

Who's Story is It Anyway?

Students will use improvisational games and techniques as an in-road to storytelling to create original texts. Exploring clear ideas and details, students will imagine and write short stories with emphasis on sequence and development. This residency may be tailored to integrate language arts, history, science, or social studies concepts and standards.

Curriculum Standards

(Grades 9–10) Writing Standard 3

Students will write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

(Grades 9–12) Theatre Standard 1.0 Script Writing

Students will write scripts through improvising, drafting, and refining scripts based on experience and heritage, imagination, literature and history.

(Grades 9–12) Theatre Standard 2.0 Character Acting

Students will act by developing, communicating, and sustaining characters in improvisations and in informal or formal productions

Procedures for delivering instruction:

Jerry Bowman will lead students through a series of improvisational games and exercises which emphasize the concepts of listening, cooperation, sequencing and story development. Jerry will shift from teacher centered activity (explanation and modeling of improvisational concepts) to student-centered activities (coaching and feedback as students perform scenes improvised scenes in small groups). Students will brainstorm ideas using improvisational games including, but not limited to 'What comes next?'. Students will write short stories or scripts based on their improvisational studies. This lesson may integrate another content area which may include research or other materials as specified by collaborating teacher.

Materials:

Jerry will provide any materials needed for improvisational games. Jerry will provide a flip chart & masking tape for brainstorming/narrative writing sessions. Collaborating teacher should provide any additional materials for integration (interactive boards, technology, photographs, complex texts etc.)

Length of lesson:

Lessons may range in length from 45 minutes to 85 minutes, depending on class schedule and may be tailored to fit into residencies ranging from 3 days to several weeks dependent upon budget.

Assessment:

Student achievement will be assessed through formative assessments including Jerry participating in coaching and immediate feedback as the students perform improvised scenes. Students will have multiple opportunities to explore the concepts of improvisation, receive feedback and 'play' again.

Students will be able to understand and apply the basic rules of improvisation, perform a short improvised scene, and perform a character-driven improvised scene. Students will also understand the principles of script writing including dramatic structure and conflict. Students will also use personal experience, literature and history to write original texts.