

Fantasy Theatre Factory

presents



The Magical Bookstore



Teacher Guidelines

These Teacher Guidelines have been prepared in conjunction with Florida Sunshine State Standards.

True to form, Fantasy Theatre Factory presents a magic show that not only entertains, but also educates, as it promotes literacy. This show is tailored specifically for school-age audiences yet is fun for all ages. Designed to encourage listening skills and develop a greater interest in reading, The Magical Bookstore combines popular children's books, music, comedy, sleight-of-hand, juggling and other circus skills to create a unique show.



A Message to Educators

How do juggling, mime, clown, and theatre affect my students? What are the advantages of a live theatre production? Most importantly, how can I make this particular theatre experience an educational one as well?

Live performance, whether it's a play, a circus act or a magic show not only provides positive entertainment-it jump-starts the imagination and stimulates creativity. This adds to the richness of art in general, unlimited even by the number of individuals in existence, since each individual's possibilities are endless. Encouraging imagination in children as early as possible solidifies their freedom to cultivate their creativity and discover their art.



Why Children's Theatre?

[From The Importance of Children's Theatre by Sharon Martell]

'But back to Stanislavski: why does children's theater need to better? For one thing, children make up the most demanding audience, requiring perfect honesty. If they don't like what they are seeing, there won't be any polite applause. Instead, there will be a lot of extra wiggling, loud whispering, and multiple trips to the bathroom.'

English playwright, David Wood, told the Guardian that children's theater was "the most important theatre," due to its role in triggering the imagination, and its obligation to produce work of the highest quality. There's little room to fail in children's theater, he argues, "Some children and families will be coming for the very first time, and if you fail it could be the last time they ever come to the theatre."'



Why Tell Stories to children?

Developing Aural Comprehension:

Storytelling and reading out loud make it easier for children to understand and enjoy certain types of literature that they might never read themselves. Why is this? As educators, we know that children, good readers or poor, need to have their reading interests expanded. Children, like many adults, will continue to read the same kind of stories that they are currently accustomed to (i.e. horse stories or fairy tales etc.) Through storytelling and reading out loud to children we can introduce them to a wider variety of literature.

Storytelling can also help reduce the lag between the child's reading ability and their capacity to understand literature. For many children there is at least a three-year difference between what they can comprehend when listening and what they are capable of reading.

Thirdly, it makes reading seem easy and fun. Watching an adult read effortlessly or recite a story with amusement helps to make reading an enviable skill.



Pre-Show Discussion Questions

- What do your students know about the performing arts?
- While television has brought about many changes in today's society, there still is a marked difference between live theatre and a taped show.
- How is live theatre different from TV or the movies? What is meant by "the show must go on"?
- Answers may vary: immediacy of a live performance; having to work with whatever problem occurs instead of re-taping; working with stage and TV limitations; the necessity of an audience for a live performance.
- What are the different elements that go into the making of a live theatre experience?
- Actors, audience, stage, movement, dialogue, music, costumes, props, etc.
- Which are the essential elements and why?
- What are some different ways an actor/actress might communicate with an audience?
- Speaking, movement, listening, reading; also such specific words as mime, song, dialogue, monologue, etc.



Pantomime or Mime Acts

In much of the make-believe world you created as a child, you probably did not use words to express what was in your mind. When you rejected the “real” world of adults in the course of your playacting, you used a minimum of props or none at all. A real bag of groceries, a real boat, and other objects were unnecessary for dramatic play.

You probably did not have such props readily accessible. So in place of using real objects, you often substituted body actions to create characters, tell a story, or help unfold a scene or situation from life or literature. In short, you were actively involved in action mime, the oldest human language. Action mime—the visual language of silence—is a way of expressing feelings and ideas through the body and of communicating these thoughts and emotions to others.

Work with a partner; choose a situation and “mime” it out for the class. No words can be spoken. Your performance should last about two minutes.

Here are some suggestions:

- A man who can't open his umbrella in the rain.
- A girl wearing her first pair of heels.
- Two frightened tightrope walkers, on a tightrope high above the ground.
- A very hungry cat watching a dog eating a very large meal.
- Two students working together creating a mirror image of each other.

Sunshine State Standards Addressed:

Kindergarten

TH.K.S.1.In.b Participate in play-acting

TH.K.S.1.Pa.b Interact with others

Grade 1

TH.1.S.1.Pa.b Participate in pretend activities.

MU.1.F.2.Su.a Explore a variety of ways to participate in music.

MU.1.F.3.In.a Contribute to collaborative tasks related to music.

MU.1.C.3.In.a Express an opinion about selected pieces of music.

Grade 2

MU.2.F.3.Pa.a Contribute to a class musical performance.





Magic Acts

Harry Houdini is the most famous of magicians. He traveled around the United States and Europe, escaping from every conceivable place. No lock, straightjacket, or jail could hold him.

- Read a biography on Harry Houdini
- Every library has many books on magic and magic tricks.
- Rehearse a magic trick from one of these books and show it to the class.



