

THEA 365-01, Theatre Topics, Fall 1998

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Children's Literature, From the Page to the Stage

There is storytelling and there is playmaking. Each is a separate art form yet each is very useful in the primary grades. Both can stimulate imagination, instill a love of language, improve listening skills, and improve language skills. **Our goal this term** is to allow our imagination the right to create a place where characters in children's books come alive, where rocks and trees talk and dance. We will learn how to open our play to young audiences, seeking their help in our creation.

TEXT:

THE STORYTELLERS START UP BOOK – Margaret Mead McDonald

CHILDREN TELL STORIES – Martha Hamilton & Mitch Weiss

YOU CAN'T SAY YOU CAN'T PLAY – Vivian Gussin Paley

REQUIREMENTS:

*Class attendance is a must. The class will operate as a performance company with class time the equivalent of rehearsal, performance and business meetings. If one must be absent I must be notified.

*Journal : The journal for this class will eventually be your reference book as well as your performance record. A folder of sorts would serve best. We will use pictures, scripts and movement patterns as a part of the process. I will check the journal periodically through the term. Journal sections:

Games Music Stories Story map Observations What to Avoid

*Two Performance text -

1. The first will be the class created text. Nov 21 – due date for written version.
2. A script you develop separate from the class project. Due date – Dec 14

*Summation Paper – This paper is due December 14 at 1 pm.

GRADES:

This will be a difficult class to grade. The goal of the class is not a “grade” but an exciting and fun piece of theatre. The audience, not the professor, is the main critic. The success of the performance depends on all individuals working together as a company. Therefore I propose:

- If you attend all classes and have all assignments in on time you receive 20 points.
- Successful class participation: good=10pts; fair=5pts; poor=3pts will be assigned by all company members. (points subject to change according to class enrollment)
- Each performance will be given a grade; A=10pts; B=5pts; C=3pts
- Goal - 100 pts = A; 95-99=A-; 90-94= B+; 85-89= B; 80-84= B-; 75-79= C+; 70-74= C.

DUE DATES:

Sept 1 – page 30 in START UP; page 21 in CHILDREN TELL

With each reading, summarize important points in your journal , title and date.

Sept 3 - page 51 in START UP; page 38 in CHILDREN TELL

Sept 8 – page 51 in START UP and page 62 in CHILDREN TELL + bring in a story

Sept 10 – Guest Speaker

Sept 15 – have read all the stories in START UP, be prepared to tell 2. Find, or write a poem that complements the two stories.

Sept 17 – have read all the stories in CHILDREN TELL. Find or write a song that complements one of the stories.

Sept 22 – Bring in a list of stories, poems and songs you have read. Both text provide good sources.

Oct. 1 –YOU CAN'T SAY YOU CAN'T PLAY

Oct 22 – Letters to schools

Nov 10 &12 – Dress rehearsal

Saturday Nov 14 - 1 pm call, 2 pm curtain

Sunday Nov 15 – 1 pm call 2 pm curtain

Saturday Nov 21 – 1 pm call 2 pm curtain

Nov 24 – school performance

Dec 1 – school performance

Dec 3 – school performance

We may need a few outside rehearsals. Be prepared for such an adventure.

