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THINKING SKILLS Across Disciplines

These skills were observed by teachers and teaching artists in recent drama projects

Adopting Different Points of View -- Empathy (Understanding & Imagining Characters in Stories or Plays)

- * Exercises engaged students in "speaking as if" they were pets, animals, adults, etc
- * Students wrote quotes or monologues from the point of view of a chosen character for the play.
- * Exercises engaged students in expressing the gestures, facial expression, emotions and body language of animals or other people

Observing and Visualizing (Visualizing what is written in a text, noticing people, places and things in order to imagine them)

- * Exercises engaged students in observing details and visualizing details from memory or imagination
- * Older students wrote sense memory monologues in which they remembered an incident from their past and described it using as many of the five senses as possible (*this also involved using figurative language, similes, etc*)

Cooperating (working with others on a project, taking turns, appreciating others' contributions)

- * Exercises and warm ups built team work and a feeling of belonging
- * Exercises that revealed personal traits built respect for differences
- * Rehearsing and preparing for the presentations required understanding of ensemble

Planning, Revising, Reflecting

- * Creating the scripts and poems required reflecting/assessing drafts and revising orally in rehearsals
- * Preparing the presentation required planning stage actions, props, costumes etc.
- * Students often engaged in oral reflections at the end of class meetings

Learning a Craft

* Theater games, acting exercises, creating and rehearsing a dramatic piece engaged students in greater understanding of the discipline of Theatre, Acting, and the Language of Theatre.

* Students learned the poetic form called "free verse," and wrote poems that echoed a Native American poet's format

* Students learned some ways that plays are written and produced

* Students learned about Readers' Theatre & Choral Speaking

* Students learned many theater strategies for expressing ideas, emotions and stories