

CLASSROOM DISCUSSION: The Mayhem Poets (15 min. total)

Show & Theater Company:

The Mayhem Poets

Art Form

- A three-man group of spoken-word performers
- These theatrically-trained, comedic, lyrical virtuosos blend raw elements of hip-hop, theater, improv and stand-up comedy to reshape students' views of poetry to reveal truths on contemporary issues.

Context:

- The Mayhem Poets are among the nation's top spoken-word performers who met in college as students at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey in 2000 and started an open-mic on campus called Verbal Mayhem.
 - ? What's the difference between spoken-word poetry and poetry?
 - Spoken Word poetry is a memorized piece that formulates a concentrated imaginative awareness of experiences and arranged to create a specific emotional response which is intended to be performed live.
 - Poetry is a written piece that formulates a concentrated imaginative awareness of experiences and arranged to create a specific emotional response through meaning, sound, and rhythm.

Main concepts:

- Three spoken-word performers: Kyle Rapps, Scott Raven & Mason Granger
- They have a mission to change what society thinks about poetry with a unique, rhythmic style of spoken-word poetry.
- This show will excite our young people about the power of language and give them the confidence to express their own personal voice.

Special things to look for:

- Body stance and language
 - ? Does it change the meaning of a message being sent in regards to a person's thoughts or feelings?

Theater Etiquette:

- Respect the theater, one person to a seat, limit bathroom breaks, do not kick the seats, no food or drink in the theater (bottled water okay), and turn off cell phones/no texting.
 - ? How is watching live theater different than watching a movie or TV?
 - Can't pause, rewind, or fast forward with live theater
 - Live theater is exciting, because each performance is unique
 - Students are in the same room as the performers. Every sound they make and moving around can affect the performers and other members of the audience.

Show info: *The Mayhem Poets* • Wednesday, February 27, 2019 • 9:30am • Grades 6-12

