

## The Adventure of Character Mountain with Mary Bennett

### The Journey Through the Character Arc

Grades 6 – 8

*Addressing a character arc through an actor practice and point of view. We use the base fairy tale of Little Red Riding Hood to develop a deeper understanding of the exposition, rising action, obstacle, climax, falling action and resolution to track how a character changes, grows, fails, and succeeds in their journey.*

**Materials:** Blank paper and pencils, colored pencils are a bonus. If students use a journal even better. PDF - Printable “Character Arc” that can be used with the lesson and afterwards

#### **The Lesson:**

We begin by understanding the storytelling arc (based on Frey’s Story Pyramid) and apply it to a “character mountain” as we go through the fairytale of Red Riding Hood beat by beat. Participants are led through an imaginative journey of the classic fairytale to create an enjoyable and reliable way to build and understand the arc of a character.

- Introducing Theatre Artist - Mary Bennett
- Character/Story Mountain Explained
- The “objective” of a character - defining the “want”.
- Draw your own Character Mountain or download PDF
- Take notes & doodles as Red Riding Hood Character Mountain (Arc) is developed through storytelling step-by-step.
- Understand the relationship of the Protagonist (Red Riding Hood) and the Antagonist (Wolf)
- “Tactics” also called “action verbs” and how they apply to a character
- Discussion about how a character arc can change with events & choices
- What is your own character arc?

#### **Connection to the Nevada Academic Content Standards for the Fine Arts**

- Creating: Conceiving and developing new artistic work and ideas.
- Performing: Realizing artistic ideas and work through interpretation and presentation.
- Responding: Understanding and evaluating how the arts convey meaning.
- Connecting: Relating artistic ideas and work with personal meaning and external context.

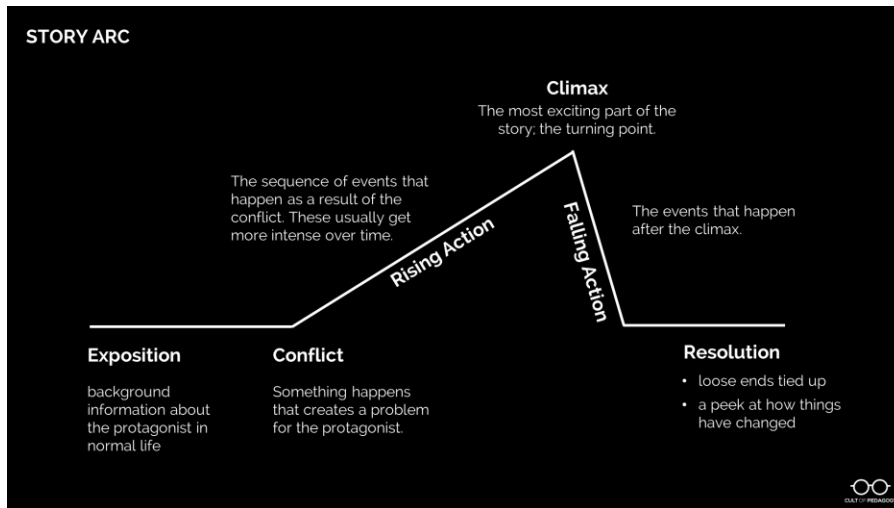
**Connection to Literacy:** Taking a deep dive into reading comprehension, sequencing, connections, and specifics relating to character and situations expands the boundaries of the imagination and understanding of the author's intent. Understanding the path from beginning to end of how to “build” a story develops reading and writing skills.

#### **Resources**

<https://www.dltk-teach.com/rhymes/littlered/pstory.asp>

<https://languageartsclassroom.com/2014/05/teaching-character-arc.html>

<https://blog.reedsy.com/narrative-arc/>



## About the Artist

### Mary Bennett

Mary Bennett is currently the Producing Artistic Director of Brūka Theatre (Reno) and The Carson City Ghost Walk. She is an actor/playwright/director/producer/theatre maker and sometimes referred to as "that woman". Her one-woman original show: *Dorothy Parker ... Shivering and Sighing* won Best of The San Francisco Fringe Festival and toured nationally. Her stage training and performances include: The American Conservatory Theatre – San Francisco, Bay Area TheatreSports (BATS), Dell Arte' International Theatre Company, New York Stage & Film, B Street Theatre, Brūka Theatre, GLM Theatre Company, The Reno Philharmonic, Reno Jazz Orchestra, Sierra Nevada Ballet, New York Stage & Film, Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival and The Missoula Children's Theatre. Film performances include *Sister Act*, *Dear George*, and *Nowhere Nevada*. She is also a voiceover artist.

Mary is a Kennedy Center trained teaching artist and works as an arts integration specialist. She is theatre artist in residence with Nevada Arts Council and Sierra Arts Foundation. She enjoys advocacy, writing poetry, essay & short stories, and historical research. Mary is currently developing a middle school drama program at Doral Academy, working on a radio style adaptation of *The Yellow Wallpaper* for Brūka Theatre, co - creating & performing a living art piece for The Nevada Museum of Art's Show: *Victorian Radicals*, recording books of great artists designed for a young audience with Sierra Arts Foundation and teaching virtually.

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artists in schools +  
communities

### Nevada Arts Council Teaching Artist Roster

*The Nevada Arts Council Teaching Artist Roster* is an online resource for schools, organizations and communities seeking to engage teaching artists. Roster artists are experienced in collaborating with schools and communities to conduct arts learning and cultural experiences in, through and about the arts.

Explore the roster at <https://www.nvartscouncil.org/rosters/teaching-artists/>