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## Theatre and Art Club Lesson Plans

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# Lesson 1: Intro to Theatre and Art

*Kindergarten-5th Grade (10-15 participants)*

## GENERAL INFORMATION

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Content Areas</b>                    | 1. Arts (Visual, Music, Theatre, and Performance)   |
| <b>Learning Objectives and Outcomes</b> | 1. Learn the Expectations and Purpose of the Club<br>2. Get to know club members and instructors<br>3. Introduce Theatre Activities |
| <b>Activities</b>                       | 1. Name Cards<br>2. Get to Know You Chair Game<br>3. Theatre Games  |
| <b>Outputs and Final Products</b>       | 1. Meet and learn the names of all club members<br>2. Introduce the club to theatre   |

## LESSON PLAN

### ACTIVITY 1-NAME CARDS (15 minutes)

**Purpose:** Get to know everyone's names and learn a little about them

**Supplies:** Markers and Construction Paper

1. Have students fold a paper in half and write their name on both sides
2. Students can decorate their name card however they want
3. Have everyone introduce their name and a fun fact about themselves

**Tips/Tricks:** Make a few examples (including one for each instructor)

### LESSON 1-RULES AND ABOUT THE CLUB (8 minutes)

**Purpose:** Establish classroom rules and introduce what the club

**Supplies:** N/A

1. Ask the participants what their ideas are for classroom rules
2. After the members have shared theirs, present the rules you have created



3. Share club overview and what you will be doing in the coming weeks

**Tips/Tricks:** Keep participants engaged with time for questions/input while speaking

## ACTIVITY 2-GET TO KNOW YOU CHAIR GAME (15 minutes)

**Purpose:** Learn more about club participants and foster a welcoming environment

**Supplies:** Either chairs or paper

1. Have participants form a circle and use chairs or paper to symbolize each 'spot'
2. 1 participant will start in the middle
  - a. They will share one thing about themselves that they think others may have in common by saying "calling anyone who [fact about themselves]"
  - b. This 'fact' can be something physical (blue shirt) or abstract (loves cats)
3. Anyone who shares the same fact (including the participant in the middle) will leave their spot in search of a spot that has just opened up
4. The last participant standing will be the next person in the middle

**Tips/Tricks:** Watch [Chair Swap Game Video](#) and [Kids Play Chair Game](#) for additional instructions. It is not identical, but very similar to what we are doing.

## ACTIVITY 3-THEATRE GAMES- ZIP ZAP ZOP (15 minutes)

**Purpose:** Introduce participants to theatre

**Supplies:** N/A

1. Play ZIP ZAP ZOP
  - a. Participants form a circle and choose someone to start
  - b. The chosen person will put their hands together, say ZIP, and point at another participant
    - i. The participant who was pointed at will put their hands together, say ZAP, and point to another participant
    - ii. The participant who was pointed at will put their hands together, say ZOP, and point to another participant
  - c. Step b is repeated infinitely, progressively becoming faster, until someone makes a mistake (says the wrong word or takes too long to respond)
2. Charades
  - a. Choose a student to be the actor and let them pick an animal
  - b. Have them act out the animal without using words
  - c. Other students will take turns guessing the animal until someone guesses correctly

**Tips/Tricks:** Share Zip Zap Zop is a common theatre warm up game. Watch [ZIP ZAP ZOP Video](#) for visual instructions. For Charades, make sure to have students raise their hands to guess so that participants are not screaming and there is a clear winner

# Lesson 2: Creating a Story

*Kindergarten-5th Grade (10-15 participants)*

## GENERAL INFORMATION

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Content Areas</b>                    | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Arts (Visual, Music, Theatre, and Performance)</li><li>2. Literacy</li></ol>  |
| <b>Learning Objectives and Outcomes</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Learn the main part of a story (character, setting plot)</li><li>2. Collaborate with a group</li><li>3. Create a script</li></ol> |
| <b>Activities</b>                       | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Character, Plot, and Setting Activity</li><li>2. Birds Video Discussion</li><li>3. Script Writing</li></ol>                       |
| <b>Outputs and Final Products</b>       | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A script to use for the next 2 lessons</li><li>2. Teamwork skills</li></ol>   |

