DRAMATIC SCRIPT READING (BATTLESTAR GALACTICA)

Subject: Language Arts/Drama/Speech/Reading/Communication
Grade Level: 6-12
Learning Objectives: Students learn dramatic reading vocabulary, reading, and performance skills using a script from a specially selected “Battlestar Galactica” episode.

Materials
1. Select script from “Battlestar Galactica,” episode
2. “Battlestar Galactica,” video (the script scene)
3. Vocabulary sheets
4. Crossword puzzle
5. Designated theater space
6. Sheet Music for, “All Along the Watchtower,” and “Gaeta’s Lament”

Resources
1. Battlestar Galactica exhibit at EMP
2. Battlestar Wiki at www.battlestarwiki.org
3. Bear McCreary’s blog; www.bearmccreary.com/blog/
5. “Battlestar Galactica, The Official Companion,” Season Three and Season Four

Learning Standards: Washington State Essential Academic Learning Requirements for the following content areas:

• **Reading** (1) Students understand and use different skills and strategies to read; (1.2) build vocabulary through reading; (1.3) read fluently, adjusting reading for purpose and material; (1.4) understand elements of literature—fiction/science fiction; (2) Students understand the meaning of what is read; (2.1) comprehend important ideas and details; (2.3) think critically and analyze authors’ use of language, style, purpose, and perspective; (3) Students read different materials for a variety of purposes; (3.3) Read for literary experience (plays) to understand self and others; (4) Students set goals and evaluate progress to improve reading.

• **Communication** (2) Students communicate ideas clearly and effectively (2.1) communicate to a range of audiences for different purposes; (2.3) use effective delivery; (2.5) effectively use action, sound, and/or images to support presentations.
Pre-Visit

1. **IMPROVIZE and ROLE PLAY** various characters and traits (hero/heroine, villain, servant/master, rich/poor, good/evil, greedy/generous, teacher/student, bully/victim, etc.)
2. Review **Vocabulary and Concepts**

Vocabulary and Concepts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Volume</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leading role</td>
<td>Projection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting role</td>
<td>Character analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dialogue</td>
<td>Personality</td>
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<tr>
<td>Narrator</td>
<td>Identity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blocking</td>
<td>Stage Crew</td>
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<tr>
<td>Direction</td>
<td>Lighting Crew</td>
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<tr>
<td>Set</td>
<td>Camera Crew</td>
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<tr>
<td>Timing</td>
<td>Video/film</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rhythm/beats</td>
<td>Upstaging</td>
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</tbody>
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3. Read “There is a Languor of the Life” by Emily Dickinson (Admiral Adama reads this in the opening sequence of the episode titled, “A Disquiet Follows My Soul” Season 4)

There is a Languor of the Life
More imminent than Pain --
'Tis Pain's Successor -- When the Soul
Has suffered all it can --

A Drowsiness -- diffuses --
A Dimness like a Fog
Envelops Consciousness --
As Mists -- obliterate a Crag.

The Surgeon -- does not blanch -- at pain
His Habit -- is severe --
But tell him that it ceased to feel --
The Creature lying there --

And he will tell you -- skill is late --
A Mightier than He --
Has ministered before Him --
There's no Vitality.

4. Review Staging Areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UP Stage Right</th>
<th>UP Stage Left</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Center Stage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOWN Stage Right</td>
<td>DOWN Stage Left</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AUDIENCE
EMP Visit

➢ **Theater Games- Options:**
  - **Counting Exercise** (1-10 call and response)
  - **Toning** “Ma-Me-Mi-Mo-Mu”
  - **Speech Work** with Tennis Balls
  - **Mirror Exercise** (as a group and in pairs/depending on group ability)
  - **Space Walk**

➢ **Battlestar Galactica Script Reading**
  - Assign parts, read, and assign general blocking patterns for Select scene from, “A Disquiet Follows My Soul,” written by Executive Producer, Ronald D. Moore
  - Sing, “All Along the Watchtower”
  - Sing “Gaeta’s Lament”
  - Review work and watch the scene (DVD) from the TV series
  - Visit the Battlestar Galactica exhibit at EMP|SFM

POST-Visit

(1) Create in-depth character analysis for the following characters:
   - Lieutenant Gaeta
   - Number Six
   - Admiral William Adama
   - Kara Thrace
   - Galen Tyrol
   - Doc Cottle
   - Gaius Baltar
   - President Laura Roslin
   - Lieutenant Louis Hoshi

(2) Improvise a scene based on the character analysis (Role Playing Game)