In this unit, students are introduced to stage directions and how actors move on stage. They will explore what’s important for onstage action, the basics of stage directions, and how to keep open. By giving students something concrete to focus on, it allows them to overcome any stage fright. Teachers can refer to the Pacing Guide for more details and ways to supplement with other DTA materials.

This unit will culminate with students trying out what they’ve learned in a short scene. Each session comes with an journal prompt and an exit slip for assessment.

1 - Onstage Action
After a warm up, student learn about onstage action. They will reflect on the question of how having something “to do” onstage can help overcome stage fright.

2 - Stage Directions
Students identify the stage directions and actor needs to know onstage and the necessary shorthand notation for each. They then apply their knowledge in an exercise and exit slip.

3 - The Technicalities of Stage Movement
Students discuss and apply technical aspects of moving on stage: sightlines and staying open. They then apply these aspects in a short scene.
Standards Connections

National Core Arts Standards

Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work - Grade 6
TH:Cr1.1.6.a - Identify possible solutions to staging challenges in a drama/theatre work.

Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work - Grade 7
TH:Cr1.1.7.a - Investigate multiple perspectives and solutions to staging challenges in a drama/theatre work.

Select, analyze, and interpret artistic work for presentation - Grade 7
TH:Pr4.1.7.a - Consider various staging choices to enhance the story in a drama/theatre work.

Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work - Grade 8
TH:Cr1.1.8.a - Imagine and explore multiple perspectives and solutions to staging problems in a drama/theatre work.

Organize and develop artistic ideas and work - Grade 7
TH:Cr2.1.7.b - Demonstrate mutual respect for self and others and their roles in preparing or devising drama/theatre work.

Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation - Grade 7
TH:Pr5.1.7.a - Participate in a variety of acting exercises and techniques that can be applied in a rehearsal or drama/theatre performance.

Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work - Grade 7
TH:Pr6.1.7.a - Participate in rehearsals for a drama/theatre work that will be shared with an audience.

Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work - Grade 8
TH:Pr6.1.8.a - Perform a rehearsed drama/theatre work for an audience.

Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work - Grade HS Proficient
TH:Pr6.1.HSI.a - Perform a scripted drama/theatre work for a specific audience.

Common Core

Speaking and Listening
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.1 - Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.2 - Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

Language
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.L.1 - Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.L.2 - Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.L.9-10.1 - Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.L.9-10.2 - Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.L.9-10.3 - Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

Florida Sunshine State Standards

Critical Thinking & Reflection
TH.68.C.1.5 - Describe how a theatrical activity can entertain or instruct an audience.

TH.68.C.2.2 - Keep a rehearsal journal to document individual performance progress.

TH.68.C.2.3 - Ask questions to understand a peer's artistic choices for a performance or design.

TH.912.C.1.3 - Justify a response to a theatrical experience through oral or written analysis, using correct theatre terminology.

TH.912.C.2.7 - Accept feedback from others, analyze it for validity, and apply suggestions appropriately to future performances or designs.

TH.912.C.2.8 - Improve a performance or project using various self-assessment tools, coaching, feedback, and/or constructive criticism.

Innovation, Technology & the Future
TH.912.F.3.3 - Exhibit independence, discipline, and commitment to the theatre process when working on assigned projects and productions.
Organizational Structure
TH.68.O.1.1 - Compare different processes an actor uses to prepare for a performance.
TH.68.O.2.4 - Perform a scene or pantomime to demonstrate understanding of blocking and stage movement.

Skills, Techniques & Processes
TH.68.S.1.1 - Describe the responsibilities of audience members, to the actors and each other, at live and recorded performances and demonstrate appropriate behavior.
TH.68.S.3.1 - Develop characterizations, using basic acting skills, appropriate for selected dramatizations.
TH.912.S.1.6 - Respond appropriately to directorial choices for improvised and scripted scenes.
TH.912.S.1.7 - Interpret dramatic texts, organize and conduct rehearsals, and justify directorial choices for formal and informal productions.
TH.912.S.2.4 - Sustain a character or follow technical cues in a production piece to show focus.
TH.912.S.2.8 - Strengthen acting skills by engaging in theatre games and improvisations.
TH.912.S.3.3 - Develop acting skills and techniques in the rehearsal process.
TH.912.S.3.8 - Direct a scene or one-act play.

