Content Standards

English Language Arts

With prompting and support, identify characters, settings and major events in a story.

Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.

Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact.

Dance

Observe dances and dancers and share what they see using words, pictures or movements.

Describe different ways that movements shaped into dance depict feelings and emotions.

Observe, identify and describe basic choreographic elements.

About the Program

Peter and the Wolf is a playful children’s ballet set to the music of Sergei Prokofiev. In 1936, Prokofiev composed Peter and the Wolf as a way to introduce children to the different instruments of the orchestra. Eight dancers from VERB Ballets develop colorful characters through expressive movement. Students experience storytelling through the interaction of narrative, music and movement, and gain understanding of how character and plot are communicated across multiple art forms. Follow up a performance of Verb Ballets’ Peter and the Wolf with this workshop. Students use the four elements of dance (body, energy, space and tie) to identify, portray and create characters in the story. While refining their storytelling skills, students demonstrate character’s traits based upon details from the performance and composer Sergei Prokofiev’s well-known score.

Objectives

1. **Introduce** literary elements such as character development, setting and elements of a story.

2. **Identify** the instruments in the orchestra and their links to characters in “Peter and the Wolf.”

3. **Experience** storytelling in a new way by seeing a classic fable narrated with music and dance instead of words.
Before the Program

Read the story of Peter and the Wolf. After reading the story, make a list of character traits for the Duck, Cat, Bird, Wolf, Peter, Grandfather and the Hunters. Listen to the music of Prokofiev’s Peter and the Wolf.

After the Program

Have the students make up their own dance version of Peter and the Wolf based on what they remember of the story. Have your students write an ending to Peter and the Wolf. The ending could answer such questions as: Does the duck ever escape from the wolf’s stomach? Will something happen on the way to the zoo? Have your students create a short movement phrase to describe their new ending.

Vocabulary

**Character**: A person marked by notable or conspicuous traits; one of the persons of a drama or novel

**Orchestra**: A group of musicians who play usually classical music together and who are led by a conductor

**Narrate**: To tell a story

**Fable**: A short story that usually is about animals and that is intended to teach a lesson

About Verb Ballets

**Verb Ballets** ignites audience passion and participation in contemporary dance. Under the leadership of director Dr. Margaret Carlson, **Verb Ballets** strives to support and foster emerging talent, to present excellence in contemporary choreographers and to be a thought leader in cultivating dance appreciation and support through education and outreach programs. In growing audience appreciation for dance, **Verb Ballets** helps to make Ohio a national destination for the arts.

Resources

*Animated Peter and the Wolf Short Film*

www.youtube.com/watch?v=-kYeeXav6bA

*Leonard Bernstein’s recording of “Peter and the Wolf”*

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZvhA7_qB39s

About the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning

*Through a balance of demonstration and audience participation, the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning teaching artist performances and workshops introduce students to an art form, support various curricular areas, and inject excitement and wonder into the school day.*