



Theatre Lesson Plan

Lesson Details

Lesson Title: Reading Subtext in Scenes

Reference Material: The Stanislavski System by Sonia Moore

Estimated Time: 1 90 minute class period

Theatre Standards Addressed

HS Advanced TH:Cr2.1.II	Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.	DEVELOP
a. Cooperate as a creative team to make interpretive choices for a drama/theatre work.		
HS Proficient TH:Cr3.1.I	Refine and complete artistic work.	REHEARSE
b. Explore vocal, physical, and physiological choices		
HS Proficient TH:Pr4.1.I	Select, analyze, and interpret artistic work for presentation.	SELECT
a. Character relationships b. Given circumstances		
Proficient TH:Pr6.1.I	Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work.	SHARE/PRESENT
a. Perform scripted work		
Proficient TH:Re8.1.I	Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.	INTERPRET
a. Analyze and compare choices		

Resources and Materials

Resource Cards 1.1 – Subtext Lines	Resource Handout 1.2 – Open Scenes
Resource Video 1.3 – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-YuO562M0k	Powerpoint

Lesson Targets/Objectives

Essential Questions

Students will identify subtext within a script	How does the use of subtext enhance the audience's understanding of the character's objective?
Students will apply adjustments through rehearsal process	How does intent change with the use of subtext?

Vocabulary

Materials and Supplies

Subtext Intention Objective	Handouts, theatre notebook, writing utensils
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Lesson 1 Instructional Plan

Bell Ringer (5 minutes)

What is intention? In what ways do we convey the true meaning of our statements?

Show video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-YuO562M0k>

How did the delivery change the overall message of each situation?

Lecture/Discuss (15 minutes)

Through Powerpoint, the following questions will be addressed:

What is an objective?

Why is it important that objectives are clear in texts?

How is an objective in a script revealed through performance?

What is subtext?

What does subtext reveal?

- Character
- Relationship
- Objectives
- Obstacles

Activity 1: Warm Up (10 minutes)

Same line repetition

Students stand in circle

Two students in center, given one line to repeat to one another

Each time line is repeated, it must have a different intention

Repeat exercise with each pair until everyone has participated in activity

Activity 2 (10 minutes)

Subtext cards

Students are given cards with a line and two different corresponding subtexts.

Taking turns, students will read their line highlighting the subtext. Other students will try to guess the subtext for each reading.

Activity 3 (40 minutes)

Open Scenes

1. Students work in pairs-Assign A & B
2. Distribute open scene handouts
3. Student pairs will establish relationship and location
4. Students will work individually to create objective for the scene and subtext for every line (A will determine A's lines, B will determine B's lines)
5. Once subtext is written, student pairs will work together to rehearse scene focusing on revealing subtext through their lines.
6. Pairs will present scenes to class
7. Class discussion of what was observed in each scene

LINE: When are we
leaving?
SUBTEXT: I'm dying of
boredom.

LINE: When are we
leaving?
SUBTEXT: I'm so
excited!

LINE: You look so
pretty.
SUBTEXT: I've never
seen you like this.

LINE: You look so pretty.
SUBTEXT: You will never
look as good as me.

LINE: What do you
think you're doing?
SUBTEXT: You're in so
much trouble.

LINE: What do you think
you're doing?
SUBTEXT: You're an
idiot.

LINE: I can't believe this
is happening.
SUBTEXT: This is
terrible!

LINE: I can't believe this
is happening.
SUBTEXT: This is
amazing!

LINE: How did you
do on the test?
SUBTEXT: I adore
you.

LINE: How did you do
on the test?
SUBTEXT: I hope you
failed.

LINE: Nothing will
ever be the same.

SUBTEXT: I'm all
alone.

LINE: Nothing will ever
be the same.

SUBTEXT: We'll be
together forever.

LINE: This looks like
fun.

SUBTEXT: I'm going to
destroy you.

LINE: This looks like
fun.

SUBTEXT: I'm certain
I'm going to die.

LINE: I love your new
haircut.

SUBTEXT: You look
ridiculous.

LINE: I love your new
haircut.

SUBTEXT: Please marry
me.

LINE: Don't worry, I'm
fine.

SUBTEXT: I'm so
embarrassed.

LINE: Don't worry, I'm
fine.

SUBTEXT: You're such a
jerk.

LINE: I have to get out
of here.

SUBTEXT: This looks
dangerous.

LINE: I have to get out
of here.

SUBTEXT: I'm
heartbroken.

LINE: What did you just
say to me?

SUBTEXT: Prepare to
die.

LINE: What did you just
say to me?

SUBTEXT: You're
adorable.

LINE: Is that the new
iPhone?

SUBTEXT: I'm so
jealous.

LINE: Is that the new
iPhone?

SUBTEXT: I'm going to
steal that from you.

LINE: I spent days
writing this paper.

SUBTEXT: I copied it
off the internet.

LINE: I spent days
writing this paper.

SUBTEXT: How could I
have gotten an "F"?

LINE: I know you'll win the
election.

SUBTEXT: No one would
ever vote for you.

LINE: I know you'll win
the election.

SUBTEXT: I stuffed the
ballot box.

LINE: Can you help me
out?

SUBTEXT: You're so
much smarter than I am.

LINE: Can you help me
out?

SUBTEXT: Don't just stand
there, you fool.

LINE: Why are you
doing this to me?
SUBTEXT: I hate your
guts.