Georgia Performance Standards - Theatre Arts

Grade 6 - Creating
TA6.CR.1 - Organize, design, and refine theatrical work., a. Identify artistic choices, utilize theatre vocabulary, and demonstrate non-verbal communication skills in the rehearsal process., b. Interpret a character's motivation by understanding the relationship between their background and their behavior., c. Identify the variety of relationships between characters., d. Identify, define, and classify character traits., e. Recognize and demonstrate the roles, responsibilities, and skills associated with collaborative performance., f. Use resources to identify and create technical elements of theatre.

Grade 6 - Responding
TA6.RE.2 - Critique various aspects of theatre and other media., a. Identify the purpose of a critique., b. Evaluate a theatre production using an assessment instrument.

Grade 7 - Creating
TA7.CR.1 - Organize, design, and refine theatrical work., a. Identify and rehearse effective communication skills., b. Compare and contrast character types and relationships by analyzing character motivations, objectives, and goals., c. Compare the physical, emotional, vocal, and social dimensions of a character., d. Investigate the role and responsibility of the cast and crew., e. Identify and model ensemble skills in the rehearsal process., f. Utilize staging and blocking choices to enhance the performance., g. Compare, contrast, and design elements of technical theatre., h. Utilize theatre vocabulary throughout the rehearsal process.

Grade 7 - Performing
TA7.PR.1 - Act by communicating and sustaining roles in formal and informal environments., a. Demonstrate realistic and conventional speech patterns within dialogue or dramatic verse., b. Incorporate dramatic elements through improvisation., c. Recognize and interpret artistic choices in performance.

Grade 8 - Creating
TA8.CR.1 - Organize, design, and refine theatrical work., a. Differentiate the physical, emotional, vocal, and social dimensions of a variety of characters., b. Compare the relationships and interactions between characters by analyzing character motivation (objectives, obstacles, strategy, action, stakes, outcome), c. Incorporate dramatic elements through improvisation., d. Connect theatre vocabulary to the application of theatre performance., e. Identify and demonstrate both ensemble and leadership skills in the rehearsal process., f. Evaluate the effectiveness of artistic and technical elements used in a theatre production., g. Design and create scenery, props, costumes, lighting, and sound., h. Assume different roles and responsibilities in the rehearsal process.

Grade 8 - Performing
TA8.PR.1 - Act by communicating and sustaining roles in formal and informal environments., a. Demonstrate the physical, emotional, vocal, and social dimensions of a character in different types of theatre performances (e.g. rate, pitch, volume, inflection, posture, facial expression, motivation, physical movement), b. Demonstrate appropriate ensemble skills throughout a performance., c. Use appropriate listening and response skills during performances.

Grades 9-12 - ACTING LEVELS I-IV - Performing
TAHSA.PR.1 - Act and direct by communicating and sustaining roles within a variety of situations and environments., a. Examine and implement the voice, body, observation, and imagination as tools of the actor in presentations of formal and informal theatre., b. Research and assess the development of acting skills for character creation and performance including historical movements, personal experience, and cultural influences., c. Act by developing, communicating, and sustaining roles within a variety of situations and environments., d. Identify and examine the responsibilities and tasks of an actor in relationship with directors, designers, and technical crew., e. Use the skills and tools of a director to conduct rehearsals for performance.

Grades 9-12 - ADVANCED DRAMA LEVELS I-IV - Performing
TAHSAD.PR.1 - Act and direct by communicating and sustaining roles within a variety of situations and environments., a. Examine and implement the voice, body, observation, and imagination to create characters for formal and informal performances., b. Implement the duties of the stage manager, including communication and safety procedures, that will assist the director in all areas of production., c. Develop a schedule and organizational plan to prepare a scene for performance, including a rehearsal schedule and a prompt script., d. Conduct rehearsals and present a full theatrical presentation to a live audience.

