

Theatre - Grade K

Lesson 7.5 – Retelling Nursery Rhymes

CALIFORNIA ARTS STANDARD(S)

K.TH:Pr4

a. With prompting and supports, identify characters and setting in dramatic play or a guided drama experience.

K.TH:Cn11.2

b. With prompting and supports, tell a short story in dramatic play or a guided drama experience.

OBJECTIVES

- I can retell a poem in my own words.
- I can perform for an audience.

VOCABULARY

- pantomime: acting without words through facial expression, gesture, and movement
- character: the personality or part an actor recreates
- rehearse: practice sessions in which the actors and technicians prepare for public performance through repetition
- audience: people who watch, listen and respond to live theatre.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

- “Jack and Jill”
- “Little Miss Muffet”
- “Humpty Dumpty”
- “Little Froggy”

WARM UP (*Engage students, access prior learning, review, hook or activity to focus the student for learning*)

10 minutes

Part 1

- Remind students of your name.
- Have the students stand in a large circle with you. Remind students of the “actor’s ready” or “actor’s neutral” stance (feet together, standing tall, hands by side, eyes focused). To prepare the students for the lesson, use your own exercises or the ones demonstrated in the “Warm-up” video on this webpage:

<http://sites.uci.edu/class/kindergarten/theater-kindergarten/kindergarten-theater-lesson1/>

Part 2

- Remind students that in the last theatre session they began to rehearse performances of nursery rhymes.
- Explain that today they will work on **retelling the nursery rhyme in their own words and using pantomime** to tell the story.

LESSON *(Presentation of new material, demonstration of the process, direct instruction, Application of knowledge, problem solving, corrective feedback)*

Part 1 (5 minutes)

1. Invite **three student actors** to come to the playing area. Tell them they are going to retell the story of one of the nursery rhymes in their own words. They should **focus on the main actions** in the rhyme.
2. Decide which nursery rhyme to retell. (Jack and Jill)
3. **One of the actors retells what happens in the beginning** of the story. (Jack and Jill have to go and get some water so they get the bucket and start to walk to the well.)
4. **The second actor retells what happens in the middle** of the story. (Jack and Jill have to climb a really big hill to get to the well. For some reason, Jack falls down and hits his head.)
5. **The third actor retells what happens at the end** of the story. (Jill also falls down and rolls down the hill after Jack.)

Part 2 (5 minutes)

1. Invite **more student actors** to the stage area. These students will pantomime the actions as the original three actors retell the story.
2. **Actor one retells the beginning.** The additional **actors pantomime** the action. Sidecoach do get a more detailed performance.
3. Actor two retells the middle. Repeat as above.
4. Actor three retells the end. Repeat as above.
5. After the performance, all actors line up across the stage and take a bow as the audience applauds.

Part 3 (25 minutes)

- Divide students into their **performance groups from the previous lesson.**
- Using the same nursery rhymes they were working on in the previous lesson, have **students decide who is going to retell the beginning, who is going to retell the middle and who is going to retell the end.**
- For the **first part, students just focus on retelling the story**, not the pantomime.
- Tell students **you are going to call out beginning, middle and end and that is their cue to retell** their part of the story in their own words.
- **Call out beginning**, allow students time to retell their part. Side coach as necessary to encourage students to add details.
- **Repeat with the middle and end.**
- Direct students to set up for their pantomime.
- Again, **call out beginning allowing additional time for students to create pantomime** to go with the retelling of the rhyme.
- Repeat with the middle and end.
- Repeat the pantomime section again for a second rehearsal.
- As time allows, have groups perform for the rest of the class.

STUDENT REFLECTION *(Identify problems encountered, ask and answer questions, discuss solutions and learning that took place, did students meet outcomes?)*

1. Ask students, "What did you learn today?" "What is retelling?" "How did you use your actor's tools to tell the story?"
2. Lead breathing and mindfulness activity.

Suggestions for Nursery Rhyme Characters/Movements:

Note that props are suggested which can be pantomimed in this lesson but introduced in the next lesson for the performances of the nursery rhymes. All of these are merely suggestions. Feel free to use your own ideas or elicit ideas from the students.

Jack and Jill - 3 students: Have Jack hold a bucket as he and Jill climb the hill. Jill can lower and raise the bucket by handing it to the child who plays the well and pretending to crank the rope while the child playing the well slowly bends knees or lowers arm or leans over to lower bucket and then comes back up when Jill turns crank the other way. Jill hands the bucket to Jack. He proceeds to fall as Jill looks on horrified before she too loses her balance and tumbles after!

Jack

Jill

Well

Little Miss Muffet - 5 students: Have Miss Muffet enter to sit on her stool. She is carrying her plastic bowl and spoon so she can begin eating. Four students can enter representing the 8 legs of the spider and gather around her. Miss Muffet can look up from her curds and whey, shriek in fright at the sight of the spider, drop her bowl and run away.

Miss Muffet

Spider (4 students to represent the 8 legs)

Humpty Dumpty - 5 students: Have Humpty Dumpty enter and sit on the wall (which may just be a chair or stool). Humpty falls rather spectacularly but gently, slowly, and dramatically. He may vocalize a drawn out "whoa-whoa-WHOOOOOA!" as he falls. Have one of the king's men enter from stage right on his horse and one from stage left. The king's men dismount allow their horses to try to put Humpty together. They sadly shake their heads no and allow the king's men to try. They sadly shake their heads no, mount their horses again and ride away leaving Humpty.

Humpty Dumpty

King's Men (2)

King's Horses (2)

Little Froggy - Have the five actors take their places on stage in a straight line upstage. Before the rhyme is read. One by one the frogs act out their particular type of leap downstage and then exit the stage leaping in opposite directions except for the frog who didn't leap. Frog 5 may, after the line is read, leap away repeating "hippity, hippity, hippity hop" all the way off the stage leaving only the 4th frog on the stage. Perhaps when the stage is empty Frog 4 can look around and vocalize a solo "ribbit" and or catch himself a fly.

Frog 1

Frog 2

Frog 3

Frog 4

Frog 5

JACK AND JILL Jack and Jill Went up the hill To fetch a pail of water. Jack fell down And broke his crown And Jill came tumbling after.	LITTLE MISS MUFFET Little Miss Muffet Sat on a tuffet Eating her curds and whey; Along came a spider, Who sat down beside her And frightened Miss Muffet away.
HUMPTY DUMPTY Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall, Humpty Dumpty had a great fall; All the king's horses and all the king's men Couldn't put Humpty together again.	LITTLE FROGGY This little froggy took a big leap, This little froggy took a small, This little froggy leaped sideways, And this little froggy not at all, And this little froggy went, hippity, hippity, hippity hop, all the way home.



Arts Education Project



Date:	Teacher:	Classroom	Discipline: Theatre
VAPA Teacher:	Room #:	Lesson #: Kindergarten 7.5- Retelling Nursery Rhymes	
Lesson Objective(s): • I can retell a poem in my own words. • I can perform for an audience.			
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To see today's lesson, go to https://www.sandiegounified.org/aep-lessons  VAPA TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH THE ARTS.			