

USE THIS LESSON TO: explore the plot of *The Lion King JR.*

🕒 45 minutes

OBJECTIVES: Students will...

- Become familiar with scripts.
- Explore story structure.
- Work in groups to read and perform scenes from *The Lion King JR.*

PROVIDED MATERIALS:

- Plot Cards
- Character Signs

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS:

- None

PREPARATION:

- Print and cut out the Plot Cards.
- Print and display the Character Signs around your room.
- Print Challenge Sheet Packets in preparation for Pride Work.

OPENING RITUAL

🕒 5 minutes

As students enter the room, invite them to gather with their Pride and discuss the following prompts:

- Why do you think rhythm is such an important part of *The Lion King*?
- Is there anything from last session's Pride Journal that you'd like to share?

VIDEO:

🕒 5 minutes

- Play Video: 4 Plot.
- Invite students to pay attention to whose story they think *The Lion King* follows as they watch the video.

GROUP ACTIVITY:

Unscramble the Plot

🕒 10 minutes

- Divide your class into nine groups.
- Distribute a Plot Card to each group.
- Tell the groups that they have each been given a moment from *The Lion King JR.*
- From the list on their Plot Cards, have the groups choose a creative way to bring their plot moment to life.
- Give the groups several minutes to experiment and rehearse their work. After some time for discussion, encourage the groups to get the work up on its feet.

- Pause the activity. Challenge the class to clearly communicate which characters are in their moment and what is happening in the story. Give the groups time for a final “dress rehearsal.” Encourage your students to reference the Character Signs you’ve posted throughout the room for inspiration.
- Invite each group to share its work, beginning with the Plot Card labeled “A” and continuing alphabetically. (NOTE: The Plot Cards are intentionally labeled out of order. Later in the activity, the class will be challenged to determine the correct order.)
- After each performance, ask students in the audience what they think is happening in the plot. Allow the performing group to respond.
- After all groups have performed, challenge the class to determine the correct plot sequence. Assemble the groups in the order they have determined before revealing the correct order: C, F, A, D, H, B, E, I, G. Adjust the groups as necessary.
- With the groups lined up in sequential order, perform each moment one last time.
- After the activity, ask the class whose story they think the story follows and why.

PRIDE WORK:

Exploring the Story

🕒 10 minutes

- Divide your students into their Prides and distribute the Challenge Sheet Packets to one student in each Pride. These students are the Pride Leaders for today’s session
- Prompt the Pride Leaders to distribute the Challenge Sheet Packets and read the challenge aloud to their Prides.



Scene Study

Pride A will work as a group to rehearse and perform a scene from *The Lion King JR.*



Scene Study

Pride B will work as a group to rehearse and perform a scene from *The Lion King JR.*



Scene Study

Pride C will work as a group to rehearse and perform a scene from *The Lion King JR.*

TEACHER TIP: Encourage the Prides to get the work up on its feet after they have read through the scene.

SHARE: ⌚ 10 minutes

- Invite each Pride to perform their scenes for the class, beginning with Pride A and ending with Pride C.
- Establish a clear playing space, and have the remaining students sit as an audience. Review good audience behavior with the class, and ask the group to give a cue like “3, 2, 1, scene!” for the performing Pride.

TEACHER TIP: This activity can be used to determine your students’ prior knowledge and is repeated in the final session. Use the Teacher Pre- and Post-Evaluation Rubric to gauge your students’ growth.

REFLECTION: ⌚ 5 minutes

Use these prompts to facilitate a discussion with your class:

- What is the conflict in *The Lion King JR.*?
- What lessons can be drawn from the story?

Have your Prides affix their work (challenge sheets, artifacts, etc.) to the Pride Wall.

PRIDE JOURNAL 4:

Pick a moment in your life that would make a good play. Jot down the beginning, middle, and end of that story.