

# Lesson: Language Arts Grades 4-6

## Topic: Experience Point of View



### Through the Eyes of Casey: Advanced Improvisation

**Introduction:** Students will use their improvisation skills to explore and experience the point of view of the characters in The Children's Theater musical, "Casey at the Bat."

#### Learning Outcomes:

##### National Learning Outcomes:

1. Read a wide range of literature from many periods in many genres.
2. Apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate and appreciate text.
3. Communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for different purposes.

##### Ohio Learning Outcomes:

1. Students learn to apply the reading process to the various genres of literature, including fables, tales, short stories, novels, poetry and drama.
2. Strategic readers learn to explain, analyze and critique literary text to achieve deep understanding.

#### Getting Started:

##### Materials:

- An open space for students to move.

##### Vocabulary:

- Improvisation

#### Lesson:

##### Orientation Activity:

1. Warm-up and visualization exercise:
  - Students will lay outstretched on the floor with the lights turned off. Count slowly from one to ten, four times, and ask students to focus on their breathing.
  - Say: Imagine yourself as a baseball player who has just hit a home run. What can you see? What do you hear? Focus on your five senses. How do you feel?
  - Next, ask students to envision themselves to be in the shoes of one of the characters in the musical. Tell the students to think about the character's facial expressions, how they talk, and what their attitude was in the musical.
  - Ask students to sit in a circle for discussion.
  - Ask: What is improvisation? Improvisation is when you make up or create a scene off of the top of your head. We are going to learn to improvise today so that we can understand the characters better. Improvisation is a form of acting. We are not going to learn with a pencil and paper today, we are going to learn through movement.

*Learning Activity:*

1. Sports Machine:

- Ask students to think of a movement that any athlete would make during a sports game or match, such as shooting a basketball or bumping a volleyball.
- Ask one student to get up and make their movement repeatedly until you tell them to stop.
- Next, have a second student somehow lightly touch the first student and perform his/her motion.
- Then ask a third to join in, and so on and so on, until all of the students in the classes are connected like a machine, performing their movements. They have just performed an improvisation.

2. Ask students to act out the character in the musical "Casey at the Bat" that they had visualized in the warm up exercise.

- Discuss the expectations of an audience and the behaviors that an audience should exhibit during a scene.
- Have the audience try to guess which character and which action the student portrayed. How might the character be feeling?

3. Break students into groups and have them improvise one of the scenes in the musical (see scene list).

- Give them time to practice.
- Then, come back to the circle to act out the scenes and discuss their choices.
- Next, ask for volunteers to improvise how they think Casey and Kid Baldwin might act when they play each other in the next game. Do they act the same or differently?

**Evaluation and Follow-Up:**

*Assessment Tools and Methods:*

- See Handout A - Improvisation Rubric

*Interdisciplinary Connections*

- Reading and Social Studies - Read stories of other great sports greats that had similar attitudes to that of Casey such as Muhammad Ali, Michael Jordan, or Venus Williams. Have students improvise these athletes in a high stakes situation.

# Handout A

## Improvisation Rubric



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Outcome	Beginning	Secure	Outstanding
Student actively participated in improvisation.			
Student actively participated in shared discussion.			
Student actively listened to the ideas of others.			
Student behaved appropriately as an audience member.			
Student thought about and explored the character(s).			
Student showed creativity.			



## Handout B

### “Casey at the Bat” Scene List

- Scene 1 - Kids Playing Baseball in the Empty Baseball Diamond.  
Characters - Jack, Tommy, Stevie, Willy
- Scene 2 - Fight Breaks Out at the Ball Field  
Characters- Kid Baldwin, Stevie, Willy, Jack, Tommy
- Scene 3 - Girls Don't Know Nothin' About Baseball  
Characters - Kid Baldwin, Stevie (Stephanie), Willy, Jack, Tommy
- Scene 4 - Debate between J.W. Boggs and Lester Carmichael  
Characters - J.W. Boggs, Lester Carmichael, Kid Baldwin, Jack, Willy, Tommy, and Stevie
- Scene 5 - The Bet  
Characters - J.W. Boggs and Lester Carmichael
- Scene 6 - Kids React to the Bet  
Characters - Willy, Tommy, Stevie, Jack
- Scene 7 - Conversations at Sally's Diner  
Characters - Willy, Tommy, Stevie, Jack, Pop Corkhill, Bug Holiday, Bucktooth Brannigan
- Scene 8 - Kids Deliver News of the Bet  
Characters - Willy, Tommy, Stevie, Jack, Smiley Wilson, Sally, Bucktooth Brannigan, Pop Corkhill
- Scene 9 - The Chickenhawks React  
Characters - Pete Truesdale, Pop Corkhill, Bug Holiday, Sally, Bucktooth Brannigan, J.W. Boggs
- Scene 10 - Let Kid Pitch!  
Characters - Willy, Tommy, Stevie, Jack, J.W. Boggs, Bug Holiday, Pop Corkhill, Pete Truesdale, Bucktooth Brannigan, Sally
- Scene 11 - Lester Carmichael Comes to Eat at Sally's  
Characters - Lester Carmichael, Smiley Wilson, Sally, J.W. Boggs, Willy, Tommy, Stevie, Jack
- Scene 12 - Kid Baldwin Talks to J.W. Boggs  
Characters - Sally, Kid Baldwin, J.W. Boggs
- Scene 13 - Announcers and Venders  
Characters - Announcer 1, Taffy Vendor, Announcer 2, Lester Carmichael
- Scene 14 - Lester and J. W. Pace Before the Game  
Characters - J.W. Boggs, Lester Carmichael, Kid Baldwin
- Scene 15 - Casey's at the Bat  
Characters - Announcer, Casey, Kid Baldwin, Willy, Tommy, Stevie, Jack
- Scene 16 - Lester Pays Up  
Characters - Lester Carmichael, J.W. Boggs, Sally