**UNIT OF STUDY – 2**

**Title:** Finding your Voice  
**Subject/Course:** Drama  
**Length:** 2 weeks

**Topic:** Voice and Diction  
**Grade:** 11 & 12  
**Designer:** Mari Robertson

### UNIT GOALS AND EXPECTATIONS

#### IMPORTANT CONCEPTS:
- A good speaking voice begins with relaxation, proper breathing, and good posture.
- Voice speaks volumes about a person.
- Rate, resonance, volume, pitch, inflection, and pronunciation work together to create a unique style.
- Memorable actors have memorable voices.
- Acting is as much about sound as it is about appearance.

#### ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:
- What makes a good speaking voice?
- What is diction?
- What is resonance, pitch, or inflection?
- Why does it matter at what rate I speak?
- Why would it matter that I don't use inflection?
- How do I develop a stage voice?
- How do I convey certain attitudes by the voice I use?
- How do I train my voice to convey my character?

### STUDENT LEARNING EXPECTATIONS:

1.1.34 Recognize and cultivate a strong and flexible stage voice.  
2.1.45 Use a blend of vocal and physical expression to project character interpretation.

### SPECIFIC DECLARATIVE KNOWLEDGE—What I know

Define the basics of a good speaking voice.  
Define diction.  
Define rate, resonance, volume, pitch, inflection.  
Understand how these affect the voice.  
Understand how to train the voice to convey specific emotions and attitudes.

### SPECIFIC PROCEDURAL KNOWLEDGE—What I need to do

Participate in vocal exercises for relaxation.  
Practice vocal characteristics, such as pitch, inflection, and volume.  
Practice rates of speed, including pauses.  
Recite poetry.  
Interpret characters using voice.  
Practice pronunciation techniques, reciting poetry.

### UNIT ASSESSMENTS

(Include tasks related to Dimensions 3 and 4 and Bloom's Taxonomy)

Recitation.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traditional Assessments:</th>
<th>Other Evidence of Learning:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily bell ringer activities; oral performance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ACTIVITIES AND LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Students will participate in vocal exercises for relaxation.  
Students will practice vocal characteristics, such as pitch, inflection, and volume.  
Students will recite poetry with pauses, and calling for volume control, such as “The Rebel” by Mari Evans and “The Rinoceros” by Ogden Nash  
Students will read aloud a fairytale, stressing the vocal characteristics of each character.

**Resources**

*The Stage and the School*, by Schanker & Ommanney
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students will read aloud passages from literature to portray emotion, mood, and meanings by the quality of their voices.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students will practice vowel and consonant sound exercises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students will practice tongue twisters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students will perform a recitation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career Connections</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Actor, speaker, actress, director.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>