

Enza Giannone

MS 51 Social Studies Residency Lesson 4

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Goal/Objectives:

- Students will continue to use dramatic conventions to explore characterization as related to characters in *The Great Gatsby*.
- Students will begin to explore costuming and set development using pieces of era-specific clothing and props for specific characters.
- Students will continue to explore and develop given characters from *The Great Gatsby*, using sound and movement as well as costumes and props.

Audience/Development Considerations:

Eighth grade class composed of thirty students ages 13-14. The students are heterogeneous in terms of gender, race, and ethnicity. The students are general education. Students have previous experience with some type of art form. The class period is approximately 40 minutes in total.

Previous Knowledge:

- Students will have some knowledge of drama (such as previous experience doing scene work with Ms. Maier) and character development (such as previous work done with NYU teaching artists) and/or have had experience with creative thinking and learning.
- Students will be in the process of reading F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*.
- Students will be in the process of studying World War I and Post-World War I U.S. culture and history.

Organization:

- Social Studies classroom.
- Desks arranged in two rows with desks facing each other.
- Desks and chairs will be moved to the perimeter of the classroom.
- There will then be an open space in the center of the room in which the students and facilitators will work.

NOTE: We may be using drama classroom. However, we have yet to see the space.

Materials:

- The Great Gatsby
- Name tags
- Markers
- Costumes and Props

Procedure:**A. Introduction**

1. Students will be asked to push aside desks and form a circle where they will participate in the beginning of the lesson ritual.
2. The students will go around the circle saying their names and one of their most prized possessions
3. The students will then be asked to find the poster board outline of the character they drew from *The Great Gatsby* and find a place on their own in the room where they can place the outline on the floor.
4. They will be asked to write their character's name on the name tags and step back onto/into the character's drawn feet/shoes and close their eyes.

B. Main Activity**Objects of Character**

1. Teaching artist will ask them to visualize the characters they began to create and physicalize in the previous workshop. What do they look like? What are they thinking/feeling today? Etcetera.
2. Teacher will be preparing objects such as clothing and props for the students to select as the character when they open their eyes
3. Once everything is selected or put on, the students/characters will walk back to the outline of their character's body on the floor and once again be guided through a visualization of their character.
How does the character feel in these items of clothing?
How do these items change the way the character walks?
How do these items affect the way the character talks?
4. As they begin to move about the space in character, students will be asked to begin giving voice to the characters. They will introduce each other and then, individually, share out loud Biopoems they wrote previously for homework. The poems should be read in the first person and in the character's imagined voice. If students did not bring poems they should still introduce their character, and some information about the character, in the character's voice
5. After this is done the students/characters will be asked close their eyes for visualization/closure.
They will be asked to reflect on how they felt in the character's clothes. They will be asked to take off

the clothes and put down the props. They will then be asked to visualize the room and themselves.

They will be brought back to the reality of the classroom. When they open their eyes they will take of the clothing items and their name tags and record on the back of the name tag the items they chose so that they will remember in the next lesson.

6. They will then return to teacher/teaching artists the items.

Assessment

- Students will then be asked to write in their *Great Gatsby* journals. They will write in role, about one of the objects their character chose to wear or use. Is the object a special one? Where did they get it? Was it a gift?
- Biopoems will be evaluated.
- Students will be asked to bring in items of food, music, and decoration for Gatsby party which will be next lesson.