

ARTSBRIDGE

Sample Project

Dance

Literacy and Poetry Analysis

Grade Levels: 1-3

VAPA Standards Met for Dance:

Content Standard 1: Creating Art

Content Standard 2: Art in Context

Content Standard 3: Art as Inquiry



Project Description:

Elements of dance are taught in order to develop the children's literacy and poetry analysis skills. The ArtsBridge Scholar teaches several elements of dance (including level change, shape and gesture, personal space vs. general space, and locomotor vs. non-locomotor movement), and uses dance movements to aid students in their understanding of the poetic qualities of words. Combining instruction in both poetry and dance develops analytical, interpretive and critical thinking skills.

As an example, the difference between locomotor and non-locomotor movement is taught by using the poem "A Circle of Sun" by Rebecca Kai. The poem:

*I'm dancing. I'm leaping. I'm skipping about.
I gallop. I grin. I giggle. I shout.*

Students are separated into designated groups and as the poem is read aloud, each group enters the center of the room to improvise the word they are assigned: *dancing* = locomotor; *grin* = non-locomotor.

The final phase of this project is a public performance of the children's choreography set to a poetry piece they have written.

Project Outcomes:

This project meets several of the VAPA Standards for Dance while integrating the material into the classroom teacher's literacy curriculum. An appreciation for dance is gained while sentence structure and new vocabulary is learned.

In addition, the students' self-esteem is raised throughout the project through the opportunity to shine in front of their peers. Finally, the project is formatted in easy-to-understand lesson plans, allowing for its continuation in the classroom long after the ArtsBridge Scholar has completed the project.