

Kansas City Young Audiences Teacher Program Guide

The Giving Tree

Artist: Jane Gotch

Workshop Description

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more information on
this and other
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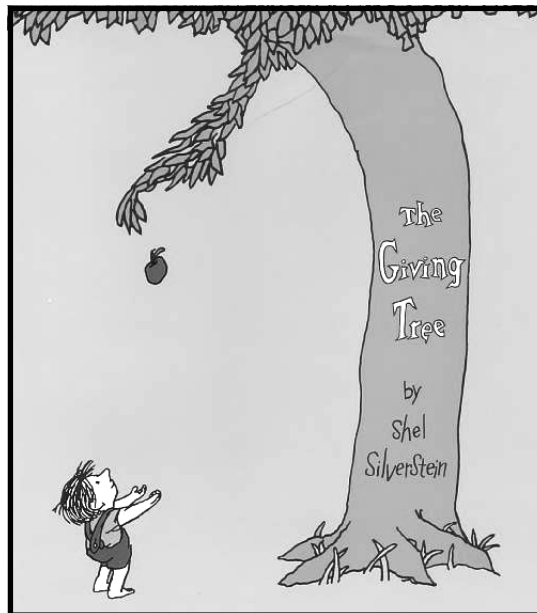
Using Shel Silverstein's book *The Giving Tree*, Teaching Artist Jane Gotch helps students

interpret the words and images of the story into movement phrases. Together, the workshop participants explore the similarities between how authors and choreographers create their work. The students also learn that while authors use words and choreographers use movement, both create

images that communicate a message.

This workshop is designed

to introduce students and teachers to the ideas of instructing the kinesthetic learner. Jane's goal is to teach children through movement, enhancing overall learning capability by engaging auditory, visual, and kinesthetic



modes of learning.

Educational Objectives and Standards

Students will:

- Explore the similarities between how authors and choreographers use movement, both to create images that communicate a message
- Interpret words and images into movement phrases

Language Arts:

- Students can talk about characters and their actions in stories

Dance:

- Students use movement and dance as a means to communicate a feeling, idea, or story

Special Points of Interest:

Ms. Gotch offers other dance workshops through KCYA, including *Anansi the Spider* and *Simple Machines: Bodies at Work*.

Special REQUIREMENTS:

Large, open space, must be 20' x 30'

Artist Bio: Jane Gotch

Jane Gotch has been teaching movement to children since the age of 10. She has taught ballet, modern, tap, jazz, and creative movement to children of all ages locally and in Omaha, NE, Philadelphia, and the New York area.

She is also a certified trainer and pre-trainer of the **GYROTONIC®** and **GYROKINESIS®** system, which is an exercise and body rehabilitation system developed by a dancer which combines aspects of dance, tai

chi, yoga, martial arts, and swimming. She has taught this system around the world including New York, California, Israel, India, and now Kansas City.

She holds a BFA with honors in dance performance from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. Jane's strength as a teacher is her ability, through movement, to ignite in her students, young and old, a confidence in themselves and their creativity which they can carry into all aspects of their life.



Jane Gotch

Vocabulary

Choreographer: a person who creates dances

Energy: one of the three basic elements of dance, referring to the amount of effort used in an action

Modern Dance: a 20th-century dance form having limitless range of styles in which individual forms of expression are the foundation

Rhythm: an organization of music or movement with respect to time; a sub-element of time.

Space: one of the three basic elements of dance, it is the canvas in which dancers create movement; words used in reference to space are direction, level, design, occupied/unoccupied, and positive/negative.

Time: one of the three basic elements of dance, it refers to the speed of a given action, how fast or slow; words used in reference to time include rhythm, tempo, beat, acceleration, deceleration, pulse, and syncopation.

Post-Workshop Activities

1. *The Mirror Game:* In this activity, students gain body awareness. Ask students to work in pairs with each partner facing the other. The partners select one to be the lead dancer. This partner initiates movements, such as stepping from side to side, bending low, or stretching high, while the second partner mirrors the action. Begin with just arm or hand movements. Advance to whole body movement. Keep it slow. Challenge students to stay exactly together.
2. *Design a Dance:* Encourage students to choreograph one of their favorite books. They should decide on a theme and express the mood of the book through their movements. They

List of Resources

BOOKS

The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein
HarperCollins Publishers (June 1, 1964)
ISBN: 0060256656

Teaching the Magic of Dance
by Jacques D'Amboise, Carolyn George
D'Amboise (Other Contributor), Hope
Cooke (Other Contributor)
Simon & Schuster Books
(January, 1983) ISBN: 0671460773

VIDEO

Who's Dancin' Now?
Winstar Home Entertainment
ASIN: B00005KA77

WEB

ArtsEdge Kennedy Center
<http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/>

may select music or add costumes, if they wish.

