



Mapping Connections to Your Theater Experience

This overview provides a preview of the big picture Enduring Understandings of each performance and 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, to spark conversation, and connect to topics and objectives already present in your classroom

The Reminders

January 28-29, 2020 at the Temple Theater

Grades 7-12

ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS

Artists use their personal/political/cultural/historical perspectives and experiences to shape their musical compositions and performances.

When we understand elements, structures, and context of music we can “read” the music to understand the intent of the performance and ask deeper questions about purpose.

Understanding a musician’s expressive intent is important for appreciating the work before we can engage in creating meaning.

COMPELLING QUESTIONS

- What do we know about the history and context of the type of music being performed? How does this performance add to the conversation in the genre? Does it replicate a tradition or do something new?
- What musical clues can you use to discern expressive intent? Consider: volume, tempo, major or minor chords, facial expression, and posture of performer(s). What can you “read” about the performance before the lyrics are introduced? How do the lyrics change/reaffirm your understanding of the music?
- Music can be a factor in societal change. Agree or Disagree?
- What are the motivations of the musicians performing? How do their personal experiences, influence of other art forms, and racial/ethnic/religious/geographic/familial identities inform their musical expression?

- What music do you respond to/like to listen to? What about that music connects you to it? If you perform music, what influences your decisions as a performer? How can others “read” your expressive intent when you are creating music?
- Who is in charge of the “meaning” of a piece of music? The listener, the performer, the composer, the song-writer, the sound technician?
- Only people who are part of a religious/racial/cultural/ethnic group should be able to participate in the music of that group. Agree or Disagree?
- Music is a good way to learn about culture. Agree or Disagree?

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:

<p>Social Studies Developing Claims and Using Evidence Communicating and Critiquing Conclusions Taking Informed Action</p>	<p>Literacy/Writing Research to Build and Present Knowledge 21st Century Skills Technology Literacy 21.3-5.TL.3</p>
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