## LESSON PLAN

### ACTIVITY 1: CHARACTER, PLOT, AND, SETTING (30 minutes)

**Purpose:** Learn about character, plot, and setting and brainstorm for their stories

**Supplies:** Markers and Paper

1. Have the member chose groups of 2-3 people to work with for the next 3 weeks
2. Pass out construction paper and markers
3. Have the group divide their paper into 3 sections and label them characters, setting, and plot
4. Have a discussion about what a character is and have groups write down ideas for their play in the character box. Here are some questions:
  - a. What types of characters?
  - b. What are they going to look like?
  - c. How many?
  - d. Names?
  - e. Will you be able to make them next week as finger puppets?
5. Have a discussion about what setting is and have groups write down ideas for their play in the setting box. Here are some questions:

- a. Where is the play going to be located? Beach, city, inside, outside etc...
  - b. What types of things are you going to need to make to set this up?
6. Have a discussion about what plot is and have groups write down ideas for their play in the plot box. Here are some questions:
  - a. What is going to happen in your play? Beach day with family, making friends.
  - b. What is the big problem? One person may get lost, characters have a disagreement.
  - c. How is the problem going to be solved?
  - d. How will each character be involved?
  - e. How is the story going to start and end?
  - f. How are the characters going to communicate? With each other or do they think in their head?

**Tips/Tricks:** Make sure that everyone gets involved and has their ideas written down

## DISCUSSION: FOR THE BIRDS VIDEO (15 minutes)

**Purpose:** Discuss an example of characters, setting, and plot

**Supplies:** Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WjoDEQyTig>

1. Watch the video
2. Discuss examples of characters, settings, and plot that the members saw

**Tips/Tricks:** If you have multiple club leaders it's effective to discuss in small groups

## ACTIVITY 2-WRITE A SCRIPT (30 minutes)

**Purpose:** Learn about script formatting and create a 2-5 minute play

**Supplies:** paper and pencils

1. Write a couple sentences on board showing start of a script
  - a. show dialogue and how to set it up
2. Have groups start creating their scripts
3. Tell them to start thinking about who is going to create what characters next week.

**Tips/Tricks:** Kids who can't write well yet can use picture scripts instead of words

# Lesson 3: Setting the Scene

Kindergarten-5th Grade (10-20 participants)

## GENERAL INFORMATION

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Content Areas</b>                    | 1. Arts (Visual, Music, Theatre, and Performance)   |
| <b>Learning Objectives and Outcomes</b> | 1. Create/design a character<br>2. Use measurements and tools<br>3. Plan and Collaborate with a Group |
| <b>Activities</b>                       | 1. Make Puppets<br>2. Create a Backdrop   |
| <b>Outputs and Final Products</b>       | 1. Create a backdrop and puppets for performance  |

## LESSON PLAN

### ACTIVITY 1-Finger Puppets (50 minutes)

**Purpose:** Make characters based on scripts written last week

**Supplies:** Felt, google eyes, hot glue, markers, scissors, yarn, buttons

1. Choose your character and cut out character pieces
  - a. Body (front and back the same)
  - b. Other parts: ears, muzzle, nose, eyes, hair, teeth, tummy, ect
2. Hot glue the front and back together on 3 sides (leave the bottom open for your finger)
3. Glue on other parts and add finishing touches: yarn, eyes, markers, buttons, ect.

**Tips/Tricks:** Make a few examples so that the kids know what to do



### ACTIVITY 2-Backdrops (20 minutes)

**Purpose:** Make the setting based on scripts written last week

**Supplies:** large papers, markers

1. Create settings from last week with large pieces of paper and markers

**Tips/Tricks:** Make sure to have them think about details (What is in a forest besides trees?)

# Lesson 4: Performance

*Kindergarten-5th Grade (10-15 participants)*

## GENERAL INFORMATION

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Content Areas</b>                    | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Arts (Visual, Music, Theatre, and Performance)</li><li>2. Literacy</li></ol>  |
| <b>Learning Objectives and Outcomes</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Write and read a script</li><li>2. Communication and public speaking</li><li>3. Plan and collaborate with a group</li></ol> |
| <b>Activities</b>                       | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Practice Puppet Shows</li><li>2. Perform Puppet Shows</li></ol>   |
| <b>Outputs and Final Products</b>       | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Each group performs a 2-5 minute puppet show for the club</li></ol>   |

## LESSON PLAN

### ACTIVITY 1-Practice Puppet Shows (40 minutes)

**Purpose:** This is time for groups to work on anything they want to finish up from previous weeks and practice their performance before presenting in front of the club.

