

USE THIS LESSON TO: explore the use of transitions within *The Lion King*.

🕒 45 minutes

OBJECTIVES: Students will...

- 👉 Understand the transitions within the story of *The Lion King*.
- 👉 Apply acting skills to demonstrate a transition in character.
- 👉 Create designs to convey transition.
- 👉 Use directing skills to execute transitions in a theatrical way.

PROVIDED MATERIALS:

- 👉 None

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS:

- 👉 Colored pencils, crayons, and markers (for Pride A)

PREPARATION:

- 👉 Print Challenge Sheet Packets in preparation for Pride Work.
- 👉 Cover Simba Character Sign if it is displayed in your room.

OPENING RITUAL

🕒 5 minutes

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

- What are some design elements we can use to convey character and story onstage?
- Is there anything from last session's Pride Journal that you'd like to share?

VIDEO:

🕒 7 minutes

- Play video: 13 Transition.
- Invite students to pay attention to how the creative team and actors work to show smooth transitions between Young Nala and Grown Nala.

GROUP ACTIVITY:

Transitions in Tableaus

🕒 8 minutes

- Have each Pride create a tableau showing Simba's experience during "I Just Can't Wait to Be King" (the beginning of the show).
- Once the Prides are frozen in their tableaus, give them five counts to transition into another tableau, this time representing Simba's experience during "The Stampede" (the middle of the show).

- Give the groups another five counts to transition into their final tableau, “Finale” (a reprise of “Circle of Life” at the end of the show).
- Repeat the activity. This time, during each tableau, tap a few students in their frozen images to speak an “inner thought.” For example: during “The Stampede,” Simba might say, “I’m scared,” or a Wildebeest might say, “Run!”

PRIDE WORK: Theatrical Transitions ⌚ 15 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.
- Distribute Costume Design Template and colored pencils to Pride A.
- Prompt the Pride Leaders to read the Challenge Sheet aloud to their Prides.



Designing Transitions

Pride A will brainstorm design ideas for Young Simba and grown Simba, specifically tracking the character’s transition from cub to grown lion. Students will create a costume design for Young Simba and grown Simba.



Directing Transitions

Pride B will review the moment in the show in which Simba physically transitions from cub to grown lion. Students will use directing and choreography skills to stage this moment and show the transition in a theatrical way.



Acting Transitions

Pride C will discuss how the actor playing Young Simba and the actor playing grown Simba might incorporate physical choices to show transition. Students will create a movement vocabulary that allows for smooth transitions between two actors.

SHARE: ⌚ 5 minutes

- Invite each Pride to share its work and creative process.

REFLECTION: ⌚ 5 minutes

Use these prompts to facilitate a discussion with your class:

- What is one thing you learned from another Pride’s work today?

- How could the three elements we explored work together to make clear transitions in the show?
- What other kinds of transitions are there in the theater?

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

PRIDE JOURNAL 13:

Invite your students to complete a journal entry using this prompt:

- Write about your transition from elementary school to middle school or middle school to high school. How would you costume and stage that transition in a play about your life?