Grades 9-12 - FUNDAMENTALS OF THEATRE LEVELS I-IV - Creating
TAHSFT.CR.1 - Organize, design, and refine theatrical work., a. Recognize and/or employ realistic and conventional speech patterns within dialogue or dramatic verse., b. Incorporate dramatic elements through improvisation., c. Recognize and interpret artistic choices in performance.

Grades 9-12 - FUNDAMENTALS OF THEATRE LEVELS I-IV - Performing
TAHSFT.PR.1 - Act by communicating and sustaining roles in formal and informal environments., a. Observe and demonstrate aspects of verbal and non-verbal techniques in common human activity for performance (e.g. voice, breathing, posture, facial expression, physical movement.), b. Construct and interpret artistic choices in performance.
including the objectives, decisions, and actions of characters., c. Explore various acting methods and techniques (e.g. Stanislavski, Uta Hagen, sense memory, emotional recall) for the purpose of character development., d. Perform acting choices for an audience based on critiques.

North Carolina Essential Standards

Beginning High School Standards - Communication
B.C.1.3 - Understand how to read and write scripts that communicate conflict, plot, and character.
B.C.2.1 - Use improvisation and acting skills, such as observation, concentration, and characterization in a variety of theatre exercises.
B.C.2.2 - Interpret various selections of dramatic literature through formal and informal presentations.

Beginning High School Standards - Culture
B.CU.2.1 - Illustrate appropriate theatre etiquette as a member of an audience, as a performer, and as a technician.
B.CU.2.2 - Use acting conventions, such as stage presence, subtext, style, and ensemble work, to perform formal or informal works.

Intermediate High School Standards - Communication
I.C.2.2 - Interpret scenes through formal and informal presentations.

Advanced High School Standards - Communication
A.C.2.2 - Interpret scripts through formal and informal presentations.

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Theatre Arts

MS 117.211 LI - Foundations: Inquiry and Understanding
C.1.E - identify theatrical vocabulary and terminology, including basic anatomy of theatre spaces.

MS 117.211 LI - Critical evaluation and response
C.5.A - identify and apply audience etiquette at all performances.

MS 117.212 LII - Foundations: Inquiry and Understanding
B.1.E - demonstrate knowledge of theatrical vocabulary and terminology.

MS 117.212 LII - Critical evaluation and response
B.5.A - understand and demonstrate appropriate audience etiquette at various types of performances.

MS 117.213 LIII - Foundations: Inquiry and Understanding
B.1.E - apply knowledge of theatrical vocabulary and terminology.

MS 117.213 LIII - Critical evaluation and response
B.5.A - understand and demonstrate appropriate audience etiquette at various types of live performances.

HS 117.315 LI - Foundations: Inquiry and Understanding
C.1.F - demonstrate a working knowledge of the language of theatre such as stage terminology, elements of theatre, or theatrical conventions.

HS 117.315 LI - Creative Expression: performance
C.2.E - employ physical techniques consistently to express thoughts, feelings, and actions non-verbally.

Alberta, Canada

Improvisation Drama 10
1 - use warmup techniques for preparation of body, voice and mind
10 - demonstrate appropriate rehearsal methods
19 - demonstrate techniques for creating effective entrances and exits, consistent with character
2 - demonstrate the ability to be still
9 - use appropriate stage directions

Acting Drama 30
21 - create appropriate stage business

Movement Drama 10
1 - display the ability to be still
13 - use levels (high, medium, and low)

Improvisation/Acting Level III - Advanced
26 - pick up cues effectively
32 - rehearse, polish and present text

Junior Goal II Objectives
become familiar with disciplines that enhance dramatic process
become familiar with dramatic terminology and script format
develop the body and voice as tools of communication

