

# Curriculum: Story Drama

---

Summer @  
SCT 2020

---

**CLASS TITLE:** Sensory Drama - Ocean Adventures

**DESIGNED FOR AGES:** 9-11

**CLASS OVERVIEW:** This virtual sensory drama class is a “guardian and me” experience that encourages students with disabilities, particularly those with sensory processing challenges and/or sensory-seeking behaviors, to explore life beneath the waves. Join us on this adventure and engage your body, voice, and imagination. This experience will have accommodations available to facilitate success for each student, including social stories, visual schedules, captioning, some American Sign Language (ASL), welcoming of Augmentative/Alternative Communication (AAC), and lots of gross motor movement. We also recognize that families have individual needs! *If you need additional accommodations, please contact the drama school at [dramaschool@sct.org](mailto:dramaschool@sct.org), and we will work out a solution.*

**Each day in Sensory Drama - Ocean Adventures, we will guide students and adults through the following:**

- 1) a morning greeting
- 2) a full body warm-up
- 3) a sensory scavenger hunt to find any supplies we'll need for the day
- 4) a read-aloud story
- 5) an activity
- 6) a reflection on our favorite moments from the day

Each 90-minute class will offer both synchronous instruction and moments for self-guided exploration. We know that success looks different for every student and family, and we celebrate this diversity of experience! Sometimes, you may need to step away from your screen, and that's ok. You are welcome to use the class outline, attached, to explore the ocean in your own way, on your own time. We look forward to hearing about your discoveries when you return! There is no need for any prep before class—we will work our way through the lesson together!

**CLASS OBJECTIVES/STUDENT OUTCOMES:**

- 1) Students will use the tools of the actor—voice, body, and imagination—to create characters and environments appropriate to our story
- 2) Students will demonstrate an increasing willingness to physically explore the sights, smells, sounds, and textures of the beach, ocean, and deep sea
- 3) Students will connect read-aloud stories to embodied creative drama experiences

**Day-to-day curriculum outlines provided on following pages.**

# Curriculum: Story Drama

---

Summer @  
SCT 2020

---

## **DAY 1: Getting to know one another, establishing routines, practicing saying yes to new experiences.**

Some things we'll do together, that you might choose to do on your own:

- Sensory Scavenger Hunt! Find or create some or all of the following:
  - A sealed container full of water
  - Something rough to the touch, like sandpaper or bumpy plastic
  - Something you can rub on your hands in small amounts without making too much of a mess, like hand lotion, sunscreen, or shaving cream
  - A large piece of fabric, like a sheet, tablecloth, towel, or wide scarf
  - Something to make a breeze, like a fan, paper fan, or piece of cardboard
- Set up an imaginary beach in your home. Lay out a towel, put on sunscreen, sunglasses, and/or a hat (use real items or use your imagination). Explore through your senses.
- Make a plan for how to get to the beach. Consult maps and/or act out your journey.
- Read: Scaredy Squirrel at the Beach by Melanie Watt and wonder, "Have I ever been afraid to try something new? When?"
- Activity: Practice freezing and unfreezing your body. When someone looks at you, you are a statue, but when they look away, you play like a squirrel in the sunshine!

## **DAY 2: Meeting the creatures of the sunlight zone (exploring sights and textures), introduction to teacher**

**"in role."** Some things we'll do together, that you might choose to do on your own:

- Sensory Scavenger Hunt! Find or create some or all of the following:
  - A sealed container full of water
  - Something than can go over your hand, like a glove, oven mitt, or mitten
  - Many things of one color, and one thing of a VERY different color, like 10 black checkers and one red hat or 5 green napkins and one pink towel.
  - Something that shines light, like a lamp or flashlight
  - A large piece of fabric, like a sheet, tablecloth, towel, or wide scarf
- Practice moving your body in the motion of "swimming" in lots of different ways. "Swim" with different strokes. "Swim" like a fish. "Swim" as if just one part of your body is a fish and the rest of your body is the waves.
- Make a plan to help a small fish escape from a big fish who is a predator. Try many different ideas for helping the small fish survive.
- Read: Swimmy by Leo Lionni and wonder, "The fish in Swimmy work together. When have I worked together with someone else?"
- Activity: Use different small items to make one big picture! For example, use your 10 black checkers to make the shape of a fish and use the red hat as an eye. OR use your 5 green napkins to make a mermaid tail and your pink towel to make a mermaid body. Share!

