

Middle School Theatre Arts Curriculum

[National Standards Link](#) AND [MSDE Standards Link](#)

[Middle School Units, Standards, Projects](#) AND [Sample Lesson Plan Calendar](#)

[6th Grade Vocabulary](#)

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[Theatre Quotes for Warm Ups](#)

Anchor Standard 1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

Create: Envision and Conceptualize

Enduring Understanding: Theatre artists rely on intuition, curiosity, and critical inquiry.

Essential Question(s): What happens when theatre artists use their imaginations and/or learned theatre skills while engaging in creative exploration and inquiry?

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	Benchmarks / Lesson Seeds
<p>TH.6.1.1 Identify possible solutions to staging challenges in a drama / theatre work.</p> <p>TH.6.1.2 Identify solutions to design challenges in a drama / theatre work.</p> <p>TH.6.1.3 Explore a scripted or improvised character by imagining the given circumstances in a drama / theatre work.</p>	<p>TH.7.1.1 Investigate multiple perspectives and solutions to staging challenges in a drama / theatre work.</p> <p>TH.7.1.2 Explain and present solutions to design challenges in a drama / theatre work.</p> <p>TH.7.1.3 Envision and describe a scripted or improvised character's inner thoughts and objectives in a drama / theatre work.</p>	<p>TH.8.1.1 Imagine and explore multiple perspectives and solutions to staging problems in a drama / theatre work.</p> <p>TH.8.1.2 Imagine and explore solutions to design challenges of a performance in a space in a drama / theatre.</p> <p>TH.8.1.3 Develop a scripted or improvised character by articulating the character's inner thoughts, objectives, and motivations in a drama / theatre work.</p>	<p>6th Grade: TH.6.1.1: Stage Directions Unit TH.6.1.2: Design Unit TH.6.1.3: Character Creation Unit</p> <p>7th Grade: TH.7.1.1: Stage Directions Unit TH.7.1.2: Design Unit TH.7.1.3: Character Creation Unit</p> <p>8th Grade: TH.8.1.1: Stage Directions Unit TH.8.1.2: Design Unit TH.8.1.3: Character Creation Unit</p> <p>Benchmark (8th Grade Only):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teacher Instructions ● Student Instructions ● FCPS County Rubrics ● Resource Packet <p>Benchmark Lesson Seed</p>

Anchor Standard 2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

Create: Develop

Enduring Understanding: Theatre artists work to discover different ways of communicating meaning.

Essential Question(s): How, when, and why do theatre artists' choices change?

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	Benchmarks / Lesson Seeds
<p>TH.6.2.1 Use critical analysis to improve, refine, and evolve original ideas and artistic choices in a devised or scripted drama / theatre work.</p> <p>TH.6.2.2 Contribute ideas and accept and incorporate the ideas of others in preparing or devising drama / theatre work.</p>	<p>TH.7.2.1 Examine and justify original ideas and artistic choices in a drama / theatre work based on critical analysis, background knowledge and historical and cultural context.</p> <p>TH.7.2.2 Demonstrate mutual respect for self and others and their roles in preparing or devising drama / theatre work.</p>	<p>TH.8.2.1 Articulate and apply critical analysis, background knowledge, research, and historical and cultural context to the development of original ideas for a drama / theatre work.</p> <p>TH.8.2.2 Share leadership and responsibilities to develop collaborative goals when preparing or devising drama / theatre work.</p>	<p>6th Grade: TH.6.2.1: Puppetry TH.6.2.2: Script Writing Project</p> <p>7th Grade: TH.7.2.1: Pantomime TH.7.2.2: Script Writing Project</p> <p>8th Grade: TH.8.2.1: Storytelling TH.8.2.2: Script Writing Project</p> <p>Benchmark (8th Grade Only):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teacher Instructions ● Student Instructions ● FCPS County Rubrics ● Resource Packet <p>Benchmark Lesson Seed</p>

Anchor Standard 3: Refine and complete artistic work.

Create: Rehearse

Enduring Understanding: Theatre artists refine their work and practice their craft through rehearsal.

Essential Question(s): How do theatre artists transform and edit their initial ideas?

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	Benchmarks / Lesson Seeds
<p>TH.6.3.1 Articulate and examine choices to refine a devised or scripted drama / theatre work.</p> <p>TH.6.3.2 Identify effective physical and vocal traits of characters in an improvised or scripted drama / theatre work.</p> <p>TH.6.3.3 Explore a planned technical design during the rehearsal process for a devised or scripted drama / theatre.</p>	<p>TH.7.3.1 Demonstrate focus and concentration in the rehearsal process to analyze and refine choices in a devised or scripted drama / theatre work.</p> <p>TH.7.3.2 Develop effective physical and vocal traits of characters in an improvised or scripted drama / theatre work.</p> <p>TH.7.3.3 Consider multiple planned technical design elements during the rehearsal process for a devised or scripted drama / theatre work.</p>	<p>TH.8.3.1 Use repetition and analysis in order to revise devised or scripted drama / theatre work.</p> <p>TH.8.3.2 Refine effective physical, vocal, and physiological traits of characters in an improvised or scripted drama / theatre work.</p> <p>TH.8.3.3 Implement and refine a planned technical design using simple technology during the rehearsal process for devised or scripted drama / theatre work.</p>	<p>6th Grade: TH.6.3.1: Improvisation and Theatre Games TH.6.3.2: Improvisation and Theatre Games TH.6.3.3: Script Preview Unit</p> <p>7th Grade: TH.7.3.1: Improvisation and Theatre Games TH.7.3.2: Improvisation and Theatre Games TH.7.3.3: Script Preview Unit</p> <p>8th Grade: TH.8.3.1: Improvisation and Theatre Games TH.8.3.2: Improvisation and Theatre Games TH.8.3.3: Script Preview Unit</p> <p>Benchmark (8th Grade Only):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teacher Instructions ● Student Instructions ● FCPS County Rubrics ● Resource Packet <p>Benchmark Lesson Seed</p>

Anchor Standard 4: Select, analyze, and interpret artistic work for presentation.

Perform: Select

Enduring Understanding: Theatre artists make strong choices to effectively convey meaning.

Essential Question(s): Why are strong choices essential to interpreting a drama or theatre piece?

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	Benchmarks / Lesson Seeds
<p>TH.6.4.1 Identify the essential events in a story or script that make up the dramatic structure in a drama / theatre work.</p> <p>TH.6.4.2 Experiment with various physical choices to communicate character in a drama / theatre work.</p>	<p>TH.7.4.1 Consider various staging choices to enhance the story in a drama / theatre work.</p> <p>TH.7.4.2 Use various character objectives in a drama / theatre work.</p>	<p>TH.8.4.1 Explore different pacing to better communicate the story in a drama / theatre.</p> <p>TH.8.4.2 Use various character objectives and tactics in a drama / theatre work to overcome an obstacle.</p>	<p>6th Grade: TH.6.4.1: Monologues, Dialogues, Scenes, and Script Readings TH.6.4.2: Beats and Objectives</p> <p>7th Grade: TH.7.4.1: Monologues, Dialogues, Scenes, and Script Readings TH.7.4.2: Beats and Objectives</p> <p>8th Grade: TH.8.4.1: Monologues, Dialogues, Scenes, and Script Readings TH.8.4.2: Beats and Objectives</p> <p>Benchmark (8th Grade Only):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teacher Instructions ● Student Instructions ● FCPS County Rubrics ● Resource Packet <p>Benchmark Lesson Seed</p>

Anchor Standard 5: Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation.

Perform: Prepare

Enduring Understanding: Theatre artists develop personal processes and skills for a performance or design.

Essential Question(s): What can I do to fully prepare a performance or technical design?

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	Benchmarks / Lesson Seeds
<p>TH.6.5.1 Recognize how acting exercises and techniques can be applied to a drama / theatre work.</p> <p>TH.6.5.2 Articulate how technical elements are integrated into a drama / theatre work.</p>	<p>TH.7.5.1 Participate in a variety of acting exercises and techniques that can be applied in a rehearsal or drama / theatre performance.</p> <p>TH.7.5.2 Choose a variety of technical elements that can be applied to a design in a drama / theatre work.</p>	<p>TH.8.5.1 Use a variety of acting techniques to increase skills in a rehearsal or drama / theatre performance.</p> <p>TH.8.5.2 Use a variety of technical elements to create a design for a rehearsal or drama theatre production.</p>	<p>6th Grade: TH.6.5.1: Acting Warm Ups, Theatre Games, Characterization TH.6.5.2: Design Unit Both: Class Show Unit</p> <p>7th Grade: TH.7.5.1: Acting Warm Ups, Theatre Games, Characterization TH.7.5.2: Design Unit Both: Class Show Unit</p> <p>8th Grade: TH.8.5.1: Acting Warm Ups, Theatre Games, Characterization TH.8.5.2: Design Unit Both: Class Show Unit</p> <p>Benchmark (8th Grade Only):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teacher Instructions ● Student Instructions ● FCPS County Rubrics ● Resource Packet <p>Benchmark Lesson Seed</p>

Anchor Standard 6: Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work.

Perform: Share and Present

Enduring Understanding: Theatre artists share and present stories, ideas, and envisioned worlds to explore the human experience.

Essential Question(s): What happens when the theatre artists and audiences share a creative experience.

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	Benchmarks / Lesson Seeds
<p>TH.6.6.1 Adapt a drama / theatre work and present it informally for an audience.</p> <p>TH.6.6.1a Collaborate while managing goals and time to craft a theatrical production.</p> <p>TH.6.6.1b Produce a theatrical work for an audience; informal (in class with students) or formal (invited audience during or after school).</p> <p>TH.6.6.1c Present a self-reflection on a theatrical work and one’s own contribution to the performance.</p>	<p>TH.7.6.1 Participate in rehearsals for a drama / theatre work that will be shared with an audience.</p> <p>TH.7.6.1a Collaborate while managing goals and time to craft a theatrical production.</p> <p>TH.7.6.1b Produce a theatrical work for an audience; informal (in class with students) or formal (invited audience during or after school).</p> <p>TH.7.6.1c Present a self-reflection on a theatrical work and one’s own contribution to the performance.</p>	<p>TH.8.6.1 Participate in rehearsals for a drama / theatre work that will be shared with an audience.</p> <p>TH.8.6.1a Collaborate while managing goals and time to craft a theatrical production.</p> <p>TH.8.6.1b Produce a theatrical work for an audience; informal (in class with students) or formal (invited audience during or after school).</p> <p>TH.8.6.1c Present a self-reflection on a theatrical work and one’s own contribution to the performance.</p>	<p>6th Grade: TH.6.6.1: Dialogues, Scenes, Scripts Class Show Unit</p> <p>7th Grade: TH.7.6.1: Dialogues, Scenes, Scripts Class Show Unit</p> <p>8th Grade: TH.8.6.1: Dialogues, Scenes, Scripts Class Show Unit</p> <p>Benchmark (8th Grade Only):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teacher Instructions ● Student Instructions ● FCPS County Rubrics ● Resource Packet <p>Benchmark Lesson Seed</p>

Anchor Standard 7: Perceive and analyze artistic work.

Respond: Reflect

Enduring Understanding: Theatre artists reflect to understand the impact of drama processes and theatre experiences.

Essential Question(s): How do theatre artists comprehend the essence of drama processes and theatre experiences?

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	Benchmarks / Lesson Seeds
<p>TH.6.7.1 Describe and record personal reactions to artistic choices in a drama / theatre work.</p>	<p>TH.7.7.1 Compare recorded personal and peer reactions to artistic choices in a drama / theatre work.</p>	<p>TH.8.7.1 Apply criteria to the evaluation of artistic choices in a drama / theatre work.</p>	<p>6th Grade: TH.6.7.1: Monologue Reflection Class Show Unit</p> <p>7th Grade: TH.7.7.1: Monologue Reflection Class Show Unit</p> <p>8th Grade: TH.8.7.1: Monologue Reflection Class Show Unit</p> <p>Benchmark (8th Grade Only):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teacher Instructions• Student Instructions• FCPS County Rubrics• Resource Packet <p>Benchmark Lesson Seed</p>

Anchor Standard 8: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.

Respond: Interpret

Enduring Understanding: Theatre artists’ interpretations of drama / theatre work are influenced by personal experiences and aesthetics.

Essential Question(s): How can the same work of art communicate different messages to different people?

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	Benchmarks / Lesson Seeds
<p>TH.6.8.1 Explain how artists make choices based on personal experiences in a drama / theatre work.</p> <p>TH.6.8.2 Identify cultural perspectives that may influence the evaluation of a drama / theatre work.</p> <p>TH.6.8.3 Identify personal aesthetics, preferences, and beliefs through participation in or observation of drama / theatre work.</p>	<p>TH.7.8.1 Identify the artistic choices made based on personal experience in a drama / theatre work.</p> <p>TH.7.8.2 Describe how cultural perspectives can influence the evaluation of drama / theatre work.</p> <p>TH.7.8.3 Interpret how the use of personal aesthetics, preferences, and beliefs can be used to discuss drama / theatre work.</p>	<p>TH.8.8.1 Recognize and share artistic choices when participating in or observing a drama / theatre work.</p> <p>TH.8.8.2 Analyze how cultural perspectives influence the evaluation of a drama / theatre work.</p> <p>TH.8.8.3 Apply personal aesthetics, preferences, and beliefs to evaluate a drama / theatre work.</p>	<p>6th Grade: TH.6.8.1: Beats and Objectives TH.6.8.2: Puppetry TH.6.8.3: Class Song Project All: Class Show Unit</p> <p>7th Grade: TH.7.8.1: Beats and Objectives TH.7.8.2: Musical Theatre TH.7.8.3: Class Song Project All: Class Show Unit</p> <p>8th Grade: TH.8.8.1: Beats and Objectives TH.8.8.2: Theatre History TH.8.8.3: Class Song Project All: Class Show Unit</p> <p>Benchmark (8th Grade Only):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teacher Instructions ● Student Instructions ● FCPS County Rubrics ● Resource Packet <p>Benchmark Lesson Seed</p>

Anchor Standard 9: Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.

Respond: Evaluate

Enduring Understanding: Theatre artists apply criteria to investigate, explore, and assess drama and theatre work.

Essential Question(s): How are the theatre artist’s processes and the audience’s perspectives impacted by analysis and synthesis?

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	Benchmarks / Lesson Seeds
<p>TH.6.9.1 Use supporting evidence and criteria to evaluate drama / theatre work.</p> <p>TH.6.9.2 Apply the production elements used in a drama / theatre work to assess aesthetic choices.</p> <p>TH.6.9.3 Identify a specific audience or purpose for a drama / theatre work.</p>	<p>TH.7.9.1 Explain preferences, using supporting evidence and criteria to evaluate drama / theatre work.</p> <p>TH.7.9.2 Consider the aesthetics of the production elements in a drama / theatre work.</p> <p>TH.7.9.3 Identify how the intended purpose of a drama / theatre work appeals to a specific audience.</p>	<p>TH.8.9.1 Respond to a drama / theatre work using supporting evidence, personal aesthetics, and artistic criteria.</p> <p>TH.9.9.2 Apply the production elements used in a drama / theatre work to assess aesthetic choices.</p> <p>TH.9.9.3 Assess the impact of a drama / theatre work on a specific audience.</p>	<p>6th Grade: TH.6.9.1: Play Performance Critique TH.6.9.2: Design Rationale/Critique TH.6.9.3: Script Analysis Project All: Class Show Unit</p> <p>7th Grade: TH.7.9.1: Beats and Objectives TH.7.9.2: Musical Theatre TH.7.9.3: Class Song Project All: Class Show Unit</p> <p>8th Grade: TH.8.9.1: Beats and Objectives TH.8.9.2: Theatre History TH.8.9.3: Class Song Project All: Class Show Unit</p> <p>Benchmark (8th Grade Only):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teacher Instructions ● Student Instructions ● FCPS County Rubrics ● Resource Packet <p>Benchmark Lesson Seed</p>

Anchor Standard 10: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.

Connect: Empathize

Enduring Understanding: Theatre artists allow awareness of interrelationships between self and others to influence and inform their work.

