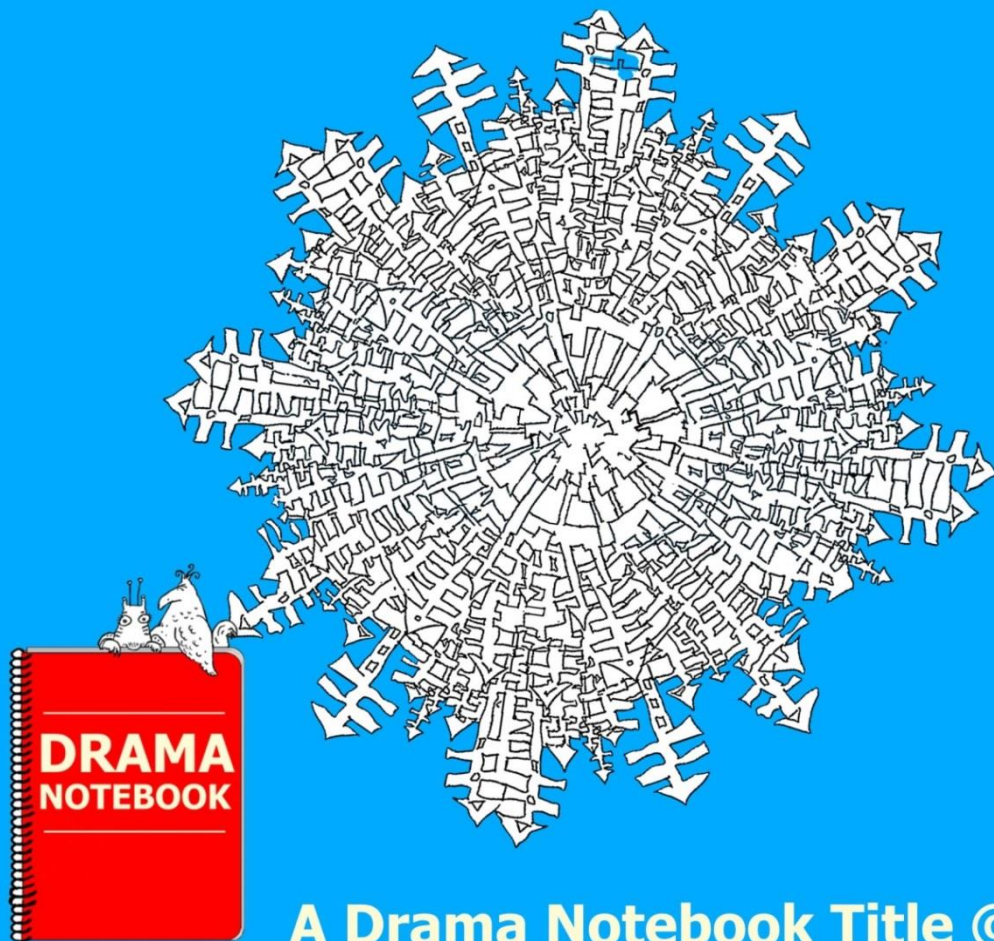


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# WINTER TALES

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~BELOW ARE SEVERAL SAMPLE PAGES FROM THIS LESSON PLAN~

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## Materials needed for this workshop

Hat (to put slips of paper in for certain games)  
Sheets or blankets to make a snow fort (optional)  
White butcher paper to make giant snowflakes  
Tape or tacky stuff to hang snowflakes around the space  
Borrowed white sheets or blankets  
Colored paper to make signs and tickets  
Highlighters  
Blue Tape

## Adapting the Content for Your Needs

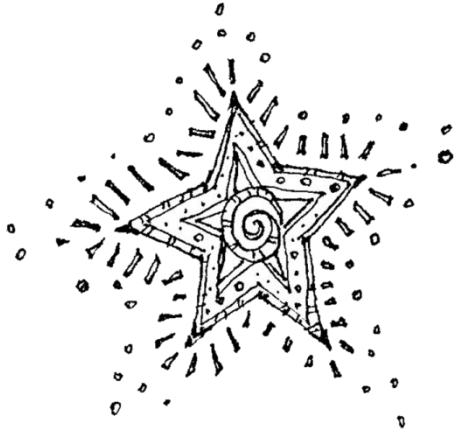
This lesson plan contains more than enough material for nine weeks of once-a-week drama classes. **Read through the entire lesson plan first, so that you have a solid, grounded idea of how the process works.** You may also want to count the number of weeks you have, and make adjustments accordingly. For instance, if you are teaching only six weeks, pare down the lessons to fit your needs. (Use the list below as a guide for what to make sure to include.) If you are teaching more sessions, or even a week-long camp, make sure to use the extra activities provided in the **Study Guides** that accompany this lesson plan.

