

The Da Vinci Code- Get to Know the Author

Pre-Show Activity

Drawing Key Moments

Goals:

- Students will research the author(s) of the play
- Students will understand the impact an author's work can have

NOTE: This activity has been aligned with TEKS and [Universal Design for Learning](#). TEKS can be found at the end of this document.

Materials Needed

- Access to quick research tools (books, tablets, internet)
- Paper or notebook for notes

Introduction- Meet the Creators

- Using Alley Re-Sourced, introduce students to the authors and playwrights
 - Dan Brown, Rachel Wagstaff, Duncan Abel

Research

- Students will choose one of the authors to study in more depth. Encourage students to find the following information:
 - One interesting fact about the playwright's life
 - One major play they wrote
 - One theme or idea common in their work

Tip: Dan Brown will be the easiest person to find information on, and Duncan Abel will be the most difficult

Notes for UDL alignment: To provide multiple ways of expressing understanding, consider letting students act or physicalize their responses. You can also utilize Think-Pair-Share to provide additional solo and partner processing time.

Sharing and Feedback

- Each student or group shares their facts aloud with the class in a quick round-robin format.
- Discuss briefly how knowing about the playwright helps understand their plays better.

Notes for UDL alignment: Encourage students to share in pairs, small groups, or through written reflection to offer varied ways of participating.

TEKS

Fine Arts- Theatre, Middle School 6-8

5(D) explore career and vocational opportunities in theatre.

High School Levels I-IV

Level I- 1(H) define the roles of and appreciate the collaborative relationships between all artistic partners such as playwrights, composers, directors, actors, designers, technicians, and audience;

4(A)/4(B) relate, analyze, and evaluate historical and cultural influences on theatre;

English Language Arts and Reading, Middle School 6-8

(9) Author's purpose and craft: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts. The student uses critical inquiry to analyze the authors' choices and how they influence and communicate meaning within a variety of texts. The student analyzes and applies author's craft purposefully in order to develop his or her own products and performances.

12(D) identify and gather relevant information from a variety of sources

12(F) synthesize information from a variety of sources;

English Language Arts and Reading, High School- English I-IV

(8) The student uses critical inquiry to analyze the authors' choices and how they influence and communicate meaning within a variety of texts. The student analyzes and applies author's craft purposefully in order to develop his or her own products and performances.

11(E) locate relevant sources; (F) synthesize information from a variety of sources;