



A Playwriting Project for 8th Grade Theatre Students

Guide for Curriculum Unit 93.03.08

by Jeff Farrell

My curriculum unit features four distinct periods of activity over a 20-week span. The introductory period establishes a foundation for classroom behavior as well as a vocabulary for discussion. We will read “Antigone” for themes of the Individual vs. Society. The second period is the period of starting points in which I lead exercises/games and discussions to stimulate their imaginations. We will read scenes from Ibsen’s “An Enemy of the People” to continue our theme. The third period is a period of development in which the exercises and the discussion come together in writing assignments. In addition to writing our own individual scenes, we will read Latoya Hunter’s book and begin to adapt scenes from its narrative. The fourth period is a period of completion in which students act out the scenes they bring in for homework, and then revise those scenes according to what happens in class. During this period, we may begin to prepare a theatrical adaptation of Latoya Hunter’s autobiography. We submit finished work to Yale Children’s Dramat contest in January.

(Recommended for Theatre courses, Grade 8-12)

<https://teachersinstitute.yale.edu>

©2019 by the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute, Yale University

For terms of use visit <https://teachersinstitute.yale.edu/terms>