LINE: Why are you
doing this to me?
SUBTEXT: I don't
understand.

LINE: I can't believe this
just happened.
SUBTEXT: I'm shocked!

LINE: I can't believe
this just happened.
SUBTEXT: We are really
going to be in trouble.

LINE: We can't go on
like this.
SUBTEXT: I'm
exhausted.

LINE: We can't go on
like this.
SUBTEXT: I'm so tired
of fighting all the time.

LINE: I think I'm falling
in love with you.
SUBTEXT: I'm scared of
getting my feelings hurt.

LINE: I think I'm falling in
love with you.
SUBTEXT: I hope that you
feel the same way I do.

LINE: I can't eat that.
SUBTEXT: That's
disgusting.

LINE: I can't eat that.
SUBTEXT: I am SO
full!

LINE: Crying will do you no good.

SUBTEXT: I'm tired of you manipulating me.

LINE: Crying will do you no good.

SUBTEXT: You need to focus on fixing the situation.

LINE: It's really not that bad.

SUBTEXT: I want to make you feel better.

LINE: It's really not that bad.

SUBTEXT: I hate it, but I won't admit it.

LINE: Just don't do it.

SUBTEXT: Stop hurting yourself and others.

LINE: Just don't do it.

SUBTEXT: You have a choice. You're not obligated.

LINE: You'll get over it.

SUBTEXT: Things aren't really that bad.

LINE: You'll get over it.

SUBTEXT: I'm tired of hearing the same old thing.

LINE: I know you meant well.

SUBTEXT: Mistakes happen.

LINE: I know you meant well.

SUBTEXT: You use that as an excuse every time.

LINE: You still don't understand me.

SUBTEXT: I've explained this a thousand times.

LINE: You still don't understand me.

SUBTEXT: You really hurt my feelings this time.

LINE: The last time I checked, it was on time.
SUBTEXT: Stop asking me that!

LINE: The last time I checked, it was on time.
SUBTEXT: You don't need to worry.

LINE: It's a wonder we aren't dead.
SUBTEXT: Boy, we narrowly escaped that one!

LINE: It's a wonder we aren't dead.
SUBTEXT: You almost killed us back there.

LINE: You don't like it.
SUBTEXT: I can see that you hate it.

LINE: You don't like it.
SUBTEXT: Just admit it!

LINE: She's coming over here.
SUBTEXT: I can't wait to meet her!

LINE: She's coming over here.
SUBTEXT: I want to avoid her at all costs.

LINE: I've done it
before.

SUBTEXT: What, do
you think I'm stupid?

LINE: I've done it
before.

SUBTEXT: Just trust
me!!!

LINE: It's never going to
be like it was.

SUBTEXT: I promise that I
will do better.

LINE: It's never going
to be like it was.

SUBTEXT: You've
ruined our relationship.

LINE: I can't believe they
won the game.

SUBTEXT: I lost all my
money on that one bet.

LINE: I can't believe
they won the game.

SUBTEXT: My favorite
team finally won!

LINE: She's a real witch.

SUBTEXT: That woman
is so mean and nasty.

LINE: She's a real witch.

SUBTEXT: I thought you
were joking, but she's a
real-life witch!

LINE: Please don't be upset.

SUBTEXT: Stop making such
a big deal out of everything.

LINE: Please don't be
upset.

SUBTEXT: I'm so sorry
that you are hurting.

OPEN SCENE 1

A: This is the worst

B: Mmm I know

A: There

B: Happy

A: I am now Yes

B: Good Are you done

A: OK now Your turn

B: OK No, this is the worst

A: Mmm I know

B: There

A: Are you done

B: Yes

A: Good I thought you said you were done

B: OK OK now anything else

A: Yes There

OPEN SCENE 2

A: Shoot

B: Oh

A: Oh no

B: Can you uh

A: No here use this

B: Come on

A: I told you to be careful

B: I was it just happened

A: There let me see

B: Oh where are you going

A: For help

B: And leave me here you can't leave me here

A: You stay here I'm off to get help

B: No no please one more time try it again

A: Stay here I'll be right back

B: Ah

OPEN SCENE 3

A: Well

B: How are you

A: I'm not all that well really

B: Why What's the matter

A: The usual things How are you

B: I'm fine

A: Mmm It's been a long time

B: Yes I thought of you the other day

A: Why

B: It's nice sometimes to think back isn't it

A: Absolutely How's everything

B: Oh not bad Do you know how long it's been since we met

A: Uuh

B: Two years

A: Long time

OPEN SCENE 4

A: What are you doing

B: Can't you tell

A: Well, I think so but

B: It should be obvious

A: You shouldn't

B: I know

A: I mean, I really wish you wouldn't

B: You should have thought of that

A: Is this because of what I did

B: Partly yes, mostly no

A: Can I make it up to you somehow

B: I very much doubt it

A: Stop doing that and really listen to me

B: You don't recognize "No" do you

A: I just asked you to listen

B: I said "No" that's it

Open Scene 5

A:Hi!

B: Hello.

A: How's everything?

B: Fine, I guess.

A: Do you know what time it is?

B: No. Not exactly.

A: Don't you have a watch?

B: Not on me.

A: Well!

B: Well what?

A: What did you do last night?

B: Wht do you mean?

A: What did you do last night?

B: Nothing!

A: Nothing?

B: I said nothing.

A: Sorry I asked

B: That's alright.