



Drama Lesson Plans

Spirit: The Authentic Story of the Bell Witch of Tennessee
Marilyn Moore, Drama & English, Jo Byrns High, Robertson Co.

The following lesson plan may be adapted for Theatre Arts I or Theatre Arts II. This plan would be implemented after drama students have seen the play. It is always important for students in order to benefit the most from a dramatic experience to attend a play with a working knowledge of the play's subject matter. In this case, it would be the story of the Bell Witch (one book that is highly recommended is the book written by the son of John Bell). After viewing the play the teacher could lead a guided group discussion with the students who saw the play with several of the questions from this lesson plan---this will help the students to put their thoughts on paper. At the conclusion of the group discussion the following lesson plan could be completed in essay form or as a question and answer assignment. Students will be expected to use proper grammar and punctuation.

Part 1: Students will answer the following questions adapting both a personal response and an analytical / critical response to the play. (use proper grammar and answer in complete sentences).

- The first response will be the personal reaction of the students.
 1. Is the play interesting and does it hold your interest throughout the play?
 2. What do you like the most: the plot, the characters, the theme, or the production?
 3. Is the play affecting you emotionally- _do you want to cry, laugh, or is there mystery?
- The second response will be the analytical / critical response.
 1. Do you like the plot; what conflict does it reveal, and is the ending in-avoidable?
 2. Who are the major and minor characters, and how is their portrayal of their characters?
 3. What is the setting of the play, and how does it impact the plot, the characters, and the theme?
 4. What do you think the theme is and how it relates to the human condition?
 5. What is the overall style: is it light, serious or a comedy?
 6. Is the overall language of the play realistic, poetic, or appropriate to the characters?
 7. What do you think of the production elements of the play: the scenery, lighting, sound, costumes, and makeup?
 8. If there is music or dance involved in the play, what is its impact to the overall production?

Part 2: Recommendation--As a conclusion, students will write why they would or would not recommend this play to anyone interested in the story of the Bell Witch.