**Supplies:** Groups will need the puppets, backdrop, outline, and script from previous weeks. Any supplies listed in previous lesson plans would be useful for this week.

1. Lay out supplies from previous weeks. Groups can grab what they need during the day.
2. Tell the members that this is work time to practice their performance and finish anything they still have to do from previous weeks. This includes:
  - a. Week 2: Script
  - b. Week 3: Puppets and backdrops
3. Give them about 45 minutes to finish up

**Tips/Tricks:** It is also a great time to help members who may have missed a week catch up. Make sure to keep groups moving and give them time checks so they get done by the deadline.

## ACTIVITY 2-Perform (20 minutes)

**Purpose:** Members will perform their puppet shows

**Supplies:** Table, sheet, tape, group work (backdrop, puppets, script)

1. Set up the puppet show
  - a. Bring a table to the front of the room so that there is enough room between it and the wall that the groups can sit behind the table (about 2 ft.)
  - b. Lay a sheet over the table to hid the students while presenting
  - c. As each group goes, you will tape their backdrop to the wall behind the table
2. Decide on a performance order
3. Go over performance etiquette: Listen attentively, be kind and clap after each performance
4. Start the performances:
  - a. 1st group goes behind the table and positions themselves and their puppets
  - b. When they are ready, they give their performance and everyone listens
  - c. This repeats with each group until every group has gone

**Tips/Tricks:** Emphasize how hard every group has worked. Remember to clap and share something you liked about each performer.





# Lesson 5: Improv Acting

*Kindergarten-5th Grade (10-20 participants)*

## GENERAL INFORMATION

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Content Areas</b>                    | 1. Arts (Visual, Music, Theatre, and Performance)  |
| <b>Learning Objectives and Outcomes</b> | 1. Learn the basics of improv<br>2. Teamwork<br>3. Learn how to become various characters<br>4. Communication and public speaking skills |
| <b>Activities</b>                       | 1. Cross the Street Activity<br>2. Improv Lesson<br>3. Improvise with Props Activity   |
| <b>Outputs and Final Products</b>       | 1. Learn basic acting and improv skills  |

## LESSON PLAN

### ACTIVITY 1-Cross the Street Activity (15)

**Purpose:** Introduce the theme of the day and warms everyone up to creating characters they can use in other activities throughout the day

**Supplies:** N/A

1. The students on one side of the room.
2. The leader says “Cross the street as \_\_\_\_.” (monkey, someone in the rain, someone famous, a mime, ect)
3. The students walk across the room acting like the person/thing described

**Tips/Tricks:** Great activity for students who don’t want to act alone

### Lesson 1- Improv Basics (10 minutes)

**Purpose:** Members will learn what improv means and how they can use it when acting

**Supplies:** N/A

- Tips/Tricks:** Be excited about the content and emphasize why it is fun and important to learn

**Purpose:** Members will use props to create a short skit in pairs

1. Split members into groups of two or three
2. When it is their turn have them go to the front and pick out a prop randomly
3. Give them 2 minutes to improvise a skit using the prop and perform

[illegible]

# Lesson 6: Pom-Pom Characters

*Kindergarten-5th Grade (10-20 participants)*

## GENERAL INFORMATION

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Content Areas</b>                    | 1. Arts (Visual, Music, Theatre, and Performance)                            |
| <b>Learning Objectives and Outcomes</b> | 1. Learn about character development<br>2. Follow Steps<br>3. Work with yarn |
| <b>Activities</b>                       | 1. Create a pom-pom character  |
| <b>Outputs and Final Products</b>       | 1. Pom-Pom Character to take home<br>2. Learn about character creation       |