Sunshine State Standards Addressed:

Grade 1

LA.1.2.1.In.a Identify various literary forms (e.g., picture books, poetry, fairy tales, predictable books).

LA.1.2.1.Pa.d Select read-aloud stories, songs, and poems, based on interest and teacher recommendations, to begin building a core base of knowledge.



Circus Skills

Trapeze artists, unicyclists, acrobats, jugglers, fire-eaters, ropewalkers, and stilt-walkers can all be part of a live theatre production as well. To see what it's like to be a circus performer try some of the following:

- Design a miniature circus ring. Include a high wire, trapeze and net, and performers to fill the ring.
- Almost every city has a unicycle or juggling club. Invite the club to your school.
- Plan a Circus Day in your classroom. Pantomime many of the acts.
- Write the Ringling Bros. in Venice, FL and ask for an application to Clown College. You will be surprised at the questions they ask!





Help our friend finish a funny book!





"Count on Reading"



by Joanie Welch

Share this poem, with your students, their parents, and others!

What can you count on your whole life long?
A key that opens a door so strong.
Behind that door is a store of knowledge.
We've got it now, needn't wait for college.
What is the answer, what is the key?
It's R-E-A-D-I-N-G!

When we were tiny, big books we would hold.
We couldn't read them, but they were gold.
Our parents read to us, and that gave us
pleasure.
Those words on the page were such a
treasure.
They taught us some words, they gave the
first key.
To R-E-A-D-I-N-G!

Then off to school we went with
expectation.
We learned that reading is the key to
education.
We read for fun, and we read to explore.
Our teachers urged us to read even more.
They taught us to research and write what
we see
From R-E-A-D-I-N-G!

When we're older, we'll still read every day.
For people who matter have shown us the
way.
Our parents, our teachers all love to read.
They've encouraged us and planted a seed.
That seed will grow and will form a tree
Of R-E-A-D-I-N-G!

So, if you're a teacher, pass along the joy
Of unlocking reading for a young girl or boy.
When those letters form words that a child
can read,
That spells success, and it fills a need.
It opens doors that you may never see
To R-E-A-D-I-N-G!

What can we count on, once we have the
key?
An open door where the mind soars free.
Books to read are a child's greatest
treasure.
They're a gift of love beyond all measure.
So pass along the gift and all children will
be
R-E-A-D-I-N-G!

Sunshine State Standards Addressed:

Grade 3

LA.3.2.1.In.c Identify words that describe people, objects, and feelings in poetry

Grade 4

LA.4.2.1.In.c Identify general feelings and ideas communicated in poetry.





Activity: Snuggle Packs!

Encourage family involvement and promote reading at home with these classroom made kits!

1. Sew your own or find 5 to 10 cloth bags big enough to hold 3-5 books.
(A source for donated bags could be a nearby grocery store, or your local public radio or TV station that uses them as membership premiums.)
2. Make a card for each bag that lists the books contained in the bag.
3. Ask children to donate a small, clean stuffed animal for each bag.
4. Clearly number the outside of each bag.
5. Collect some special books and put a few books in each bag, maybe one subject per bag - humor, poetry, tall tales, seasonal, etc. The books should be a good length for a reading in one or two sittings.
6. Inside each bag place a paper which asks the student to identify her or his favorite book in that bag and tell a little about the subject, characters, setting and so forth.
7. Use a clipboard to hold a paper for checking the bags out. These are called "SNUGGLE PACKS" and they are only checked out on weekends with the intent of encouraging families to "snuggle-up and read some good books together". When the children bring their pack back on Monday, they can receive extra credit for turning in the "Favorite Book" form. The stuffed animal has proven to be a most important component!

*For details on this and more reading activities and lesson plans check out these web sites:

www.Teachnet.com www.Nea.org www.kidsreads.com

Sunshine State Standards Addressed:

Kindergarten

LA.K.1.6.In.b Listen to and talk about stories

LA.K.1.7.In.c Identify characters, objects, and actions pictured in familiar read-aloud stories.

LA.K.2.1.In.d Select materials to view or listen to for pleasure.

Grade 1

LA.1.2.1.Su.e Respond to read-aloud stories by contributing to a discussion and identifying familiar characters objects, events, or setting and connecting to life experiences.

LA.1.5.2.In.c Listen attentively to read-aloud stories and poems.

