

2026 Year 8 - Semester Unit Outline

Drama

Teacher(s): Talia Munro

Faculty: The Arts

Unit Duration: One Semester

The **Australian Curriculum Rationale for Drama** states:

Drama is the expression and exploration of personal, cultural and social worlds through role and situation that engages, entertains and challenges. Students create meaning as drama makers, performers and audiences as they enjoy and analyse their own and others' stories and points of view. Like all art forms, drama has the capacity to engage, inspire and enrich all students, excite the imagination and encourage students to reach their creative and expressive potential.

Drama enables students to imagine and participate in exploration of their worlds, individually and collaboratively. Students actively use body, gesture, movement, voice and language, taking on roles to explore and depict real and imagined worlds. They create, rehearse, perform and respond using the elements and conventions of drama and emerging and existing technologies available to them.

Students learn to think, move, speak and act with confidence. In making and staging drama they learn how to be focused, innovative and resourceful, and collaborate and take on responsibilities for drama presentations. They are excited by exploring their imagination and taking risks in storytelling through role and dramatic action. Students develop a sense of inquiry and empathy by exploring the diversity of drama in the contemporary world and in other times, traditions, places and cultures.

Australian Curriculum Achievement Standard:

By the end of Year 8, students identify and analyse how the elements of drama are used, combined and manipulated in different styles. They apply this knowledge in drama they make and perform. They evaluate how they and others from different cultures, times and places communicate meaning and intent through drama.

Students collaborate to devise, interpret and perform drama. They manipulate the elements of drama, narrative and structure to control and communicate meaning. They apply different performance styles and conventions to convey status, relationships and intentions. They use performance skills and design elements to shape and focus theatrical effect for an audience.

Unit Description:

In the Year 8 Drama Elective Course students will engage in workshops that build upon the foundational knowledge of the elements of drama and performance skills explored in the Year 7 Introductory Drama Course.

The unit focuses on exploring the styles of children's theatre and Commedia dell' arte. Classroom activities promote trust, cooperation and respect while developing essential drama skills and understanding. Students take part in a range of Drama Games to develop their working knowledge of the elements of drama. They will work with scripts, as well as building their own small group performances.

Essential Learning Outcomes developed from the Achievement Standards of the Australian Curriculum:

V9.ADR.8.05

EI 1: Employs performance skills to convey dramatic action and communicate ideas, perspectives and/or meaning when performing drama to audiences.

V9.ADR.8.04

EI 2: Works collaboratively to manipulate elements of drama and conventions to shape and sustain dramatic action in improvised, devised and/or scripted drama

V9.ADR.8.01

EL3: Analyses how elements of drama and/or conventions are manipulated in drama they create and/or experience.

Materials and Equipment Required: Students are expected to arrive at every class with a Chromebook or similar electronic device. Students may choose to bring *props and costumes for performances*.

Absences from Class: Students who miss classes due to absence or excursions must negotiate with the class teacher to catch up missed work.

Use of IT in Class: A Google Classroom has been set up for this class. Students will be required to log into this Google Classroom regularly to access course material. Students must bring their Chromebook to all lessons, however, the use of these devices in class will be at the discretion of the teacher.

Homework: Any homework will be directly related to instruction and course requirements, will be assessed appropriately and may impact upon student grades. Examples of homework may include: catch up on missed classwork, revision of classwork, study for tests, assignment work, or preparation for a class presentation.

Late Work: Extensions may be negotiated with individual teachers before the due date.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is copying or using another's work and claiming it as your own. This includes copying, cutting and pasting text or using ideas directly from a text, the internet or some other source without appropriate referencing. If this happens, work may not be graded, and students will be asked to discuss the assessment with the classroom teacher and Executive Teacher for that subject. Parents may be contacted as part of this process.

Assessment Portfolio: This contains evidence of work from the opportunities the students have been provided to demonstrate elements of the achievement standard.

Portfolio Assessment Tasks for this subject will include:

	Week / Date Due	Essential Learning
1. Drama Performance (Individual or Group)	Week 8 & 16	1 and 2
2. Journal Writing	Week 9 & 17	3
3. Classwork and Participation	Ongoing	1, 2 & 3

A-E Reporting Grade Descriptors These are the grades and grade descriptors for reporting at the end of each Semester.

A	Demonstrating excellent achievement of what is expected (Consistently achieving a proficiency level of 4 or above in each of the Essential Learnings)
B	Demonstrating a high achievement of what is expected (Consistently achieving a proficiency level of between 3 and 4 in each of the Essential Learnings)
C	Demonstrating satisfactory achievement of what is expected (Achieving a proficiency level of 3 across the Essential Learnings)
D	Demonstrating partial achievement of what is expected (Achieving a proficiency of between 1 and 3 across the Essential Learnings)
E	Demonstrating limited achievement of what is expected (Achieving a proficiency of 1 or less in each of the Essential Learnings)
S	Status is awarded where unavoidable circumstances have prevented assessment. Must be negotiated with the Principal.

Grade Descriptors and the "C" grade

In ACT public schools the Australian Curriculum Achievement Standard is aligned with a 'C' grade. The 'C' grade indicates that your child has demonstrated a satisfactory level of knowledge, understanding and skill in relation to the Achievement Standard.

Appeals

A student must initiate an appeal for any grade with their subject teacher. If a student is dissatisfied with that initial process, they must pursue further appeal through the Faculty Executive Teacher for that subject.

Executive Teacher

Michelle Coleman