## LESSON PLAN

### ACTIVITY 1-Create a Pom-Pom Character (60 minutes)

**Purpose:** Create a character

**Supplies:** Yarn, google eyes, cardboard, scissors, pipe cleaners,

1. Before the club make a pom-pom maker for each person (see visuals in slides pdf):
  - a. Cut out 5 inch by 3 inch rectangles and cut a 4 inch slit in the middle
2. Tell the students to come up with a character (size, color, happy/scary, name)
3. Make the pom-poms (See slides pdf for picture)
  - a. Wrap yarn around pom-pom maker (1 inch thick and 2-½ inches wide)
  - b. Tie a piece of yarn tightly around the middle and cut the yarn loops in half
  - c. Slide the pom-pom off the pom-pom maker
4. Decorate pom-poms with googly eyes, pipe cleaners, paper and more
5. Have participants introduce their pom-pom character to the club



**Tips/Tricks:** You may need to help the younger ones with cutting and tying the yarn

# Lesson 7: Paper Plate Masks

*Kindergarten-5th Grade (10-15 participants)*

## GENERAL INFORMATION

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Content Areas</b>                    | 1. Arts (Visual, Music, Theatre, and Performance)                  |
| <b>Learning Objectives and Outcomes</b> | 1. Build off of last week's discussion on character development    |
| <b>Activities</b>                       | 1. Create paper plate masks  |
| <b>Outputs and Final Products</b>       | 1. Character development skills and a prop to make their own plays |

## LESSON PLAN

### ACTIVITY 1-Paper Plate Masks (60 minutes)

**Purpose:** Learn about character development and prop making

**Supplies:** Markers, tape, paper plates

1. Tell the students to come up with a character (animals, super hero, alien, monster)
  - a. What does it look like? (scary, happy, fluffy, funny, ect.)
2. Make masks (See slides pdf for picture)
  - a. Draw the pattern onto the plate and cut it out
3. Decorate masks with markers and tape it together. Glue on popsicle stick to bottom
4. Have participants act out their character with a partner

**Tips/Tricks:** Make a few examples



# Lesson 8: Theatre and Emotion

*Kindergarten-5th Grade (10-15 participants)*

## GENERAL INFORMATION

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Content Areas</b>                    | 1. Arts (Visual, Music, Theatre, and Performance)                         |
| <b>Learning Objectives and Outcomes</b> | 1. Learning about and applying acting techniques                          |
| <b>Activities</b>                       | 1. Mirroring Game<br>2. Continuing Emotions<br>3. What Are You Doing Game |
| <b>Outputs and Final Products</b>       | 1. Know different acting techniques and using them                        |

## LESSON PLAN

### ACTIVITY 1- Mirroring Game (15 minutes)

**Purpose:** Analyze another's emotions/actions and act them out.

**Supplies:** N/A

1. Have students get into partners
2. Decide who is partner A and who is partner B
3. Have each student take a turn mirroring the other, whatever one student does the other must copy. Start by having student B mirror student A
4. Switch so now student A mirrors student B.
5. Have a discussion about if it was difficult, which part was the most difficult for the students.

**Tips/Tricks:** Here is the website with more information:

<https://www.dramanotebook.com/drama-games/mirror/>

## ACTIVITY 2- Emotions Game (15 minutes)

**Purpose:** To express emotions within acting.

**Supplies:** N/A

1. Have students get into a circle with one student in the middle.
2. Tell the students a situation that they are going to act out, such as brushing your teeth.
3. Have the students on the outside of the circle call out an emotion, such as happiness.
4. The student in the middle will act out that situation you have given with the emotion the student on the outside just called out. In this case they will happily brush their teeth.
5. Have the student in the middle act out the situation you gave with three different emotions decided by the students on the outside of the circle.
6. Continue until every student has had the chance to be in the middle of the circle.

**Tips/Tricks:** Here is the website with more information:

<https://www.dramanotebook.com/drama-games/continuing-emotions/>

## ACTIVITY 3- What Are You Doing Game (15 minutes)

**Purpose:** Act out a situation.

**Supplies:** N/A

1. Start by giving one student a situation, such as checking out at the grocery store.
2. Have another student ask the first student acting out the scene “What are you doing?”
3. Student one will make up another situation that is not what they are acting out, so in this case they could say they are walking their dog or anything besides brushing their teeth.
4. Then student two will start acting out the situation they were just told, in this instance they will start acting like they are walking their dog.
5. Continue until all the students are acting out their own situation.