### In this workshop, kids will:

- Bond as a group.
- Develop focusing and listening skills.
- Begin to communicate information to peers via dramatization.
- Learn basic acting skills such as sensory awareness, stage movement, and vocalization.
- Relate movement to music and stories.
- Imagine characters and develop characters.
- Work together to create tableaux, pantomime plays, and perform scripted work.
- Learn the basics of storytelling by acting out winter stories.
- Relate the meaning of such stories to their own lives.
- Celebrate the season by performing classic winter stories and personal stories about winter for parents and friends.

This lesson plan intentionally contains more material than you will be able to use in each session. Don't worry about doing every activity listed. Different activities will appeal to different teachers or be more appropriate for certain groups.

# Session One



## Supplies/Materials

Sheets to make snow fort (optional)  
Fire machine or orange scarf to symbolize fire (optional)  
Blue tape for marking off space  
Talking stick (optional)  
Name tags  
Poster board for writing rules

## Learning Goal

Students collaborate with others to build trust and create a theatrical *ensemble*.

### In this session, you will:

1. Lead opening ritual
2. Introduce yourself and share learning goal
3. Learn names
4. Go over class rules
5. Lead ensemble-building games
6. Have students use ensemble in a performance
7. Discuss 'What is acting?'
8. Establish closing ritual

## Vocabulary

The answer key for **Theatre Vocabulary** is included with this lesson plan.

Acting/Actor  
Drama  
Imagination  
Pantomime

Play  
Performance  
Theatre

## Opening Ritual

To make the drama class experience magical and full of wonder, you may want to come up with a way of inviting kids into the room for the very first class. Below are two examples:

## Imaginary Winter Wonderland

Turn the lights down, with music playing. (A classical piece works best for this activity.) Invite the kids to move about the room. Ask them to listen to the music and imagine that they are in a magical winter wonderland. Invite them to move about the room as if there is snow on the ground. Maybe they come to a frozen pond and suddenly they have ice-skates on. Invite them to freeze in place for a moment and close their eyes. This winter wonderland can have anything in it! Perhaps there is a friendly polar bear that follows them wherever they go, or maybe the snowflakes all look like butterflies as they fall softly to the ground. Let them know that because it is happening in their imagination, anything is possible! Ask them to open their eyes if they like. They can start moving through the room again, imagining their own secret winter wonderland. After a few moments, gather in a circle and ask each student what he/she saw in his/her winter wonderland. Point out that while everyone had a different experience, no one was right or wrong.

## The Igloo/Snow Fort

Create a space in the room for your snow fort. If you are able to use sheets and keep your snow fort up throughout the week, great! But if you are in a shared space and this is not possible, simply mark off an area with blue tape to make an imaginary snow fort. Make sure there is a 'door' where the kids and you can crawl through to get in! Purchase one of those machines that makes a 'fire' in the middle of your snow fort, or bring in an orange scarf, crumple it in the middle and tell the kids that it is a fire. Dim the lights and invite the kids into your snow fort with their snacks. You may choose to tell a story, or ask for each child to contribute something such as telling the class about their favorite thing to do when it snows. A talking stick is a really great item to have on hand for snow fort time.



Ask!

- What is your favorite winter movie?
- What is your favorite thing to do in the snow?
- If you could be any animal found at the North Pole, what would you be?
- What is your favorite thing to eat or drink when it's cold outside?
- If you were an elf in Santa's toy shop, what toy would you most like to build?
- If you were stranded at the North Pole, what three things would you bring?
- What word best describes winter to you?
- Do you have a favorite winter story?
- If Santa asked you what made you a good person, what would you say?

