

COURSE: Elements of Theatre
Unit: Deepening Connections –Wildflower
Lesson Topic: Play reading – introduction

Grade level: 9-12
Student teacher: Liz Adams
Length of lesson: 51 minutes

Stage 1 – Desired Results	
Content Standard: MA Theatre Standard – 2.7 Read plays and stories from a variety of cultures and historical periods and identify the characters, setting, plot, theme, and conflict	
Understandings/goals Students will understand that the audience’s identification with different characters can change the effect of the play on the audience.	Essential Questions: Who does an audience identify with? Why does the audience identify with a character? What responsibility does the theatre artist have for the audience’s response?
Student objectives – skills and knowledge Students will be able to read <i>Wildflower</i> by Lila Rose Kaplan using the shifting dramatic lens of character. Students will be able to apply Aristotle’s three unities to a play and note where the play adheres and diverges from the three unities of time, place, and action. Students will know that individual characters provide an audience options for closer and more distant identification with the events of the play. Students will know that individual characters’ stories build the story of the play.	
Stage 2 – Assessment Evidence	
Performance Task(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the effect each character’s story has on the audience 	Other Evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate appropriately in whole-class discussion and exploration of the play’s themes
Stage 3 – Learning Plan	
Learning Activities: Introduction: Introduce plan for the day. Instructor-led discussion: What is the relationship of a character to the audience? What effect does it have when the audience identifies with a character? What is our responsibility as theatre artists for taking care of the audience through the unfolding of the play? Distribute scripts for <i>Wildflower</i> by Lila Rose Kaplan. Assign roles to students who have not yet had an opportunity to read. Reinforce procedure for reading: students read assigned character aloud, important stage directions read aloud, too. Ask students to keep in mind who of the characters they identify with as they read. Begin reading. Try to get through the first scene. Thank students, reinforce observation of what effect they notice as they identify with different characters at this point in the story.	

