



JIN VS. THE BEACH

Post Show Lesson 1: Block Monsters

Grade Level: 3-6

Student Learning Objective(s): Students will become costume artisans and create their own block monster masks made out of recycled and found objects.

Supplies/Resources Needed: Used cardboard boxes (will need enough to cut up for each student to make a prop), scissors, glue tape, markers, pen/pencil, paper, markers/crayons, plain paper for each student

Optional Supplies/Resources: Leaves, sticks, twigs, found objects from around school campus

California Arts Standards Addressed:

3.VA:Cr1:1 Elaborate on an imaginative idea.

3.VA: Cr2:1 Create personally satisfying artwork using a variety of artistic processes and materials.

3.VA: RE:7.1 Speculate about processes an artist uses to create a work of art.

3.VA:Cr1:2 Apply knowledge of available resources, tools, and technologies to investigate personal ideas through the art-making process.

3.TH:Cr1 Imagine and articulate ideas for costumes, props and sets for the environment and characters in a drama/theatre work.

3.TH: Re7: Understand and discuss why artistic choices are made in a drama/theatre work.

Common Core Standards Addressed:

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.3](#) Describe the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text, using language that pertains to time, sequence, and cause/effect.

Step by Step Directions for Teacher

Activator:

- Say: “Today we are going to be costume artisans for JIN VS THE BEACH using upcycled and found materials.” But first, let’s explore what it means to “upcycle” by watching a video of some kids in Australia who are doing just that. Play video called [UPCYCLING KIDS](#) for students. Once the video completes, have students pair-share with a neighbor about what they believe upcycling is and if they have additional examples they can share.
- Ask students if they have any idea how much cardboard waste we have in the United States each year. Take a few guesses. According to [Cardboard Balers.com](#): “Incredibly the amount of cardboard thrown away annually is enough to heat 50 million houses for the next two decades. In the United States, **850 million tons** of paper and cardboard are thrown away annually.”
- Say: “Artists also have a big responsibility to be creative and think environmentally when it comes to creating art. When it is possible, it can be fun to take old objects and make them into something new, which is another form of upcycling.
- Let’s learn about how the costumes and costume pieces for JIN VS THE BEACH were created by our Costume Designer, Keira McGee:
 - First learn about Keira [here](#)
 - Next, visit our page on the [POP TOUR website](#) under Behind the Scenes and Design Process to watch two videos of Keira talking

about sustainable costume design and the creation of the block monster masks.

Activity:

- Say to students: "When a costume designer begins to create their ideas for a show, they collaborate with the director and playwright, read the script, and then draw out their ideas first using paper or a tablet."
- Have the students work in small groups to brainstorm from their memory what they remember about the Block Monster characters from within JIN VS THE BEACH. Have each group share their ideas and create a list on the board for all students to see.
- Say to students: "Now let's take a look at a scene from the script of JIN VS. THE BEACH written by Min Kahng. While we read the text, look for important clues that will help us understand more about who the block monsters are." (*The script is attached at the bottom of the lesson plan. You could print a copy for each student, or display on screen. Assign roles to students if you would like to read aloud)
 - Once your students have read, have a discussion about what they infer about the Block Monsters from the text. Some guiding questions: Why do they appear at this moment? Are they real or in Min's imagination? What do the block monsters want?
- Now that the students have their memories of the show and the text inferences, they are going to create a sketch of what they think a block monster should look like. They should not recreate what they saw in the show, but use their imaginations to create their own ideas. They can draw the face or the whole body, but will only be creating the face in a mask.
- Once the students complete their sketches, if possible, bring your class outside of your classroom and walk around the school group to collect found objects that could be used in the creation of their masks. Things they could collect would be leaves, flowers, twigs, sticks (if they want a stick to hold up their mask), clean trash, etc.
- Once back in your classroom, let the students know that they are going to create their own block monster mask using the upcycled cardboard,

markers/crayons, glue, and their found objects. Allow students time to work on their masks.

- Once the students have completed their masks and they are dry, it would be fun to try a few more readings of the script with the masks on.
 - For an extension, you could have students write additional lines of dialogue that their block monsters would say, and have the students perform their new lines of dialogue for the class.

Closure:

- Bring students back together as a class. Here are a few summarizing questions for discussion:
 - What other ways do you think theatre artists can UPCYCLE to create props, sets, or costumes?
 - What else will you try to upcycle?
 - How are costumes important to telling a story in a play?

For further exploration on costume design and creation at La Jolla Playhouse, your students can watch our video, [Careers in Theatre: Costumes and Costumes Design](#) where our Design Assistant, Desiree Hatfield-Buckley demonstrates some of the skills and processes of creating a show at La Jolla Playhouse.

From JIN VS. THE BEACH by Min Kahng

BLOCK MONSTERS

Free time is right after lunch...
And you won't know what to do...
You'll look so dumb...

(CORA joins him.)
CORA

Whatcha got today?

JIN

What I usually get...

CORA

Bagel & cream cheese?

(JIN nods.)
BLOCK MONSTERS

Is she judging you for your bagel?

CORA

My dad packed me a hummus sandwich. Yummy... Hey, remember when we were little, you used to always bring that sushi-except-not-sushi? Like wrapped in seaweed, but full of veggies and stuff? What's it called again?

JIN

Kimbop?

CORA

That's right! That was so tasty! How come you don't have that for lunch anymore?

JIN

I asked my grandma to stop making it...

CORA

Why?!

BLOCK MONSTERS

**Because you were so embarrassed...
You stood out in all the wrong ways...**

JIN

(to CORA, trying his best to ignore the BLOCK MONSTERS)

I just did...

CORA

**To get store-bought bagel and cream cheese?! Why would you ask her to stop?
Kimbop is so good!**

BLOCK MONSTERS

**We knew she was judging your bagel!
Looks like no matter what you do, you're going to get judged...**

JIN

Hey Cora, I think I wanna finish my lunch alone. Is that ok?

CORA

Did I say something wrong?

JIN

No. I just don't feel like talking right now.

CORA

Oh! I've been there. No worries, friend!