

Endless Possibilities
Call and Response- Hello-Hello
Melissa Current, Dance Teacher at First Ward Creative Arts Academy

5th grade Essential Standards

5.CP.1 Use choreographic principles, structures, and processes to create dances that communicate ideas, experiences, feelings, and images.

5.C.1 Understand cultural, historical, and interdisciplinary connections with dance.

Essential Questions:

1. What is traditional dance? How is this different than contemporary dance?
2. What is call and response? How is this action used in dance? How is this action used everyday with everyone?

Teacher Input

The teacher and students will view the clip of Chants on the Wiki space.

Together, students and teachers will brainstorm ideas about the images and techniques they see.

The teacher will discuss with students about Alonzo King's vision for the contemporary dance. What might it be? What kinds of movements is he using? What kind of music do you hear? Are the movements and music the same or different?

The teacher will discuss contemporary dance as an exploration of the total movement potential of the body that expresses personalized vision through experimentation and collaboration. Chants is an example of contemporary ballet.

Next the teacher can explore the technique of call and response. Call and response is a choreographic technique in which a dancer may do a movement and another dancer may respond by doing a different movement.

- Students will form a circle and the teacher will create a simple movement such as isolating his/her head. Students could respond to this by isolating a different body part. The teacher can reiterate that call and response is a technique that is used in dance as a choreographic structure. Dancers may perform a movement phrase and then another dancer may respond to the phrase doing another movement.
- The teacher will show the wiki space page of Chants again. The students will raise their hands when they see the call and response phrases.
- The teacher will then put the call and response into a movement phrase. The teacher will reach towards the ceiling for 8 counts. Students can talk about how they might respond to this movement: for example: reaching up, dropping to the floor, spinning in one direction, or creating a frozen shape.
- The teacher then can change movements by creating a tip toe for 8 counts that moves in space. Then students can respond by creating their own locomotor movement phrase that travels.

The teacher will need to have access to the Wiki site for Chants.

Phrases:

- Students will form small groups of four. Students will create a call and response phrase. The teacher can assign the callers and the responders or groups may choose to do this.
- Each group will share their phrase. The teacher will discuss how to be an audience member while watching the phrases (As an audience you sit quietly, actively watch, and be supportive.)

Journals: Students will write a paragraph exploring the use of call and response in every day activities. When might you use this technique other than in dance? When the dancers used call and response in *Chants* was it successful and why?

How is contemporary dance different from traditional dance?