## Introduce Yourself

Introduce yourself and share a little bit about why you are offering drama club or why you are putting on a play. Share a personal story about theatre and how it helped you grow and change. If you don't have a theatre experience, use an experience from another area of your life and relate it to why you are offering this class now. Next, tell students that over the next

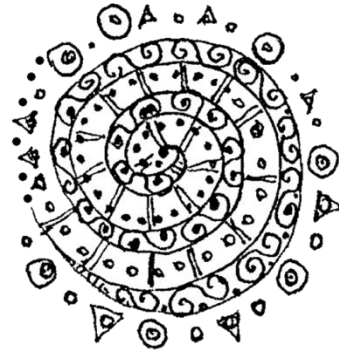


few weeks, we will be learning all about the theatre and acting while rehearsing a play and writing our own winter stories!

## Learning Goal

Say!

In theatre, working together is called 'creating ensemble.' When actors take time to get to know one another, and to really trust each other, they can feel more supported by the group and be more willing to take creative risks. We're going to start by learning each other's names and a bit about everyone!



## Name Games

Announce that we will be learning each other's names. Pick one of the name activities below that is easy to understand and seems fun to do!

### Abominable Snowman

Players stand in a circle. First, go around the circle once and have everyone say their name. Then choose one person to be the abominable snowman in the middle, and they say someone's name and start moving toward them. That person can't move until they say someone else's name! If the person freezes and the snowman reaches them, that person becomes the abominable snowman in the middle.

### Snowball Name Toss

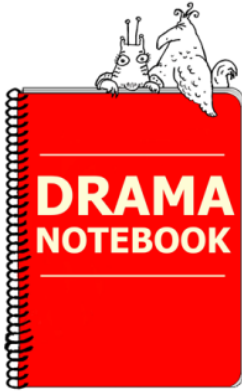
In a circle, invite kids to go around the circle and say their name. Coach kids to try and remember as many names as possible. You may wish to have them go around the circle twice. Next, announce that you are going to toss an imaginary snowball to one of the players. You are going to say your name, and the name of the person you are tossing the snowball to. That person catches the snowball, and then says their name and the name of a different player whom they then toss the snowball to. This is an 'out' game. If you say the wrong name, then you take a step back, out of the circle. Play until there are just a few players left. Play the game at least two times, and then ask if anyone thinks they can name everyone in the circle.

### Nicknames

You may choose to have drama club nicknames instead of real names. This can be really fun for kids! You may want to a craft where they create a name tag for themselves which they can wear during the first few class sessions. This could be taken one step further for a winter-themed class, and the kids could come up with a nickname that relates to winter, such as 'Rudolf,' or 'Snowflake.'



~There are two more pages for Session One in the actual lesson plan~



## Bag of Winter Titles

For a blustery day of winter fun...print out the following page and cut apart the titles and put them in a hat. Invite kids to create small groups and send one person up to choose a title. Groups have ten-fifteen minutes to create a short play with that title. Give each group a copy of 'A Short Play,' included on pages three and four of this lesson plan.

## Ways to use the titles!

### **Solo Stories**

Each actor chooses a title and comes up with their own one-minute tale to tell. Some kids may have the same title, which makes it highly entertaining to see what different kids did with the same title.

### **Team Stories/Skits**

In small groups, kids make up a story that goes with the title they've picked out of the hat. They can use the short play form (at the end of this lesson) to make their story more cohesive.

### **Mixed up Winter Tales**

Give each group an extra challenge by also having them draw an animal, prop, extra character, environment, emotion, etc. out of the hat. Use any other list or print and play game you wish!





# Bag of Winter Titles I

**The Snow Princess Who Never  
Stopped Grumbling**

**The Forgotten Reindeer**

**The Witch of the Snowy Wood**

**Snowed in at the Mall**

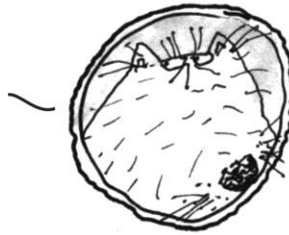
**The Prince and the Magic Mitten**

**Snowman's Three Wishes**

~There are 34 more titles in the actual lesson plan, plus two short play outlines that allow students to fill in their stories.~

What you are seeing here is just a fraction of the material that is included in the lesson plan. Check out the Table of Contents again to see just what's included!

I like what I see so far!  
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