**LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Arts Education Branch**

**DISCIPLINE: THEATRE**

**SAMPLE INTRODUCTORY LESSON Grade: 1**

**Standard:** 1.1 Use the vocabulary of the theatre, such as play, plot (beginning, middle, and end), improvisation, pantomime, stage, character, and audience, to describe theatrical experiences.

**Student Objective**: Express themselves theatrically using body, voice and imagination.

**Resources / Materials**: Nametags, Story: “The Garden” from *Frog and Toad Together* by Arnold Lobel, frog bean bag, “The Garden” visual, large bag, emotion cards, *Adventure in the Park*

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| ***Opening Phase*** | ***Gathering/***  ***Warming-up***  (Suggested 5 minutes) | **1. Enter Theatre Space**: Establish ritual for entering class (e.g. with music, follow the leader, holding hands). Students form a circle.  **2.** **Body: Go/Stop:** Practice moving and freezing using a *Go/Stop* technique. Move when the leader says “Go” */ freeze* when the leader says “Stop.” Provide reasons for moving such as sneaking past a sleeping animal, walking through hot sand, searching for a missing object. (**Rule:** Stay in your own space, not touching others. Freeze when signaled.) |
| ***Exploring/Creating Phase*** | ***Exploring***  (Suggested 10 minutes) | **1. Voice: Name Game: Take Your Name to the Center:** With students standing in a circle, each comes to  the center individually, says his/her name while doing a movement/gesture. All students in the circle copy two  times. Teacher demonstrates. **Individual Expression:** With students seated in a circle, each one in turn shares  something he/she enjoys doing. Reverse direction and each student names a story he likes. Pair share first.  **Sound Story:** Adventure in the Park; students provide vocal sound effects. (**Rule:** Practice active listening.)  **2. Imagination: Body Shake into Statues with Feelings:** Working individually and simultaneously, students  shake body into statues of different feelings. Leader asks students “Why?” to add conditions. |
| ***Review/Preview/ Vocabulary***  (Suggested 5-10 minutes) | **1. Ask:** What do you think of when you hear the word “theatre”?  **2. Actors’ Tools**: body, voice, imagination  **3. Vocabulary**: **Imagination, Projection, Neutral, Walkabout, Pretend, Pantomime, Character, Setting** (What do students know?) |
| ***Improvising/Inventing Story***  (Suggested 15 minutes) | **Guided Storytelling:** Students enact story as read working individually and with partners. Switch parts. |
| ***Sharing/Reflecting Phase*** | ***Playmaking***  (Suggested 10 minutes) | **Original Choices:** Students create original methods for making plants grow. Share some. |
| ***Reflecting/***  ***Journal Prompt***  (Suggested 5 minutes) | **1. Discuss:** Which way of making the garden grow did you like best? Why?  **2. Journal:** Draw a picture of your garden. Write a sentence describing what grows in it. |

**Connections/Extensions:** Listening skills, pretending

**Teacher Task:** For the next lesson, teacher will bring students into class to form a circle in a creative manner.