**Tips/Tricks:** Here is the website with more information:

<https://www.dramanotebook.com/drama-games/what-are-you-doing/>

# Lesson 9: Script and Story

*Kindergarten-5th Grade (10-15 participants)*

## GENERAL INFORMATION

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Content Areas</b>                    | 1. Arts (Visual, Music, Theatre, and Performance)<br>2. Literacy |
| <b>Learning Objectives and Outcomes</b> | 1. Performance<br>2. Learn parts of a story                      |
| <b>Activities</b>                       | 1. Act out Scripts<br>2. Make a Pop-Up Book                      |
| <b>Outputs and Final Products</b>       | 1. Story book and writing skills                                 |

## LESSON PLAN

### ACTIVITY 1-Act out Scripts (40 minutes)

**Purpose:** Practice acting and introduce the elements of a story

**Supplies:** Any scripts (mine are from Readers Theatre)

1. Give each group of 2-3 a script and 10 minutes to practice
2. Let each group present in front of the club

**Tips/Tricks:** Give students a choice of which script to use

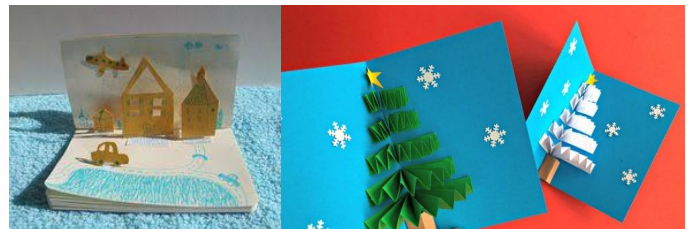
### ACTIVITY 1-Act out Scripts (20 minutes)

**Purpose:** Practice using all parts of a story

**Supplies:** Markers, paper, staples, stick glue

1. Ask the club what part they need in the story (plot, characters, problem, solution, ect.)
2. Each student can make a pop-up book of their own

**Tips/Tricks:** show some easy ways to make pop up decorations



# Lesson 10: Origami and Crochet

*Kindergarten-5th Grade (10-15 participants)*

## GENERAL INFORMATION

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Content Areas</b>                    | 1. Arts (Visual, Music, Theatre, and Performance)   |
| <b>Learning Objectives and Outcomes</b> | 1. Learning simple origami<br>2. Crochet  |
| <b>Activities</b>                       | 1. Making origami fish, dogs, and butterflies<br>2. Making crochet bookmarks, necklaces, bracelets, and keychains                 |
| <b>Outputs and Final Products</b>       | 1. Have origami animals<br>2. Know basic origami<br>3. Have a keychain, necklace, and bookmark to take<br>4. Learn how to crochet |

## LESSON PLAN

### ACTIVITY 1- Origami (30 minutes)

**Purpose:** To learn to make simple origami figures

**Supplies:** Markers and Square Paper

**Videos:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ipsFC\\_GM9oc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ipsFC_GM9oc) -Fish

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZdO2e8K29o> -Butterfly

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dD4Gv3s3QH8> -Dog

1. Follow the instructions on the video
2. Show the video to the kids going step by step and pause after each step



3. Demonstrate with your own paper the step in the video
4. Give children a minute to attempt
5. Check their work and help if needed
6. Continue until the origami animal is complete
7. Have children color them if they would like

**Tips/Tricks:** Make a few examples and after each step check and see if each child completed the step correctly.

## ACTIVITY 2- Crochet Using the Chain Stitch ( 30 minutes)

**Purpose:** Learn a basic chain crochet stitch

**Supplies:** yarn, crochet hooks, yarn needles, beads

1. Show this video and stop at 3:35:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAxGTnVNJiE&list=PLu8-BXDggCu8z0bJ1dBiEG5t5oLIJz6A3>
2. Tie a slip knot for each person and start their crochet string for them
3. Go around and help each student get the hang of crocheting
4. As they crochet, they can attach a yarn needle to the end of their yarn and string beads onto their project.
5. Once their project is complete they can tie it in a circle (necklace or bracelet) or tie it in a line (bookmark or keychain)

**Tips/Tricks:** Here is the video to play. It is easier to explain to each individual student than to a big group. The younger ones (K and 1st grade) just strung beads on because the crochet was too complex for them, but the older ones were doing fairly well with crochet.

