

SUCCESSFUL STORIES

Supporting all Readers and Writers in the Primary Classroom through the use of Story

Key Ideas:

- Providing students with an authentic writing experience
- Inclusion of all students in the creative process of story writing
- Creating opportunities for student success through collaborative writing experiences in the classroom
- Promoting greater intellectual and personal growth

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Contact the Vancouver Opera Education Department for further information about the *Music! Words! Opera!* program.

Process for creating and presenting a class 'story'...

1. Preparing the Students

Developing readiness

- build understanding of story grammar
- vocabulary, fluency and comprehension development
- oral language development
- establish trust, confidence, risk-taking opportunities



2. Creating the Class Story

Children lead, teacher guides

- brainstorm topic/storyline
- create, explore, refine
- determine the 'big' message
- cooperation, decision making



3. Presenting the Class Story

The final product

- authentic audience
- develop presentation skills
- sharing of story



Examples of story presentations:

- Story/legend/poem retold
- Classroom skit
- Classroom Big Book
- Library sign-out book
- In-school play for another class
- Stage production/opera for parents/family

OUTLINE FOR CREATING AND PERFORMING AN OPERA

Building Trust/Risk-taking

- Getting ready with pantomime
- Getting ready musically



Selecting a Story

- Anatomy of a story
- Choosing a published story to adapt
- Making up stories

Composition

- Scenes and characters
- Writing libretto for recitative, arias and choruses
- Composing (mood, rhythm, melodies) Sing the words!

Production

- Production roles
- Sets and Props
- Costumes
- Choosing students to play parts
- Rehearsal process/practice singing, dancing and acting.
- Using make-up
- Technical and administrative preparation

Performances

- Performance (Singing, speaking, backstage)
- Audience (In-class performance, invited outside audience, larger scale stage production)
- Listening, applauding

Evaluation

- Giving feedback
- Thank you notes

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