



Danny, King of the Basement

**Web Resources provided by
the MSU Riley Center for
Education and Performing Arts**

General Resources

http://www.schooltimeseries.com/webpdfs/ST_DannyKing_web.pdf

Grades 3 – 8: Study Guide

- About the show
- Facts about homelessness
- Character descriptions
- Vocabulary list
- Interview with the playwright
- Writing prompt
- “The Cost of Living” activity
- Researching charities and charitable acts
- A list of related books to study

<http://www.etfo.ca/AdvocacyandAction/SocialJusticeandEquity/Danny/Documents/Danny%20King%20of%20the%20Basement%20Teaching%20Guide%202008.pdf>

Grades 3 – 8: Study Guide

This guide is similar to the one listed above. See pages 7 – 9 for additional ARTS INTEGRATED ideas: drama and writing activities using an excerpt from the script.

Poverty

Danny struggles with poverty and homelessness in the play, which are two important social issues for students to understand.

<http://learningtogive.org/lessons/unit162/lesson2.html>

Adaptable for grades 3 – 8: Lesson Plan

- Understanding poverty
- Analyzing written documents
- Identifying organizations that seek to alleviate poverty

http://humanityquest.com/topic/art_activities/index.asp?theme1=poverty

Adaptable for grades 3 – 8: Activities

A list of ideas on how students can display their understanding of poverty through arts forms and writing

- Create a cartoon
 - Write a poem
 - Create an improvisational act
 - Keep a journal
 - Hold a discussion
 - Write a short story
 - Choreograph a dance
 - and many more
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Imagination

Danny and his friends use imaginary play to help them cope.

http://scifiles.larc.nasa.gov/text/educators/activities/2001_2002/inclass/thingamajig.html

Adaptable for grades 3 – 8: Fun activity!

Science and Language Arts Integration

- Students create a gadget using discarded materials.
- Students write a newspaper article explaining their invention, how it works, the parts it contains, and how it is used.

<http://edsitement.neh.gov/lesson-plan/unicorns-dragons-and-other-magical-creatures>

Adaptable for grades 3 – 8: Lesson plan

Students use the arts and their imaginations to analyze other cultures and create their own magical creature!

- Students explore “magical creatures” from around the world.
- Students explore folktales and fairytales.
- Students discuss the attributes of the creatures.
- Students create representations of their own “magical creature”
- Students create a dramatization

Finances

Danny and his mother struggle with their financial situation. With these lessons, students learn the basics about managing money.

http://www.thirteen.org/edonline/lessons/fe_future/index.html

Adaptable for grades 3 – 8: Lesson Plan

- Students explore career choices.
- Students learn about big expenses, like mortgage payments.
- Students learn about interest and loans.
- Students learn about cost vs. benefit.
- Students explore opportunity costs.
- Overall, students gain a better understanding on how to manage money responsibly.

<http://www.thirteen.org/finance/educators/lesson1.html>

Adaptable for grades 3 – 8: Lesson Plan

- Students learn about the components of a budget.
- Students learn how to compute savings and debt.
- Students learn how to manage their finances.
- Students will gain an understanding of self-regulation

Mississippi Frameworks

Language Arts

3rd Grade: 1 dfg
2 abcd
3 abcdf
4th Grade: 1 ef
2 abcd
3 abcdf
5th Grade: 1 de
2 abd
3 abcdf
6th Grade: 1 de
2 abd
3 acdf
7th Grade: 1 de
2 abd
3 abcdf
8th Grade: 1 de
2 abd
3 abcdf

Social Studies

3rd Grade: 3 a
4 cd
4th Grade: 1 c
4 ac

Theater

3rd & 4th Grades: 1 a
2 b
MS I – II: 1 ac
4 ade