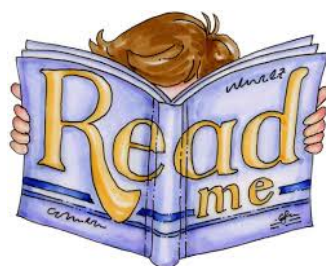
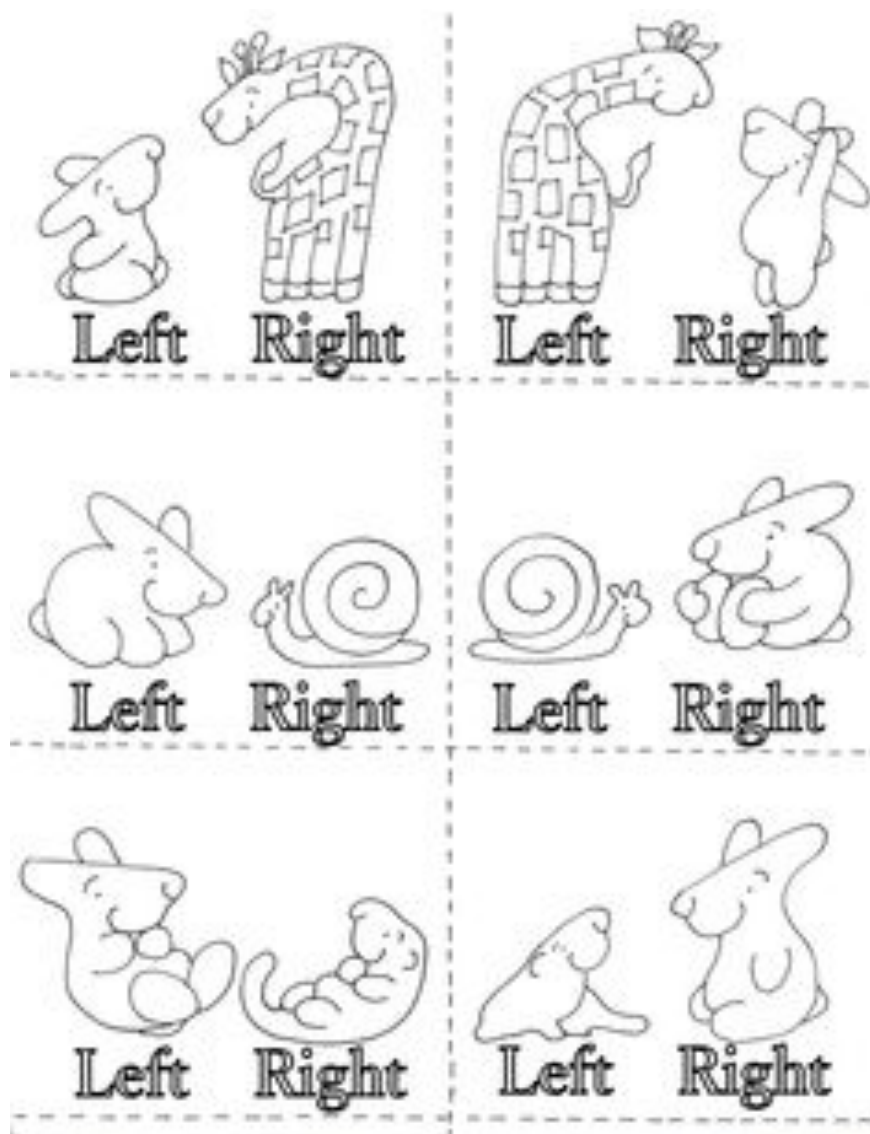
Grade 2

LA.2.2.1.In.b Identify characters, settings, actions, and events in read-aloud prose

Grade 3

LA.3.2.1.In.e Respond to a read-aloud literature selection by relating the main idea or events to life experiences.

LA.3.2.1.In.h Select a variety of fiction materials to listen to or read based on interest and teacher recommendations, to continue building a core foundation of knowledge.





About Fantasy Theatre Factory



Fantasy Theatre Factory (FTF) is a professional *touring* theatre created in New York in 1977 by Ed Allen and Mimi Schultz, performing artists and teachers. FTF is currently headed by Producing Artistic Director Larry Fields. FTF presents theatre for diverse family audiences. FTF's 16 touring educational shows appeal to pre-school, elementary, family, adult and senior audiences. FTF shows cover themes of: Children's Literature, Reading, Ecology, Social Service, Black history, Bullying Prevention, Dance, English, and Music. FTF performs in rural and inner-city schools, theatres, parks, hospitals, community centers, and more. In this manner, Fantasy Theatre Factory presents more than 300 Florida programs reaching over 130,000 people each year. Fantasy Theatre Factory's mission is to make more quality theatre programs available to more people.

Learn more by visiting FTF's website @

www.ftfshows.com

Also Check out FTF on Social Media @

www.facebook.com/ftfshows, www.twitter.com/ftfshows
www.instagram.com/ftfshows



The Magical Bookstore



Teacher Evaluation

Fantasy Theatre Factory is always evolving and growing, and we count on feedback from you, teachers, administrators, and students to help us move in directions where there is need. We would especially like to know which elements of the program were of value, interest, and significance to you and your students.

What do your students remember most about the performance? Are there other books/stories that you would like to see offered through our In-school programs for future years?

Please take a moment to fill in this evaluation sheet:

School _____

Grade Level _____

Name,

Position _____

How did you hear about us?

Your Comments:

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this form. Furthermore, we welcome letters, essays, and drawings from your students. Please enclose them and return to:

Fantasy Theatre Factory

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The Magical Bookstore



We love fan mail! Let us know your favorite part and how much you enjoyed the show. You can even draw a picture. We cannot wait to hear from you!

Dear Fantasy Theatre Factory,

Your Friend,

School:

Teacher:

Show:

Date: