Georgia Performance Standards Framework for ELA Unit 7 – 5th Grade

Grade: 5
Topic: Elements of Drama
Instructional unit: Unit 7 “Acting Up: Drama”
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The task: The teacher will explain to students that drama, unlike other works of fiction, is written to be performed. The written form of a play is called a script, and the author is called a playwright. The teacher will inform students that a script contains a number of important elements:

1. Acts and scenes – A play is broken into acts and scenes instead of chapters. Acts are the bigger divisions; scenes are the parts within an act. A new scene usually begins when the setting changes.
2. Cast of characters – A cast is a list of everyone in the play. The cast of characters is listed at the beginning of most plays. Sometimes the characters are listed in order as they appear in the play, and a brief description of the character may be given.
3. Dialogue – The script consists mostly of dialogue (conversation). Through the dialogue, the playwright reveals the characters, plot, and themes of a play. Dialogue in plays is not set off by quotation marks. Scripts have speech tags which tell who is speaking.
4. Monologue (soliloquies) – A character stands alone on stage and speaks. These speeches are often important, dramatic moments in a play.
5. Plot – The action/events that occur in the play comprise the plot.
6. Setting – Where and when the play takes place are aspects of setting. The setting usually changes from act to act and scene to scene.
7. Stage directions – The playwright describes details of the setting and sound effects as well as directs characters how to speak their lines, move, act, and look.
8. Theme – The main message is the central idea or message of the play.

The teacher will discuss and share different plays with the class. The teacher will assign parts and have the students practice reading play. The culminating activity will be the students performing the play before an audience.

Differentiated Instruction:
- None needed

Modifications/Accommodations:
- Teacher will post the important elements of a script.

Focus Standard:
ELA5R1 The student demonstrates comprehension and shows evidence of a warranted and responsible explanation of a variety of literary and informational texts.
For literary texts, the student identifies the characteristics of various genres and produces evidence of reading that a. Identifies and analyzes the elements of setting, characterization, and conflict in plot.
b. Identifies and analyzes the structural elements particular to dramatic literature (e.g., scenes, acts, cast of characters, stage directions) in the plays read, viewed, written, and performed.
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c. Identifies and analyzes the similarities and differences between a narrative text and its film or play version.
d. Relates a literary work to information about its setting (historically or culturally).
f. Identifies and analyzes the author’s use of dialogue and description.
g. Applies knowledge of the concept that theme refers to the main idea and meaning of a selection, whether implied or stated.

Circumstances of the assignment/Notes to the Teachers: Elements of a play should be listed on a visual and posted for this lesson and future reference.