**USE THIS LESSON TO:** explore how the use of space impacts theatrical storytelling, both through staging and design.

🕐 45 minutes

**OBJECTIVES:** Students will...

- Review the parts of the stage and blocking vocabulary.
- Explore how space affects power and relationship.
- Develop directorial skills by creating blocking.
- Create a scenic design.
- Present original, creative content and ideas to peers.

**PROVIDED MATERIALS:**

- Backstage Diagram (for Pride A)
- Script Excerpt – Scene 12: The Jungle and Scene 13: Pride Rock (for Pride A)
- Script Excerpt – Scene 13: Pride Rock (for Prides B and C)

**ADDITIONAL MATERIALS:**

- Shoebox, tape, scissors, rulers, glue, and cardstock (for Pride B)
- Three chairs

**PREPARATION:**

- Preset supplies for each Pride in separate areas of the room.
- Print Backstage Diagram (for Pride A).
- Print Script Excerpt – Scene 12: The Jungle and Scene 13: Pride Rock (one for each student in Pride A).
- Print Script Excerpt – Scene 13: Pride Rock (one for each student in Prides B and C).

**OPENING RITUAL:** 🕐 5 minutes

- Gather students in a large standing circle.
- Distribute djembe drums to this session's Pride Leaders.
- Focus the class and ask students to facilitate their physical and vocal warm-ups, followed by the drum circle activity using the established call-and-response format.

**VIDEO:** 🕐 5 minutes

- Play video: 14 Space.
- The video will review the parts of the stage and explore how the use of space affects story and character. The video will focus on the use of stage pictures and blocking as a way to tell a story. The video will highlight set design and how the physical elements on the stage can help tell the story. The video will also introduce how scene changes work.

## GROUP ACTIVITY: Who Has the Power?    ⏱ 5 minutes

- Have your class form a standing semicircle facing an open playing space.
- Place three chairs into the playing space.
- Tell your students that they are to enter the playing space one at a time, and using only a chair and/or their bodies, command the most power in the room.
- Once a student enters the space and takes his position, he must remain frozen in place as part of the ever-growing stage picture.
- Pause the activity when a new student enters the space to discuss the stage picture with the class.

**TEACHER TIP:** Before you begin, take a few volunteers for a practice round to ensure everyone understands the exercise. As the activity progresses, coach the class with open-ended questions.

## PRIDE WORK: Exploring Space    ⏱ 20 minutes

- Divide your students into their Prides and distribute a Challenge Sheet to this session's Pride Leaders.
- Prompt the Pride Leaders to read the Challenge Sheet aloud to their Prides.

### Scene Changes

Pride A will determine how the scene changes will work for the scene. They will use the story, set, and characters to inform their use of space.

### Set Design

Pride B will create a set model for the scene. They will use the story and characters to inform their use of space.

### Blocking

Pride C will create blocking for the scene. They will use the story and characters to inform their use of space.

## SHARE:  🕐 5 minutes

- Invite each Pride to share its work and process. Challenge the Prides to explain why they made the choices they did.

## REFLECTION:  🕐 5 minutes

Use these prompts to facilitate a discussion with your class:

- How does the use of space help us to tell the story?
- How do the director and set designer work together to ensure they are telling the same story?
- How does the use of space affect the stage crew and actors?

## PRIDE JOURNAL 14:

Invite your students to complete a journal entry in response to this prompt:

- Pick an environment that you encounter every day (park, kitchen, classroom, etc.). Sketch a ground plan as if that space was a set for a play. Remember to think about the following questions while designing your space:
  - Where does the audience sit?
  - How do actors move about the space?
  - How can you make adjustments so that the audience can always see the actors' faces and understand concepts of power and relationship?