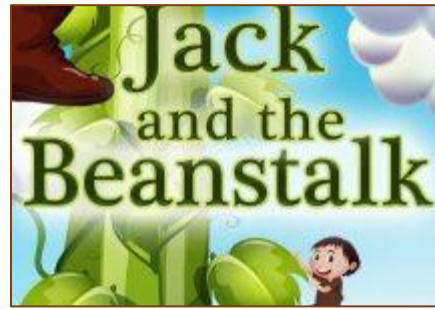


PLAYTIME POPPY AUDIENCE GUIDE



Washington High School
APR 18 - 20, 2019

ADULTS: *This guide is designed to...*

- ✓ Assist you to **ENGAGE & INSPIRE** your students as they prep for attending the performance
- ✓ Provide guidance afterwards to **REFLECT** on what students saw and heard at the theater
- ✓ Be a **MENU** of possible lessons/activities to choose from to fit the needs of your students
- ✓ Connect with **IOWA CORE** standards and **IOWA FINE ARTS** standards

Enjoy the Learning!

GUIDE CONTENTS

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The Story, Characters, Scenes & Vocab

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THEATRE ETIQUETTE

Attending the theatre is different than watching a movie or television. The actors and audience share the experience together. Being a good audience member involves showing respect for the actors' hard work – AND enjoying your experience to the fullest!

- Arrive at the theatre on time.
- Visit the restroom before the performance begins.
- Silence cell phones to minimize disruptions to the actors and other audience members.
- Applaud! It's welcomed and encouraged at appropriate times to show your appreciation of the performers' choices.
- Participate (sing, speak, move etc.) when the performers invite you to do so.
- Be a good listener and keep your focus on the performance. You won't want to miss any of it!



PART 1: KNOW ABOUT THE PLAY



Jack and the Beanstalk

Written by Bill Lammers

(Based upon the many traditional tales of Jack and his Journey up the Magic Beanstalk)

Synopsis: Jack is a nice kid who tries to do the right thing. He and his mother live a very meager existence, but they do the best they can. The day comes when Jack must sell his cow – who also happens to be his best friend – and things get very difficult. Jack meets two strangers on his way to market who con him into trading the cow for magic beans. His mother thinks they are worthless and tosses them out. Little do they know that they will grow into an immense beanstalk that leads to the sky, or that Jack will meet the two strangers again who will con him into stealing from the Giant in the sky. The rest of the story is pure gold – a bag of gold coins, a golden singing harp and a goose that lays golden eggs. Will Jack and his cow every be reunited? Will the strangers get Jack into trouble with the Giant?

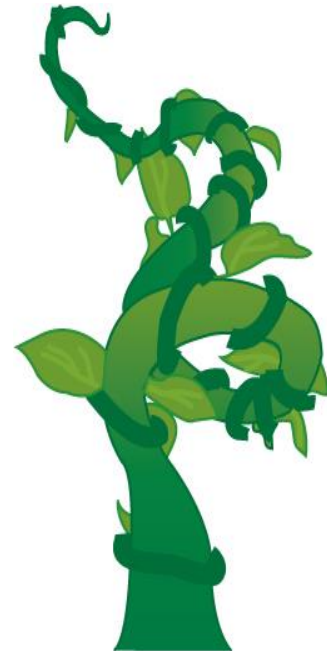
Cast of Characters

Narrator
Jack
Milky White
Mother
Frankie
Freddie
Bean One
Bean Two
Bean Three
Bean Four
Bean Five
Bean Six
Bag of Gold Coins
Golden Singing Harp
Giant
Goose That Lays the Golden Egg



Scenes

1. Prologue
2. Jack's Home
3. On the way to Market
4. Jack's Home
5. Outside of Jack's Home
6. On the Beanstalk
7. The Giant's Home
8. On the Beanstalk
9. Outside of Jack's Home
10. On the Beanstalk
11. The Giant's Home
12. On the Beanstalk
13. Outside of Jack's Home
14. On the Beanstalk
15. The Giant's Home
16. On the Beanstalk
17. Outside of Jack's Home



Show vocabulary

Astonished: greatly surprised or impressed; amazed

Intruder: an uninvited person who enters, often with criminal intent

Scheming: involved in making secret or underhand plans

Shenanigans: mischief; silly or dishonest activity

Stalk: stem of a plant

Swindle: trick someone out of their money or possessions

Worth: how something is valued; the sum of money it equals

Theatre vocabulary

For a list of theatre terms and vocabulary, visit:

<https://quizlet.com/42804/theatre-vocabulary-flash-cards/>

PART 2: LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Pre-show prep... Help children make deeper personal and learning connections to the performance by exploring key themes, engaging in the creative process, and making predictions!

