

LESSON 4

LEARNING PURPOSE:

Explore how to use outdoor environments to enhance story telling.

• Use critical thinking to creatively express sections of a story.

• Consider staging techniques outside the classroom.

• Engage the audience with the outdoors through storytelling.

NSW CURRICULUM LINKS

English

EN3 1A Communicates effectively for a variety of audiences and purposes using increasingly challenging topics, ideas, issues and language forms and features.

EN3 7C Thinks imaginatively, creatively, interpretively and critically about information and ideas and identifies connections between texts when responding to and composing texts.

Creative Arts – Drama

DRAS3.2 Interprets and conveys dramatic meaning by using the elements of drama and a range of movement and voice skills in a variety of drama forms.

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

- Copies of each section of your chosen story for the members of each group within the class.
- A range of resources that could be used to develop the scenes or used as props (optional)
- Ideas and images of outdoor theatres

KEY LEARNING INTENTION

We are exploring how to use outdoor environments to enhance story telling.

Critical Thinking - creatively express sections of a story

- What perspective will the story be told from?
- Where do we want to be when we tell this story?

Plan - Consider staging techniques outside the classroom

- How does a chosen space create the atmosphere for the story?
- What props, sound techniques, position of the storytellers/actor can be used in this space?

Engage - Use the outdoor environment to help tell the story

- How will this choice of space engage the audience with the outdoors?

FURTHER RESOURCES AND USEFUL WEBSITES

For teachers – Designing Spaces and outdoor storytelling

- http://tw.rpi.edu/media/2016/03/08/14af0/Designing_StoryRooms-3A_Interactive_Storytelling_Spaces_for_Children.pdf
- <http://www.pentagonplay.co.uk/news-and-info/the-wonders-of-outdoor-reading-areas-for-school-children>
- <http://creativestartlearning.co.uk/c/literacy-outdoors/>

Images for students

- google - images, outdoor performance spaces
- www.natureplay.org.au

INTRODUCTION

Creating a storytelling trail around school grounds helps to engage the audience with our immediate outdoor environment.

Staging techniques and the use of an outdoor performance space can create an atmosphere that enhances story telling. It promotes a playful environment that inspires imagination. Story telling outside provides opportunities to improve audience engagement through movement, and allows the audience to observe the story from a different perspective.

PREPARATION:

ACTIVITY 1: WHOLE CLASS WORK

Analyse

- Select a suitable story with the children or use one you have already been reading in class.
- Consider important parts of the story that you could divide into sections (for example, think about 'cliff hanger' points, section of narrative points, changes of scene points).
- Divide the story into these sections, and share amongst groups of children
- Ask the groups of children to perform these around different areas of the school grounds.

ACTIVITY 2: SMALL GROUP WORK

Present

- Go on a playground/outdoor school environment walk to consider spaces that could be used as a performance.
- Practise presenting the story, considering the use of space around them and sequence of their section.

ACTIVITY 3: WHOLE GROUP PERFORMANCE

Perform

- Take the class (and invited audience) on the story trail to watch and engage with the whole story.
- Reflect on success of the performances and think about how the outdoor space impacted this e.g. audience engagement, space, outdoor props.

ACTIVITY 4: MORE CHALLENGING SMALL GROUP WORK

Create

- Ask the children to write their own story or develop their own versions of well-known tales such as The Three Little Pigs, Little Red Riding Hood or Hansel and Gretel
- Use these stories to prepare their own story trail.

GOING BEYOND:

- Develop short stories such as nursery rhymes to perform around the school environment for younger children.
- Use outdoor spaces to recount excursions or share news from home.

YOUR NOTES: USE THIS SPACE TO ADJUST PLANS OR EVALUATE THE ACTIVITY.

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