



OKANOGAN REGION ARTS EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

ARTIST PROFILE

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Drama
All Districts

Preferred Age/Grade Level: Appropriate for all elementary-High School ages. Early readers will use a very simple text and see how to expand the story into dramatic form.

Possible Curricular Ties: The most obvious ties are in Reading, History, Applied Art, Literature, and Public Speaking, but I have also used this to incorporate Math and Science concepts.

Residency Suggestions:

Reader's Theatre: We will create our own script from an age appropriate book or use standard scripts designed for RT, assign parts and practice reading aloud while portraying a character. Sound effects and hand props will be created. Masks may be an option; we might design and create masks for the characters to enhance pantomime skills. Analysis will include a study of the plot and theme of the text, how to edit a book to get to the essence of the action, and vocal and physical techniques to facilitate expression and characterization. The culmination of the project might include a performance tailored to the specific situation.

Learning Dramatic Skills Through Improvisation: As an alternative to the Reader's Theatre concept or as an additional preparation tool in the context of RT, this unit will focus more attention on development of creative innovation and personal expression. Improvisation teaches students how to think creatively on their feet. It is process driven rather than result-oriented, and fosters a non-threatening and fun environment for students to learn public speaking and performance skills. This project might culminate in a performance, engaging the audience to participate in an improvisation challenge.

Supplies, Equipment, Space and Time Considerations: This class requires an open space; with desks or tables shoved aside and chairs placed in a circle; a normal classroom should suffice. No special supplies are required unless mask making or props creation requires card stock paper and glue and scissors. *Side Note on scheduling:* I am employed 25 hours a week so I have only mornings available on some days.

Teaching Experience: I have a Master's Degree in Theatre Arts and have taught many workshops over my 40 year involvement with community theatre. I have served as director and designer of 19 Broadway style musicals and numerous plays in Omak and Chelan since 1985. I am a librarian with North Central Regional Libraries and work with students every day to assist them with literacy skills. The most recent residency I taught was for a group of 7th-8th grade students in Pateros. Over four separate meetings I lectured and taught improvisation for development of physical expression, Reader's Theatre for development of vocal expression, creation of masks involving character analysis and finally, an in class performance of the scripts.

Artist's Statement:

Imaginative play is at the core of performing a dramatic PLAY; children of all ages haven't forgotten how to do that! Dramatic study helps students relate to society, understand why people behave in certain ways, gain confidence in physical expression and express thoughts creatively.