

Lesson Plan – *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*

Concept: Puppet Play with “Box” Theater

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Suggested Grade Level: Middle School

Time Frame: Three - four weeks (30 min. per day)

Objectives: Student(s) will choose a scene of interest from a story in a literature or history selection and write a short script using the dialogue of two or three characters. The student(s) will construct simple puppets and a “box” theater to use with the play script written.

State Standards: Missouri – Communication Arts Writing Standards (CA 1.6; 2.2; 2.3; 4.6).

Assessment/Evaluation: Students will write the script correctly using quotation marks correctly in dialogue to include speaking parts for at least two characters; design and construct simple puppets to fit the chosen character parts; design and construct a box theater for the play production. The script must be edited for spelling, grammar, and correct use of the quotation marks in dialogue. A scoring guide will be used for the elements of the drama performance and construction of the puppets and the theater. The scoring guide will be provided to the students at the outset of the lesson. Possible scoring guides/rubrics (can be modified based on teacher's needs) available at:

- http://www.kent.k12.wa.us/staff/TimMartin/WebQuestsandprojects/states/puppet_rubric.htm
- http://www.wtisbury.mv.k12.ma.us/lights_camera_learning/Lights,Camera,Learning_folder/Lights,Camera,Learning/student_pages/kim5.html
- <http://www.ossd.k12.ms.us/osop/0Main/centers/rubrics/puppet2.html>

Language/Vocabulary: Students will be familiar with: script, quotation marks, dialogue.

Integrated Curriculum: This unit can be integrated into art and drama. The art integration involves the student(s) in designing and constructing the 2-3 puppets to perform the written script, using the various materials gathered. The drama is integrated into the performance of the puppet play in front of an audience.

Background Information: The students will know the content of *The Adventure of Tom Sawyer* and how to correctly write quotations. The students will know simple elements of drama.

Materials: A copy of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*; lightweight cardboard or poster board for puppets; large box such as a computer box with lid, or any other size box; paint, magic markers; glue or glue stick; lightweight wood sticks such as dowel sticks, popsicle sticks, wooden spoons; cloth of various colors and textures; yarn, fake fur, cotton balls for puppet hair; string, thin wire, fishing line, to help move puppets; straws, pipe cleaners.

Technology Support:

- Videotape or DVD of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and a videotape or DVD player.
- How to Make Puppets - <http://www.teacherhelp.org/puppets.htm>
- Tom Sawyer Puppet Show - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RO_rcpaxfs
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Related Twain Quotes/Other Readings: This lesson could be used with *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* or any other of Twain's works that contain several paragraphs of dialogue between two or more characters. Related quotes available at: <http://twainquotes.com/>

Lesson Plan Format:

A. Introduction: Have you ever read a book and then wished there was a good movie or play about the book or parts of the book? Have you ever thought you would like to write and produce a movie or play? We are going to watch some scenes from *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and then you are going to write your own script for a puppet play that you will produce and perform.

B. Lesson: This class activity begins with reading *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. The class will watch a video clip from *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. The student(s) will find a passage that includes dialogue between two or three characters that is a favorite part of the book or of interest to them to write the script.

C. Closure: After the scene has been chosen, your characters have been chosen, your script has been written, your puppets have been designed and made, and your theater is ready, you will rehearse your script without the use of the puppets (get friends to read the parts with you). The script will be corrected and developed as the story is acted out. Once you have rehearsed 2 or 3 times, the play will be rehearsed with the puppets before the final production.

Scheduled Use of Time:

Time	Teacher Activity/Questions to be asked	Student Activity
Week 1 30 min. per day	Hook: Read aloud 1-2 chapters from <i>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i> . Ask: Did you like the parts where the characters are talking to each other? Discuss dialogue, expressions, favorite parts; have students read passages to get the "feel" of the language.	Listen and respond
Week 2 30 min. per day	What is your favorite scene in this book? Can you pick out at least two scenes that have at least two characters speaking? Ask: Would the scene where Tom and Aunt Polly are discussing why the cat went mad after he gave him the medicine make a good script? Find a scene that you like and begin to write your script, watching for correct spelling, grammar, and usage of quotation marks. Use only two or three characters.	Listen and respond Write
Week 3 30 min. per day	Provide guidelines/scoring guide. Ask: Do you have an idea of what you want your characters to look like? Make your puppets and theater to fit your script. Practice your play without the puppets (use your friends for the parts) several times. Practice your script with your puppets and your theater stage a few times before the performance.	Develop and Design Speaking and Listening
Week 4 30 min. per day	Polish your performance. Perform your puppet play in front of an audience. (Note: Time based on 18-20 students performing a puppet play).	Performance

Possible Follow-up Activities:

- Perform the puppet plays for other classes or families.
- Create additional puppet characters to extend the play.
- Research famous puppets (e.g., Punch and Judy, Muppets, etc.)

Possible Guest Speakers/Other Resources:

- Pictures taken in Hannibal Missouri of the Sam Clemens' boyhood home and the Mississippi River could be used for a bulletin board presentation. Virtual tours are also available online at: <http://www.marktwainmuseum.org/content/community-projects/>
- Bring a professional puppeteer to school for an assembly performance.

