

GRASSHOPPER



Scene Stars: From Script to Stage

1 hour · 1st – 8th · After School · Teacher: Lara Rigores

Instructions: This lesson plan is your starting point — feel free to edit, rearrange, or customize it to fit your teaching style and your students' needs! These notes are yours. They will not be published anywhere.

Topics Covered

scene analysis · character development · memorization techniques · partner trust · truthful acting · performance skills

Lesson Plan

1. Warm-Up Circle (10 min)

- Lead energizing vocal exercises: tongue twisters, 'red leather yellow leather' repeated 3 times with increasing speed
- Play 'Zip Zap Zop' energy passing game where students make eye contact and send energy around the circle with gestures
- Do 'Shake It Out' where everyone shakes right arm 8 times counting aloud, then left arm, right leg, left leg, then 4 times each, then 2, then 1
- Check-in question related to weekly theme (e.g., 'What emotion did you feel most today?')

2. Acting Tool of the Week (15 min)

- Introduce one specific acting technique (varies by week: objectives, tactics, emotional memory, physicality)
- Demonstrate the technique with a volunteer using a simple 2–line exchange
- Have all students practice in pairs with a provided simple scenario for 5 minutes
- Ask 2–3 pairs to share what they discovered, giving specific positive feedback on truthful moments

3. Scene Work (25 min)

- Assign or review scene partnerships and distribute scene sides (short 1–2 page scenes from age-appropriate plays or films)
- Give partners time to rehearse applying the tool of the week, circulating to coach each pair individually
- Call 'freeze' at 15-minute mark and have each pair share one moment they're proud of or struggling with
- Continue rehearsal with specific direction notes, encouraging students to make bold choices and try things different ways

4. Showcase & Reflection (8 min)

- Have 2–3 scene pairs perform their work-in-progress for the group (rotate which pairs share each week)
- Guide audience in giving 'glows and grows' feedback: one thing that worked and one constructive suggestion
- Ask performers to share what felt truthful and what felt 'acty' or fake
- Teacher gives encouraging, specific notes about moments of genuine connection or emotional truth

5. Closing Circle (2 min)

- Quick group huddle with hands in center, everyone shares one word about how they're feeling
- Remind students of homework: run lines with family member, practice tool of the week
- Preview next week's focus and dismiss with group cheer: 'Scene Stars on three! 1, 2, 3, SCENE STARS!'

Materials Checklist

- ☐ printed scene sides (2–3 copies per scene)
- ☐ clipboard or folder for each student to hold scripts
- ☐ masking tape for marking stage areas
- ☐ small props relevant to scenes (hats, scarves, simple hand props)
- ☐ acting journal or notebook for each student
- ☐ portable Bluetooth speaker for music during warm-ups
- ☐ folder or binder for teacher with all scenes organized
- ☐ parent performance flyers for Week 6 distribution

Age Adaptations

Younger Kids: Use very short scenes (6–10 lines) with clear, simple emotions. Allow students to hold scripts during performances. Focus on big physical choices and clear vocal projection. Use more familiar scenarios like

playground conflicts or bedtime routines. Provide more teacher modeling and structured line-reading practice.

Older Kids: Assign longer, more complex scenes (2–3 pages) with subtext and conflicting objectives. Expect full memorization by Week 5. Introduce advanced techniques like Stanislavski's method, Meisner repetition exercises, or viewpoints. Encourage students to research character backgrounds and make directorial choices. Allow student input in scene selection and staging.

Movement Break

Play 'Emotional Statues' where teacher calls out emotions (excited, nervous, angry, confused) and students freeze in exaggerated physical positions showing that emotion, then teacher taps students to come alive and improvise movement while maintaining the emotion for 10 seconds

Bonus Activities

- Improv game 'Yes, And' where pairs build a story by accepting and adding to partner's ideas
- Character walk: students move around room as their character at different ages (5 years old, current age, 80 years old)
- Prop exercise: random object becomes 10 different things through pantomime
- Hot seat: one student stays in character while others ask questions about their life, past, dreams

Series Outline (8 Weeks)

Week	Theme	Key Activities
1	Building Trust & First Reads	Extensive ensemble-building games (trust falls, mirror exercises, group machines), First read-through of scenes, assign permanent scene partners, Teach 'active listening' as foundation of scene work
2	What Does My Character Want?	Introduce objectives and tactics: what your character wants and how they try to get it, Students identify their character's main objective in the scene, Begin blocking scenes with basic stage movement
3	Memorization Magic & Subtext	Teach memorization techniques: repetition, chunking, movement association, Explore what characters really mean vs. what they say (subtext), Students should be 50% off-book by end of session
4	Physicality & Character Voice	Explore how posture, gesture, and movement reveal character, Experiment with vocal choices: pitch, pace, volume, accent or dialect,

Week	Theme	Key Activities
		Students should be fully off-book, refine blocking and staging
5	Emotional Truth & Stakes	Practice accessing genuine emotion through personal connection (without sharing private details), Raise the stakes: discuss what characters stand to lose if they don't get what they want, Run scenes multiple times making bolder, more committed choices
6	Polish & Technical Elements	Add any simple costumes, props, or set pieces to scenes, Practice entrances, exits, and transitions between scenes, Distribute performance flyers to students for parents/caregivers, confirm performance date/time
7	Dress Rehearsal	Run entire performance sequence twice with all technical elements, Practice bows and curtain call as a full ensemble, Give final notes focusing on projection, energy, and staying in the moment
8	Final Performance & Celebration	Brief warm-up and pep talk focused on having fun and trusting preparation, Perform all scenes for invited audience of parents and caregivers, Post-show celebration with certificates, group photo, and reflection on growth over 8 weeks



This lesson plan was drafted by Hopper, the Grasshopper Kids AI assistant. Want different results? You can [generate another plan](#), or text us with feedback so we can make the tool better. We built this to help save you time bringing more enrichment ideas to life!

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