Junior Goal III Objectives
develop awareness of drama and theatre presentations as possible
develop awareness of various conventions of theatre

Junior Orientation
 demonstrate a willingness to take calculated and reasonable risks
demonstrate awareness of the multidisciplinary nature of drama/theatre
 focus concentration on one task at a time
generate imaginative and creative solutions to problems
 listen effectively
 meet deadlines and follow through on individual and group commitments
 move in a variety of ways
 recognize the purposes of and participate in warmup activities
 share ideas confidently with others
 speak, move, and generate ideas spontaneously
 support positivity the work of others
 work cooperatively and productively with all members of
the class in pairs, small groups and large groups

**Movement Level I - Beginning**
- 10 - use varying speed of movement
- 11 - use directions and pathways
- 12 - use levels
- 2 - demonstrate awareness of personal and shared space
- 4 - recognize the need for and demonstrate warmup activities

**Movement Level II - Intermediate**
- 21 - display clarity of movement and gesture
- 23 - plan, repeat and combine movement patterns
- 24 - plan movement for audience visibility and spatial limitations
- 25 - communicate environment, character and situation nonverbally

**Speech Level I - Beginning**
- 1 - speak spontaneously

**Improvisation/Acting Level I - Beginning**
- 1 - use warm-up techniques for preparation of body, voice and mind
- 3 - demonstrate the ability to be still
- 7 - use stage vocabulary: stage areas, body positions and crosses
- 8 - demonstrate appropriate rehearsal behaviours and routines
- 9 - communicate a clear beginning, middle and end in spontaneous and planned scenes

**Improvisation/Acting Level II - Intermediate**
- 16 - demonstrate economy in movement and speech
- 20 - enter and exit in character
- 21 - sustain a character throughout an exercise or scene

**Junior Goal I Objectives**
- develop a sense of responsibility and commitment
- develop self-confidence
- develop self-discipline
- develop the ability to initiate, organize and present a project within a given set of guidelines
- develop the ability to interact effectively and constructively in a group process
- develop the ability to offer and accept constructive criticism
- develop the willingness to make a decision, act upon it and accept the results
- extend the ability to think imaginatively and creatively
- strengthen powers of concentration

**Theatre Studies Level III - Advanced (The script)**
- 10 - demonstrate understanding of the concept of dramatic conventions
- 7 - define the elements of script, dialogue, directions, characters and settings
- 8 - demonstrate understanding of directions used in a script
- 9 - read a script aloud

**Senior Goal II Objectives**
- participate in the theatrical style of realism as a basis for further exploration of theatrical styles

**Senior Goal III Objectives**
- explore various conventions and traditions of theatre

**Orientation Drama 10**
- concentrate on the task at hand
- cope with success and failure in positive ways
- demonstrate effective use and management of time
- demonstrate self-discipline, self-direction and a sense of responsibility
- demonstrate trust by becoming comfortable with others, physically and emotionally
- display consideration and respect for self and others
- listen to self and others
- make effective decisions or choices
- positively support the work of others
- share ideas confidently
- solve problems imaginatively and creatively
- work cooperatively and productively

**British Columbia (2018)**

**GRADE 6 - ARTS - Exploring and creating**
Create artistic works collaboratively and as an individual using ideas inspired by imagination, inquiry, experimentation, and purposeful play

Intentionally select and apply materials, movements, technologies, environments, tools, and techniques by combining and arranging artistic elements, processes, and principles in art making

**GRADE 6 - ARTS - Reasoning and reflecting**
Develop and refine ideas, processes, and technical skills in a variety of art forms to improve the quality of artistic creations

**GRADE 6 - ARTS - Communicating and documenting**
Express, feelings, ideas, and experiences through the arts
Take creative risks to express feelings, ideas, and experiences

**GRADE 7 - ARTS - Exploring and creating**
Intentionally select and apply materials, movements, technologies, environments, tools, and techniques by combining and arranging artistic elements, processes, and principles in art making