# Curriculum: Story Drama

---

Summer @  
SCT 2020

---

**DAY 3: Exploring the sunlight zone, meeting the rainbow fish (a two-session character), practicing sharing resources.** Some things we'll do together, that you might choose to do on your own:

- Sensory Scavenger Hunt. Find or create some or all of the following:
  - Something reflective or shiny, like a handheld mirror or piece of aluminum foil
  - Something that shines light, like a lamp or flashlight
  - A collection of small things that are important to you, like toy cars, shiny beads, or interesting rocks you find outside
  - A large piece of fabric, like a sheet, tablecloth, towel, or wide scarf
  - Something with many "arms" that can be an octopus, like a mop, a few pieces of yarn, a glove, or a few scarves and/or socks tied together
- Imagine different kinds of plants and animals you might find under the sea. Practice moving your body like these creatures. How does kelp move differently from a tiger shark? How does a sunfish move differently from a sea urchin?
- Assemble your collected items in one place and use your reflective surface to admire yourself amongst them. Don't you look beautiful?
- Read: The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister and wonder, "The Rainbow Fish is happier when he shares with friends. When have I practiced sharing?"
- Act: Be the wise octopus and practice helping others. Be the Rainbow Fish and practice sharing your items with others.

**DAY 4: Exploring the twilight zone and the midnight zone, working with things that glow or produce their own light, saying farewell to the rainbow fish.** Some things we'll do together, that you might choose to do on your own:

- Sensory Scavenger Hunt. Find or create some or all of the following:
  - Shiny, glittery, glowing, or reflective items, like glow-in-the-dark tape, calming glitter bottles, rhinestones, aluminum foil, beads, keys, coins, etc.
  - Something that shines light, like a lamp or flashlight
  - A large piece of fabric, like a sheet, tablecloth, towel, or wide scarf
  - A way to make your space darker, like a blanket you can drape over yourself, a chair you can scoot under, a light you can turn off, or curtains you can close
- Play with light and shadows. See what shapes you can make if you put your body between a light source and a wall or blanket. See how light bounces off glittery, glowing, or reflective items to make light appear somewhere else.
- Imagine the shapes you've made are deep sea creatures. Give them voices and personalities. Is the aluminum foil a firefly squid? Is a glitter bottle a dumbo octopus?
- Read: The Rainbow Fish Discovers the Deep Sea by Marcus Pfister and wonder, "When have I been scared of something? Have I ever enjoyed something that seemed scary at first?"
- Game: Hide something in the dark amongst your glittering props. Use a light to search for it!

# Curriculum: Story Drama

---

Summer @  
SCT 2020

---

**DAY 5: Following an octopus on a journey, growing and shrinking, squeezing into small spaces.** Some things we'll do together, that you might choose to do on your own:

- Sensory Scavenger Hunt. Find or create some or all of the following:
  - A large piece of fabric, like a sheet, tablecloth, towel, or wide scarf
  - Something that could be a fisherman's net, like a loose-weave blanket, a paper bag, a piece of cheesecloth, or some string
  - Something with many "arms" that can be an octopus, like a mop, a few pieces of yarn, a glove, or a few scarves and/or socks tied together
  - A tight space that you can safely fit into, like under a chair, between a couch and the wall, or in a cardboard box
  - Something that makes noise when it moves, like a ring of keys, a shaker, a bag of grain, or a coin purse
- Make your body as big as you can. Make your body as small as you can. Make your body as tall as you can. Make your body as short as you can. Play with the different shapes you can make with your body.
- Act out being a fisherman and discovering an octopus in your net. Are you surprised? Are you scared? How can you help the octopus?
- Read: *Inky's Amazing Escape* by Sy Montgomery and wonder, "How am I like an octopus?"
- Game: Museum escape. Try to sneak past someone while holding an object that makes noise. Fit your body into hiding places. Celebrate your return to the ocean!