USE THIS LESSON TO: introduce your students to the story and characters of The Lion King JR.

45 minutes

OBJECTIVES: Students will...
- Explore the format of The Lion King Experience.
- Learn about various jobs in the theater.
- Become familiar with scripts.
- Explore story structure.
- Work in groups to read and perform scenes from The Lion King JR.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS:
- None

PREPARATION:
- Pre-assign students into one of three groups: Pride A, Pride B, or Pride C. Note that the Prides will work together for the duration of The Lion King Experience during the Pride Work section of each session.
- Print and cut out the Plot Cards.
- Print and display the Character Signs around your room.
- Print Script Excerpt – Scene 2: Scar’s Cave (one for each student in Pride A).
- Print Script Excerpt – Scene 8: The Gorge (one for each student in Pride B).
- Print Script Excerpt – Scene 13: Pride Rock (one for each student in Pride C).

PROVIDED MATERIALS:
- Plot Cards
- Character Signs
- Script Excerpt – Scene 2: Scar’s Cave (for Pride A)
- Script Excerpt – Scene 8: The Gorge (for Pride B)
- Script Excerpt – Scene 13: Pride Rock (for Pride C)

VIDEO: 10 minutes
- Play video: 1 Introduction.
- The video will introduce and welcome students to The Lion King Experience. The video will also introduce students to the craft of musical theater, the process of creating and producing a musical, and and some of the various jobs in the theater. Additionally, the video will introduce the characters and plot of The Lion King JR.

GROUP ACTIVITY: Unscramble the Plot 12 minutes
- Divide your class into nine groups.
- Distribute a Plot Card to each group. (If necessary, you can distribute more than one card to each group.)
- Tell the groups that they have each been given a moment from The Lion King JR.
- From the list on their Plot Cards, have the groups choose a creative way to bring their plot moment to life.
• Give the groups several minutes to experiment and rehearse their work. After some time for discussion, encourage the groups to get the work up on its feet.

• Pause the activity. Challenge the class to clearly communicate which characters are in their moment and what is happening in the story. Give the groups time for a final “dress rehearsal.” Encourage your students to reference the Character Signs you’ve posted throughout the room for inspiration.

• Invite each group to share its work, beginning with the Plot Card labeled “A” and continuing alphabetically. (NOTE: The Plot Cards are intentionally labeled out of order. Later in the activity, the class will be challenged to determine the correct order.)

• After each performance, ask students in the audience what they think is happening in the plot. Allow the performing group to respond.

• After all groups have performed, challenge the class to determine the correct plot sequence. Assemble the groups in the order they have determined before revealing the correct order: C, F, A, D, H, B, E, I, G. Adjust the groups as necessary.

• With the groups lined up in sequential order, perform each moment one last time.

• After the activity, facilitate a class discussion using these prompts:
  • Whose journey does the story follow?
  • How would you describe Scar? Pumbaa? Nala?
  • What happens at the beginning of the story? The middle? The end?

PRIDE WORK: Exploring the Story 13 minutes

• Divide your students into their Prides and distribute a Challenge Sheet to one student in each Pride. These students are the Pride Leaders for today’s session.

• Distribute the scenes to the corresponding Prides.

• Prompt the Pride Leaders to read the challenge aloud to their Prides.

Scene Study
Pride A will receive a scene from the beginning of The Lion King JR. By following the directions on the Challenge Sheet, students will work as a group to stage the scene and present their work to their peers.

Scene Study
Pride B will receive a scene from the middle of The Lion King JR. By following the directions on the Challenge Sheet, students will work as a group to stage the scene and present their work to their peers.

Scene Study
Pride C will receive a scene from the end of The Lion King JR. By following the directions on the Challenge Sheet, students will work as a group to stage the scene and present their work to their peers.
**SHARE:**  5 minutes

- Invite each Pride to perform their scenes for the class, beginning with Pride A and ending with Pride C.
- Establish a clear playing space, and have the remaining students sit as an audience. Review good audience behavior with the class, and ask the group to give a cue like “3, 2, 1, scene!” for the performing Pride.

**TEACHER TIP:** This activity can be used to determine your students’ prior knowledge and is repeated in the final session. Use the Teacher Pre- and Post-Evaluation Rubric to gauge your students’ growth.

**REFLECTION:**  5 minutes

Use these prompts to facilitate a discussion with your class:

- What is the conflict in *The Lion King JR.*?
- What is Scar’s goal in the story?
- What is Simba’s struggle?

**PRIDE JOURNAL 1:**

Invite your students to complete a journal entry using these prompts:

- Using collage and original artwork, decorate the front cover of your Pride Journal in a way that tells the story of *The Lion King JR.*
- Decorate the back cover of your journal to express your own personal story.