

A Guide to the Colorado Academic Standards



Working Together

To support families and teachers in realizing the goals of the Colorado Academic Standards, this guide provides an overview of the learning expectations for Fifth Grade Drama and Theatre Arts. This guide offers some learning experiences students may engage in during this school year, experiences that may also be supported at home.

Why Standards?

Created by Coloradans for Colorado students, the Colorado Academic Standards provide a grade-by-grade road map to help ensure students are successful in college, careers, and life. The standards aim to improve what students learn and how they learn in ten content areas – emphasizing critical-thinking, creativity, problem solving, collaboration, and communication as important life skills in the 21st century.

Drama and Theatre Arts Education for Elementary Schools (k-5)

The Drama and Theatre Arts standards in the elementary years focus on general drama knowledge/skills and basic theatre elements to ensure a solid foundation for more specialized study in later grades, including technical theatre, acting/writing/directing, and film studies. In each grade, students investigate techniques, perform theatrical works, examine characters and settings, consider the work of playwrights, discover and describe personal theatre preferences, and explore constructive ways to provide feedback on the performances of their classmates.

Where can I learn more?

- Contact your school district regarding local decisions related to standards, curriculum, resources, and instruction.
- Colorado Academic Standards Booklets: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/GradeLevelBooks.asp>
- Karol Gates, Colorado Arts Content Specialist at 720-202-9268, Gates_k@cde.state.co.us



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At the end of
Fourth Grade,
students can...



The Colorado Academic Standards in Drama and Theatre Arts
are organized by elements of the Creative Process:

Create → Perform/Present → Know/Comprehend and Critique/Evaluate/Refine

Drama and Theatre Arts Education Learning Expectations for Fourth Grade

Create (Create)

Use important vocal elements (volume, emphasis, clarity, inflection), facial expressions, gestures, and movement to bring a character to life; write short dram pieces (based on known or original stories) that use dialogue and communicate ideas and feelings; select props, colors, and effects (technical materials) to use correctly in a performance.

Perform (Perform/Present)

Demonstrate good theatre behavior (etiquette) during a performance; bring to life characters from different genres using body movements and voice; effectively follow performance notes in scripts and suggestions given by a director.

Critically Respond (Know/Comprehend and Critique/Evaluate/Refine)

Evaluate how meanings are conveyed in different kinds of formal and informal performances; discuss characters and their relationships.

Throughout the Fourth Grade, you may find students successfully applying the elements of the creative process by...

- Examining stories for ideas to create or adapt for a dramatic performance
- Creating props and/or sets to depict a setting or environment.
- Working in small groups to determine possible blocking (stage movement and placement) and character interactions.
- Exploring body movements (walks), mannerisms, and postures to depict more details about a character.
- Discussing details about personal performances or the performances of others.
- Writing a “character analysis” that describes the background, hopes, and concerns of a character to be portrayed (or one that was portrayed) in a performance.