Essential Question(s): What happens when theatre artists understanding between self and others through critical awareness, social responsibility, and the exploration of empathy?

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	Benchmarks / Lesson Seeds
<p>TH.6.10.1 Explain how the actions and motivations of characters in a drama / theatre work impact perspectives of a community or culture.</p> <p>TH.6.10.1a By building a theatre community, collaborate with others to devise a theatrical work.</p> <p>TH.6.10.1b While working with a group, be flexible and adapt artistic choices to clearly communicate theme in a theatrical work.</p> <p>TH.6.10.1c Participate in a self-reflective review.</p>	<p>TH.7.10.1 Incorporate multiple perspectives and diverse community ideas in a drama / theatre work.</p> <p>TH.7.10.1a By building a theatre community, collaborate with others to devise a theatrical work.</p> <p>TH.7.10.1b While working with a group, be flexible and adapt artistic choices to clearly communicate theme in a theatrical work.</p> <p>TH.7.10.1c Participate in a self-reflective review.</p>	<p>TH.8.10.1 Examine a community issue through multiple perspectives in a drama / theatre work.</p> <p>TH.8.10.1a By building a theatre community, collaborate with others to devise a theatrical work.</p> <p>TH.8.10.1b While working with a group, be flexible and adapt artistic choices to clearly communicate theme in a theatrical work.</p> <p>TH.8.10.1c Participate in a self-reflective review.</p>	<p>6th Grade: TH.6.10.1: Getting To Know You Project</p> <p>7th Grade: TH.7.10.1: Getting To Know You Project</p> <p>8th Grade: TH.8.10.1: Getting To Know You Project</p> <p>Benchmark (8th Grade Only):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teacher Instructions ● Student Instructions ● FCPS County Rubrics ● Resource Packet <p>Benchmark Lesson Seed</p>

Anchor Standard 11: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.

Connect: Interrelate and Research

Enduring Understanding: Theatre artists understand and can communicate their creative process as they analyze the way the world may be understood. Theatre artists critically inquire into the ways others have thought about and created drama processes and productions to inform their own work.

Essential Question(s): What happens when theatre artists allow an understanding of themselves and the world to inform perceptions about theatre and the purpose of their work? In what ways can research into theatre histories, theories, literature, and performances alter the way a drama process or production is understood?

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	Benchmarks / Lesson Seeds
<p>TH.6.11.1 Identify universal themes or common social issues and express them through a drama / theatre work.</p> <p>TH.6.11.2 Research and analyze two different versions of the same drama / theatre story to determine differences and similarities in the visual and aural world of each story.</p> <p>TH.6.11.3 Investigate the time period and place of a drama / theatre work to better understand performance and design choices.</p>	<p>TH.7.11.1 Incorporate music, dance, art, and or media to strengthen the meaning and conflict in a drama / theatre work with a particular cultural, global, or historical context.</p> <p>TH.7.11.2 Research and discuss how a playwright might have intended a drama / theatre work to be produced.</p> <p>TH.7.11.3 Examine artifacts from a time period and geographic location to better understand performance and design choices in a drama / theatre work.</p>	<p>TH.8.11.1 Use different forms of drama / theatre work to examine contemporary social, cultural, or global issues.</p> <p>TH.8.11.2 Research the story elements of a staged drama / theatre work and compare them to another production of the same work.</p> <p>TH.8.11.3 Identify and use artifacts from a time period and place to develop performance and design choices in a drama / theatre work.</p>	<p>6th Grade: TH.6.11.1: Career Research Project TH.6.11.2: Fairy Tale Comparison Project TH.6.11.3: Masks and Puppetry</p> <p>7th Grade: TH.7.11.1: Career Research Project TH.7.11.2: Fairy Tale Comparison Project TH.7.11.3: Musical Theatre</p> <p>8th Grade: TH.8.11.1: Career Research Project TH.8.11.2: Fairy Tale Comparison Project TH.8.11.3: Theatre History</p> <p>Benchmark (8th Grade Only):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teacher Instructions ● Student Instructions ● FCPS County Rubrics ● Resource Packet <p>Benchmark Lesson Seed</p>

