



Mapping Connections to Your Theater Experience

This overview provides a preview of the big picture Enduring Understandings of each performance and a preview of the Compelling Questions used to frame an Inquiry project in your classroom. We would love for what is happening on stage at Des Moines Performing Arts to provide a jumping off point to invite deeper engagement, spark conversation, and connect to topics and objectives already present in your classroom.

Air Play

April 20-21, 2020 at the Civic Center

Grades K-8

ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS

There are many ways to tell stories. An audience can understand a story without it being relayed in words. The artists in Air Play use their understanding of scientific principles to create beautiful inspiring work. Art is often both an understanding of the medium and the desire to create an expression.

COMPELLING QUESTIONS

- Air is used to create dance/art/performance in Air Play. It is a (mostly) invisible force. What other impact does wind/air have on the natural world? What else is wind used to do/create?
- How do we, as audience members, understand the story of what is happening on stage? What senses did you use to interpret the performance? Reflect on what meaning you interpreted and the senses you used to interpret it, and then read the artist's statement. What does that add to what you interpreted?
- The performance is part circus, part dance and part science experiment! What story would you create to match a part of the performance? Start with a memorable image. What could you use from your own life or imagination that could connect to that image or movement?

You can find more information on our website and in the Curriculum Guides that work to connect the themes of the performance to Social Studies, Writing and 21st Century Skills standards. Fine Arts Standards in Theater, Dance, and Music can connect when appropriate.

Preview of Standards connected to Inquiry Guide:

Social Studies

Developing Claims and Using Evidence
Communicating and Critiquing Conclusions
Taking Informed Action

Literacy/Writing

Research to Build and Present Knowledge

21st Century Skills

Technology Literacy 21.3-5.TL.3