

# Kabuki Theater and Haikus

Middle School

## Goals:

- Creating original Kabuki movement to Japanese text
- Performing in front of an audience
- Make connections to other disciplines

## Connections to Curriculum:

- A. Making- Acting (Improv, Physical, Vocal, Staging)
- B. Literacy- Understanding Dramatic Text (Theater History)  
*Respond to Theater Performance* (Critique and Review)
- C. Context- To Arts and Other Disciplines (Recognize the intersections to other disciplines)

**Materials:** Large open space, slips of paper with Haikus and a handout describing traditional Kabuki movements

## Sequence:

1. Discuss with the students the types of movements found in a traditional Kabuki performance. (Refer to handout) Remind students that in Japanese culture nature is a main focus and exaggerated gestures are often paired with the words.
2. Pass out the envelope and have students randomly choose two haikus. Discuss haikus, where they came from and what makes them a haiku.
3. Have students create a movement phrase for each one in the style of Kabuki. Presentations must be memorized and recited in a clear acting voice.
4. Gather students as the audience to watch each other interpretations of the Haiku's and use of traditional Japanese movement.

## Assessment:

Are students incorporating Japanese movement into their performance?  
When creating their performance is it abstract movement or pantomime?  
Are they able to recognize elements of Kabuki movement in other students' presentations?  
Are they good audience members?