High School Arts: Dance for Literature and Film

Guide for Curriculum Unit 95.02.07
by Cheree R. Knight

The curriculum unit that I’ve provided entails six variations of potential lesson plans for dance teachers on the high school levels. I have concentrated on dance classes/projects for high school students because the lessons require intermediate to advanced skills, both cognitively and physically. The students will need to have competent individual and group-work skills. It is possible that dance teachers of junior high school students may find some of the variations present a positive challenge for their students. Therefore, although I am focusing on the high school level, dance teachers of different grades should not be reluctant to use the unit as a suggestive guideline for lesson plan alternatives and/or additions to their existing curricula. The unit is divided into six lessons. The lessons consist of objectives (activities), teacher’s goals, and examples I myself have used and plan to incorporate into my curriculum at the Cooperative Arts & Humanities High School, all of which I have developed as a result of my dance training and experience.

I have provided, at the end of the unit, an example of one of my ballet production goals for the 1995-1996 academic/arts year. I will choreograph a ballet for the story of Sula by Toni Morrison. It is my hope that the ballet will move the audience(s) to read the literature, and encourage a stronger following/support system for the New Haven Comprehensive’s dance art departments.

(Recommended for Dance/Arts, high school level)