

by Karen Ackerman, illus. by Stephen Gammell (Knopf)

AUNT NINA'S VISIT

by Franz Brandenburg, illus. by Aiki (Greenwillow)

ARTHUR'S THANKSGIVING

by Marc Brown (Little Brown)

LOUANNE PIG IN THE TALENT SHOW

by Nancy L. Carlson (Carolrhoda)

THE ALMOST AWFUL PLAY

by Patricia Reilly Giff, illus. by Susanna Natti (Puffin)

SHOW TIME AT THE POLK STREET SCHOOL: PLAYS YOU CAN DO YOURSELF
OR IN THE CLASSROOM

by Patricia Reilly Giff, illus. by Blanche Sims (Delacorte)

AN ACTOR

by M. B. Goffstein (HarperCollins)

GRANDPA'S FACE

by Eloise Greenfield, illus. by Floyd Cooper (Philomel)

LILI ON STAGE

by Rachel Isadora (Putnam)

THE BUNNY PLAY
by Loreen Leedy (Holiday House)

SPEAK UP, BLANCHE
by Emily Arnold McCully (HarperCollins)

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