

Grade 7 Arts and Culture Worksheet

Assessment Task: Myths; Stories; Dance

Star myths

Part One: Write a myth or legend

Since the most ancient times, African people looked up at the sky and wondered, as did people elsewhere around the world. Stars like IsiLimela (known to Europeans as the Seven Sisters) and the Giraffes (the Cross and the Pointers) told when to dig and hunt and plant. Stories were told by the San about how a young girl threw ashes from a fire into the sky to make the Milky Way.

Write a short myth or legend about a group of stars in the sky. You must think like ancient people who did not know what stars were. Your story can be based on a real African myth or you can make one up.

Once you have written your myth, exchange your story with a partner. Read their myth and write some comments that you think will help your partner to improve his/her story.

When you get your story back from your partner, make any changes that you think will make your story better.

Now tell the class the story in the most exciting way you can. Why not make your classroom dark, and sit on the floor around a 'fire', and share your stories like the ancient people did?

[32 marks]

Grade 7 Arts and Culture Worksheet

Rubric to assess writing of story and storytelling

Criteria	Level 4 [8 – 7]	Level 3 [6 – 5]	Level 2 [4 – 3]	Level 1 [2 – 1]
Story is in keeping with IKS and explains natural phenomena from a mythical viewpoint	Outstanding.	Good.	Satisfactory.	Poor.
Story is well written with excellent structure and logical progression	Outstanding.	Good.	Satisfactory.	Poor.
Partners worked well together to edit the drafts; revision of story improved the story	Outstanding.	Good.	Satisfactory.	Poor.
Story was well told, with animated facial expression and proper creation of atmosphere	Outstanding.	Good.	Satisfactory.	Poor.

Part Two: Create a dance about a constellation

Scientists will tell us that stars are not arranged in any particular patterns in the sky. However, since ancient times, humans have gazed up at the sky and seen patterns of stars in the sky. You have just created a myth explaining one of these patterns. Star patterns in the sky are called “constellations”.

Your teacher will now put you in a group.

Choose one of the stories that a group member wrote about a constellation of stars in the sky.

This is the story that your group is going to use as a focus for the next task.

Grade 7 Arts and Culture Worksheet

1. You are going to create a dance which ends in a tableau with the group members in the various positions of the stars in the constellation.

As you work, bear in mind the following:

- Explore choreographic design concepts:
 - Space – direction, levels, symmetry, asymmetry;
 - Time – duration, pace, pulse, phrasing;
 - Force – yielding to and assisting gravity, active and passive movement.
- Demonstrate trust-building partner skills;
- Create visually effective contrasting and complimentary shapes;
- Invent ways to counterbalance weight with a partner.

[28 marks]

Grade 7 Arts and Culture Worksheet

Rubric to assess group dance ending in a table

Criteria	Level 4 [4]	Level 3 [3]	Level 2 [2]	Level 1 [1]
Space – direction, levels, symmetry, asymmetry	Outstanding.	Good.	Satisfactory.	Poor.
Time – duration, pace, pulse, phrasing	Outstanding.	Good.	Satisfactory.	Poor.
Force – yielding to and assisting gravity, active and passive movement	Outstanding.	Good.	Satisfactory.	Poor.
Demonstrate trust-building partner skills	Outstanding.	Good.	Satisfactory.	Poor.
Create visually effective contrasting and complimentary shapes	Outstanding.	Good.	Satisfactory.	Poor.
Invent ways to counterbalance weight with a partner	Outstanding.	Good.	Satisfactory.	Poor.
Dance ends with group in tableau mimicking constellation	Outstanding.	Good.	Satisfactory.	Poor.

2. Before you perform your dance routine, you are going to make a backdrop to perform against.

Take a number of large sheets of black paper and tape them together to create a large sheet of black to represent the night sky.

Now make marks on the paper to represent the stars in your constellation. Make sure you have paid attention to spacing and scale.

Using a paper punch, make small holes in the black sheet where each star has been drawn in the constellation.

Hold a torch or some other light behind the backdrop so that the light shines through the backdrop to represent the stars in your constellation. When you perform your dance routine, you will have an attractive and meaningful backdrop.

[8marks]

Grade 7 Arts and Culture Worksheet

Checklist to assess mural/backdrop

Criteria	Yes [2]	Partially [1]	No [0]
Backdrop was constructed according to instructions			
Group worked together co-operatively to produce backdrop			
Backdrop/mural represents stars in constellation and mirrors the tableau in the dance			
Backdrop is well used in dance routine			

Grade 7 Arts and Culture Worksheet

Suggested Solutions

Question number	Possible marks	Solution
1	32	See rubric in Appendix of Assessment Tools.
2.1	28	See rubric in Appendix of Assessment Tools.
2.2	8	See checklist in Appendix of Assessment Tools.

Appendix of Assessment Tools

Rubric to assess writing of story and storytelling

Criteria	Level 4 [8 – 7]	Level 3 [6 – 5]	Level 2 [4 – 3]	Level 1 [2 – 1]
Story is in keeping with IKS and explains natural phenomena from a mythical viewpoint	Outstanding.	Good.	Satisfactory.	Poor.
Story is well written with excellent structure and logical progression	Outstanding.	Good.	Satisfactory.	Poor.
Partners worked well together to edit the drafts; revision of story improved the story	Outstanding.	Good.	Satisfactory.	Poor.
Story was well told, with animated facial expression and proper creation of atmosphere	Outstanding.	Good.	Satisfactory.	Poor.

Grade 7 Arts and Culture Worksheet

Rubric to assess group dance ending in a tableau

Criteria	Level 4 [4]	Level 3 [3]	Level 2 [2]	Level 1 [1]
Space – direction, levels, symmetry, asymmetry	Outstanding.	Good.	Satisfactory.	Poor.
Time – duration, pace, pulse, phrasing	Outstanding.	Good.	Satisfactory.	Poor.
Force – yielding to and assisting gravity, active and passive movement	Outstanding.	Good.	Satisfactory.	Poor.
Demonstrate trust-building partner skills	Outstanding.	Good.	Satisfactory.	Poor.
Create visually effective contrasting and complimentary shapes	Outstanding.	Good.	Satisfactory.	Poor.
Invent ways to counterbalance weight with a partner	Outstanding.	Good.	Satisfactory.	Poor.
Dance ends with group in tableau mimicking constellation	Outstanding.	Good.	Satisfactory.	Poor.

Checklist to assess mural/backdrop

Criteria	Yes [2]	Partially [1]	No [0]
Backdrop was constructed according to instructions			
Group worked together co-operatively to produce backdrop			
Backdrop/mural represents stars in constellation and mirrors the tableau in the dance			
Backdrop is well used in dance routine			

Grade 7 Arts and Culture Worksheet
