

SHORT THEATRE LESSON PLANS

Fairy Tales: The beauty of fairy tales is there are so many to choose from. Little Red Riding Hood, Hansel and Gretel, Goldilocks and the Three Bears are only a small sample of them. Let the students contribute names as well. Let the kids pick out a fairy tale. Break them up into groups and assign each child a character. Add characters if necessary so that all children have a role. One character in each group will be the narrator. As the narrator tells the story, the characters will act it out for the rest of the students. The teacher (and, eventually, the students) will say FREEZE during the story, and the narrator has to tag one of the characters, and take their place. The child who was tagged then becomes the narrator.

Fairy Tales, another option: Pick out a specific fairy tale for the students. In this case, Cinderella will be the story of choice. It has several roles so many kids can have parts. As the narrator tells the story and the kids act it out, keep yelling FREEZE during the story. Then have the characters make different choices from the current action they are doing or have them say something different than what they just said. This changes the course of the fairy tale. Having the fairy tale have a different ending really lets the students explore their imagination and teaches them creativity.

A fairy tale unit can last one day or several depending on needs of the classes.

News Show: Cast the students as different parts of a News Team: Anchor, Sports, Weather, Traffic, Camera people, Director, etc. Have them write and perform their own news show. If the school has the capability, tape the performance. This activity lets the kids work on their writing, creativity, and on camera work.

Puppet Shows: Give all the kids puppets. Have them write and perform their own puppet show. Make sure they get creative. Since there is no "reality" with puppets help them come up with some interesting ideas – an alligator puppet talking to an astronaut, a faraway location, etc.