**GRADE 7 - ARTS - Reasoning and reflecting**
Develop and refine ideas, processes, and technical skills in a variety of art forms to improve the quality of artistic creations

**GRADE 7 - ARTS - Communicating and documenting**
Express, feelings, ideas, and experiences through the arts
Take creative risks to express feelings, ideas, and experiences

**GRADE 8 - ARTS - Exploring and creating**
Create artistic works collaboratively and as an individual using ideas inspired by imagination, inquiry, experimentation, and purposeful play

Intentionally select and apply materials, movements, technologies, environments, tools, and techniques by combining and arranging artistic elements, processes, and principles in art making

**GRADE 8 - ARTS - Reasoning and reflecting**
Develop, refine ideas, and critically appraise ideas, processes, and technical skills in a variety of art forms to improve the quality of artistic creations

**GRADE 8 - ARTS - Communicating and documenting**
Take creative risks to express feelings, ideas, and experiences

**GRADE 9 - DRAMA - Exploring and creating**
Create dramatic works both collaboratively and as an individual, using ideas inspired by imagination, inquiry, and
purposeful play
   Take creative risks to experience and express thoughts, emotions, and meaning
GRADE 9 - DRAMA - Reasoning and reflecting
   Receive, offer, and apply constructive feedback
GRADE 9 - DRAMA - Communicating and documenting
   Revise, refine, analyze, and document performance pieces and experiences to enhance presentation in a variety of ways
GRADE 9 - DRAMA - Connecting and expanding
   Demonstrate respect for themselves, others, and the audience
GRADE 10 - DRAMA - Explore and Create
   Develop a repertoire of dramatic skills and techniques through presentation or performance
   Develop performance skills in a variety of contexts
   Improvise and take creative risks to express meaning
GRADE 10 - DRAMA - Reason and reflect
   Apply feedback to develop and refine ideas
   Describe, analyze, and respond using drama-specific language
GRADE 10 - DRAMA - Connect and expand
   Demonstrate respect for self, others, and the audience
GRADE 11 - DRAMA - Explore and Create
   Create, rehearse, and refine dramatic works through collaborative and individual presentation or performance
   Develop and refine performance skills in a variety of contexts
   Improvise and take creative risks using imagination, exploration, and inquiry
GRADE 11 - DRAMA - Reason and reflect
   Demonstrate awareness of self, others, and audience
   Receive and apply constructive feedback to develop and refine ideas
GRADE 11 - DRAMA - Connect and expand
   Demonstrate awareness of self, others, and audience
GRADE 12 - DRAMA - Explore and Create
   Create, rehearse, and refine dramatic works through collaborative and individual presentation or performance
   Develop a repertoire of dramatic skills, vocabulary, and techniques through presentation or performance
   Develop and refine performance skills in a variety of contexts
   Improvise and take creative risks using imagination, exploration, and inquiry
GRADE 12 - DRAMA - Reason and reflect
   Use self-reflection and awareness of audience to refine ideas
GRADE 12 - DRAMA - Connect and expand
   Demonstrate respect for self, others, and audience

Ontario, Canada
Grades 9 & 10 - Foundations - Responsible Practices
   C.3.2 - identify and apply the skills and attitudes needed to perform various tasks and responsibilities in producing drama works (e.g., use active listening and cooperative problem-solving skills; use tact in suggesting changes and improvements; demonstrate willingness to accept criticism and build consensus)
   C.3.3 - demonstrate an understanding of theatre and audience etiquette, in both classroom and formal performance contexts (e.g., as a performer: show willingness to take direction and behave appropriately towards other actors; as a viewer: demonstrate respect for performers and other audience members by paying attention, not interrupting or talking, and applauding when appropriate)
Grades 9 & 10 - Reflecting, Responding and Analyzing - Connections Beyond the Classroom
   B.3.1 - identify and describe skills, attitudes, and strategies they used in collaborative drama activities (e.g., brainstorming, active listening, and cooperative problem-solving skills; strategies for sharing responsibility through collaborative team roles)