



ARTS ELEMENTS

UNDERSTANDING THE BUILDING BLOCKS

Dance	Music	Theatre	Visual Art
Body	Rhythm	Plot	Line
Energy	Melody	Setting	Shape
Space	Timbre	Character	Color
Time	Texture	Theme	Form
	Form	Dialogue	Texture
		Conflict	Space



Elements of Dance

UNDERSTANDING THE BUILDING BLOCKS

Body

What you move

Body parts – arms, legs, head, torso, eyes

Body shapes – curved, straight, symmetrical, twisted

Energy

How you move

Force – strong, light

Quality – sharp, smooth, loose, tight

Space

Where you move

Personal space, Shared space

Levels – high, medium, low

Direction – forward, sideways, diagonal, standing still

Size – large, small

Pathways – on the floor, in the air

Time

When you move

Speed – fast, slow

Duration – length of time the movement lasts

Rhythm – patterns of movement; long/short, strong/light, accents/rests



Elements of Music

UNDERSTANDING THE BUILDING BLOCKS

Rhythm

Combination of sound and silence in music; the beat is the steady pulse throughout the piece of music

Melody

A series of pitches (high and low notes) that create a recognizable and memorable tune

Timbre

The unique quality of sound; what a voice or instrument sounds like; families of instruments are grouped by timbre

Texture

The layers of sound; many or few timbres sounding at the same time; melodies and harmony

Form

The structure or architecture of a piece of music; how it is organized



Elements of Theatre

UNDERSTANDING THE BUILDING BLOCKS

Plot

The story; what happens or the sequence of events

Setting

Time and place; the surroundings or environment in a story

Character

The personality or role played by an actor

Theme

What the play means or the main idea within the play

Dialogue

Voice, mime; word choices used by the author; also includes inner dialogue

Conflict

Opposition between characters; opposition between what the character wants, or wants to achieve and what is standing in the way of achieving that goal



Elements of Visual Art

UNDERSTANDING THE BUILDING BLOCKS

Line

A one dimensional, identifiable path; defines the edges of shapes and forms; leads the eye around the composition

Shape

Flat enclosed areas that are two dimensional - height and width; can be geometric or organic

Color

Light reflected off objects; three main characteristics are

- Hue – name of color
- Value – lightness or darkness of the color
- Intensity – strength and purity

Form

The shape of the object; three dimensional – height, width, and depth; can be viewed from many angles; has volume and takes up space

Texture

The surface quality of an object; smooth, rough, bumpy

- 2-D – how it looks like it might feel
- 3-D – how it actually feels

Space

The area between and around objects; refers to a feeling of depth or dimension; can be real or illusion

- Positive space – area that is the subject
- Negative space – area around the subject