

Sharon L Unrau, PhD **ASSIGNED:** Tuesday, March 22, 2020 **DUE:** TBD (start working)
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DANCE: Arts IMPACT Middle School
Columbus, OH 43215

Dance 7 – Period 1 Quarter 4
Dance 6 – Period 3 Quarter 4
Dance Survey 1– Period 5
Dance 7 – Period 6 Quarter 4
Dance 6 – Period 7 Quarter 4

DANCING: THE POWER OF DANCE

c.1993 Thirteen/WNET

Essential Question: How Powerful is Dance?
(225 TOTAL POINTS)

Objectives:

1. Students will... identify elements that make dance a powerful means of communication;
2. Students will... recognize the universality of dance;
3. Students will... integrate events (personal, community, or global) and create a dance.

Program Pre-Viewing Information:

(SEARCH YOUTUBE): The Power of Dance WOU Dance (56:37 Running Time)

Dance is one of the most powerful forms of human expression, and therefore it is a powerful means of communication. Through movements of the human body, dance conveys the whole range of human emotions; tells stories; and strengthens, disciplines, and refreshes the whole person. For many of the world's people, dance also has the power to heal, to provide salvation, and to invoke and appease deities.

The two major elements that make dance uniquely powerful are its full use of the person and its ability to serve societies in important ways. Any definition of dance should incorporate both its physical and social cultural functions.

The human body is unique and in its ability to choose to move freely in a way that has meaning and in its ability to give meaning to whatever movement it creates. In dance, the body is the direct medium; it needs no intermediary. In dance, the physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual powers of the body are evident in a single act.

Dance, as exemplified in religious worship, displays of power, rites of passage, courtship or dating, celebrations and entertainment, is a primary form of communication in most societies. Dance is inherently social, and it reflects a society's views about life — ideas of the body, relationships between men and women, relationships among age groups and classes, relationship to deities, and so on. Between cultures, dance can be an important means of mutual understanding once cultural biases are set aside.

Dance has the power both to conserve and expand culture, keeping a society's traditions alive while adapting to new realities. In this way dance sustains the integrity of culture in a turbulent world of high-speed, high-impact change. Through the traditional Bhangra, a farmers dance from the Punjab area of India, for example, Punjabis living in England are able to keep their Punjab identity and culture alive.

Human movement that can be called dance is extremely varied — from simple hand gestures to complex ballets, to masses of people swaying in rhythm at a rock concert or at a religious service. There is no shortage of definitions, but few, if any, manage to convey the feelings of a person who has been seized by the power of dance.

“The Power of Dance,” Program 1 of DANCING, examines the function and impact of dance in the lives of individuals and societies.

VIDEO OBSERVATION NOTES (50 points)

Write the words POWER and DANCE on a piece of paper. List the possible connections between the words. List, Describe, Perform examples of power in dance. List specific body movements, costumes, setting, and the purpose and meaning of the dance. As you watch “The Power of Dance,” list examples of the ways in which dance is powerful.

VOCABULARY (25 points) Use each word in an original sentence.

1. Bhangra (a farmers dance of the Punjab region of India)
2. Choreography (the arrangement of movement in dance)
3. Cultural Identity (orientation of the self in regard to family or ethnic group, class, and nation)
4. Gesture (use of motions of the limbs or body as a means of intentional expression)
5. Dance

QUESTIONS FOR UNDERSTANDING (25 points)

1. What similarities and differences did you notice among the dances in the program?
2. What evidence of the power of dance did you find in the program?
3. What experiences and traditions from your own life are similar to those you saw in the program?
4. Why do you think dance is an art form in all societies?
5. Will dance become even more important as a means of communication in 2020? Why?

THE POWER OF DANCE: Working alone, with a partner, or with a group, complete the following activities in order to expand and explore your ideas about the power of dance.

A. GETTING AT THE MEANING OF DANCE (25 points)

Dorothy Buck, an authority on dance, has described it this way:

“Dance is a way of discovering and becoming who we are. It expresses our deepest beliefs and makes our emotional experience visible. Through movement we communicate the human condition in all of its ambiguity and paradox from despair and ecstatic joy to simply giving praise for life.”

Write your own description of the meaning of dance. You may write a paragraph (5 sentences), an essay, an article or a poem. Use examples from your own experience and observations. Explain why you think dance is important to individuals and to society.

B. SAYING IT THROUGH DANCE (25 points)

Isadora Duncan, a famous dancer, once said,

“If I could tell you what it meant, there would be no point in dancing it”

Dance communicates something that is meaningful to you. Perform it for another person or for a group. Record it!

C. THE DANCE IN SPORTS AND THE MARTIAL ARTS (25 Points)

1. What role does dance play in sports and martial arts?
2. Could some of your movement or gestures be considered dance or dance like?
3. How are they useful?
4. What do dance skills add to the sport or martial art?
5. Record your dance like movements and gestures from a sport you play — or from a martial art you study. If you wish, perform the movements and gestures to music. Record it!

D. DANCE IN YOUR LIFE (25 points)

1. What power does dance have in your own life? Why?
2. Describe your favorite dance — something you do yourself or something you enjoy seeing others do or both.
3. What is the dance called? Why?
4. Who dances it? Why?
5. What are the movements?
6. When and where is it done? Why?
7. Try to explain its meaning in words.

E. Dance is All Around You (25 points) There are many things in the world that move; the planet moves; things in nature move; the human body moves; traffic moves; dance, too, shows patterns of movement. Observe people and things in your community and home. Watch how they move. Look for a pattern and a rhythm. For example, traffic moves in a pattern and has a rhythm. Look for patterns of movement around you. List the various ‘dances’ you see.

