



Fine Arts Unit | Grades 8-12 | Lesson 3: A Dickens' Christmas Carol

Lesson Description

Watch as Ebenezer Scrooge undergoes a life changing experience on a cold Christmas Eve night, brought on by his deceased friend Jacob Marley. Known as the town's grumpy, penny-pinching workaholic, Scrooge encounters three different spirits and is forced to watch his life play out based on the choices he's made and the choices he will make if he continues on his current path. In this lesson, students will answer questions based on the different elements in a drama which will help them better understand the characters and the work as a whole. Students will laugh and learn as they watch Scrooge fumble through his life and weigh the decision he has to make.

Concepts

Plot
Conflict
Antagonist

Character Type
Protagonist

Objectives

Students will:

- Understand the drama's conflict and the 3 different types of conflict
- Know the difference between a Protagonist and an Antagonist
- Learn the different Character Types
- Identify each of the Three Spirits

Content Standards

National Standards in Theatre

- **Standard 2:** Uses acting skills.
 - Benchmark 1, Grades 5-8: Understands how descriptions, dialogue, and actions are used to discover, articulate, and justify character motivation.
 - Benchmark 1, Grades 9-12: Understands the physical, emotional, and social dimensions of characters found in dramatic texts from various genres and media.
 - Benchmark 3, Grades 9-12: Develops, communicates, and sustains characters that communicate with audiences in improvisations and informal or formal productions.



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- **Standard 3:** Designs and produces informal and formal productions.
 - Benchmark 1, Grades 5-8: Understands the functions and interrelated nature of scenery, properties, lighting, sound, costumes, and makeup in creating an environment appropriate for the drama.
 - Benchmark 4, Grades 5-8: Selects and creates elements of scenery, properties, lighting, and sound to signify environments, and costumes and makeup to suggest character.
 - Benchmark 2, Grades 9-12: Understands production requirements for a variety of dramatic texts from cultural and historical perspectives.
 - Benchmark 5, Grades 9-12: Conceptualizes and realizes artistic interpretations for informal or formal productions.

- **Standard 5:** Understands how informal and formal theatre, film, television, and electronic media productions create and communicate meaning.
 - Benchmark 2, Grades 5-8 Articulates the meanings constructed from one's own and others' dramatic performances.
 - Benchmark 1, Grades 9-12: Knows how social meanings (aural, oral, and visual symbols with personal and/or social significance) communicated in informal productions, formal productions, and personal performances of different cultures and historical periods can relate to current personal, national, and international issues.
 - Benchmark 3, Grades 9-12: Understands how the context in which a dramatic performance is set can enhance or hinder its effectiveness.

- **Standard 6:** Understands the context in which theatre, film, television, and electronic media are performed today as well as in the past.
 - Benchmark 1, Grades 5-8: Understands similarities and differences among archetypal characters (e.g., the trickster, the villain, the warrior, the superhero) and situations in dramas from and about various cultures and historical periods.

National Standards in Music

- **Standard 7:** Understands the relationship between music and history and culture.
 - Benchmark 1, Grades 9-12: Classifies unfamiliar but representative aural examples of music (e.g., by genre, style, historical period, culture).

Time Required

Varies by student



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Materials

- Silver Dollar City Pathfinder & writing utensil
 - Student activity sheet from the Kids-U-Cation website
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Procedures

1. Go over the basic elements of Drama before coming on the field trip.
 2. Print off student activity sheet from Kids-U-Cation website (teachers).
 3. Watch "A Dickens' Christmas Carol" to complete the exercise.
 4. Complete and turn in activity to the teacher for a participation or accuracy grade
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Closure

Review the key points of this lesson by discussing the following:

- What was Ebenezer Scrooge's favorite saying?
 - Name at least 3 of the characters in the show.
 - What was your favorite part about the show?
 - Of the 3 types of Conflicts, which do you think plays the biggest role in the play?
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Assessment/Independent Practice

Give an assignment or test of your choice.



Name/Date: _____

A Dickens' Christmas Carol

Watch as Ebenezer Scrooge undergoes a life changing experience on a cold Christmas Eve night, brought on by his deceased friend Jacob Marley. Use the information from the play to help you answer the questions below.

1. What is Ebenezer Scrooge's favorite saying? (His two trademark words)
2. The Protagonist in a drama is the central character (sympathetic or unsympathetic). An Antagonist can be any forces working against him/her, whether persons, things, conventions of society, or traits of their own character. List the main Protagonist and some of the Antagonists in "A Dickens' Christmas Carol."

Protagonist:

Antagonists:

3. Conflict is part of a drama's plot. It can be defined as a clash of actions, ideas, desires or wills. There are 3 types of Conflict: 1) Person vs. Person, 2) Person vs. Environment (i.e. external force, physical nature, society, or "fate"), and 3) Person vs. Himself/Herself (i.e. conflict with some element in his/her own nature; maybe physical, mental, emotional, or moral). List at least one character from the play that fits into each category. The same character may fit into multiple categories.

Person vs. Person:

Person vs. Environment:

Person vs. Himself/Herself:

4. Name each of the three Spirits:

5. Each character in a drama has a specific Character Type which can be defined as Flat, Round, Stock, Static, and Dynamic. A Dynamic character is one that undergoes permanent change. Who do you think the Dynamic character is in "A Dickens' Christmas Carol?"