The Moral of the Story (RL.3.2, 3.3, W.3.3)

- The story of *Jack and the Beanstalk* has been retold for hundreds of years. Some versions portray the giant as a blood-thirsty villain, while others represent the giant as an innocent victim of theft. Some stories end with the Giant falling from the beanstalk and some end with Jack returning the stolen items.
- Compare the different morals or messages that these variations convey. How do the different versions help you understand or sympathize with certain characters' points of view more than others?
- Write your own ending for *Jack and the Beanstalk*. What values do you want to express?

Media Magic (SL.3.8, MA:Pr4.1.3)

- Fairy tales include elements that can't occur in real life. Compare how special effects or "magic" is created through descriptive writing, film, animation and on stage.
- Make predictions about the *Jack and the Beanstalk* performance. How do you think the actors and production team will create special effects such as the beanstalk growing or a giant? What problems would the team need to solve?
- In small groups, use different types of media (film, stop-action animation, dance, theatrical sets, lighting, radio broadcast, puppetry, musical composition, etc.) to create the illusion of a beanstalk growing. Compare how each group's work impacted the viewer.



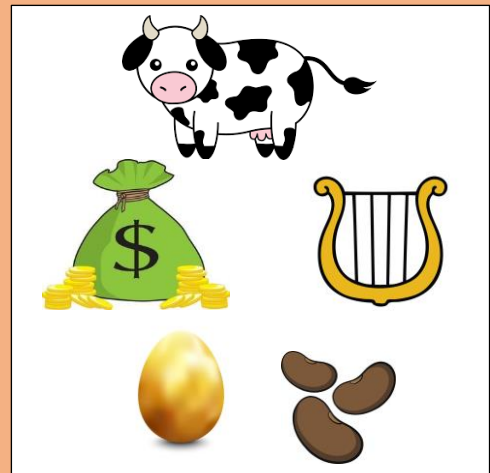
Magic Beans and Giant Plants (3-LS4-3)

- Jack's magic beans produce a giant beanstalk overnight. But what does it take for real plants to grow tall and strong? Conduct an experiment by planting seeds in different growing conditions. Predict which factors (light, space, water, soil, etc.) will produce the tallest plant.
- For a complete lesson plan, visit the National Agriculture in the Classroom website: <https://www.agclassroom.org/teacher/matrix/lessonplan.cfm?lpid=28>

Magic Math

Have some math fun inspired by Jack and the Giant!

Assign values for each of the items in the story and create word problems:



- "If a golden egg is worth \$10 and each magic bean is worth \$1, how many eggs and beans would you need to buy the cow for \$43?"
- Go to market! Have the students pretend to be Jack trying to sell the cow. They should decide how much the cow is worth and barter with other students to exchange for the other items. Write out the final formula.
- Be the Giant's bookkeeper. Decide how many of each item he has and represent with a graph. Then use multiplication or addition to determine how much the whole treasure is worth. How does the total change when Jack takes some items?

PART 2: LEARNING ACTIVITIES (cont.)

After the show... Reflection is a key part of learning! Try these ideas to help children connect their theatre experience with life and learning.

Write a Letter! (W.2.8, TH:Re7.1.2.a)

- Write a review of the performance or thank you letter and send it to the Washington High School Drama Department, and/or Playtime Poppy Children's Theatre. Include key details by describing what you saw, heard and thought. What choices did the actors or tech crew make that you liked?

Do Some Reflecting (SL.3.2, TH:Re7.1.2.a)

- Discuss and take notes on your answers to the following questions after you see the performance:
 - 1) *Name the main characters. How did the actors use their voice and body to portray them?*
 - 2) *Where does the story take place? How did the set design create the feeling of that place?*
 - 3) *What conflicts/problems happened? How were the conflicts/problems solved?*
 - 4) *What was your favorite set or prop used in the play?*
 - 5) *Was there any music in the play? If so, how does it affect the mood of the story?*
 - 6) *Were there any surprises in the play?*

Be the Narrator (RL.3.6, W.3.3, TH:Cr1.1.3.a)

- Discuss the role of the Narrator in this production of *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Compare the Narrator's point of view to the other characters. How did the Narrator help the audience enter the world of the story?
- At the very beginning of the play, the Narrator delivers a monologue to set up the play:

Well, I guess I know a few stories about cows that wander around. One of my favorites is about this guy named Jack. Jack's a great guy, but he and his mother had been down on their luck for a long time. They didn't have a lot, but Jack and his mother had a small home that they loved. Jack also had his best friend Milky White.

What if Jack, the Mother, Milky White or the Giant set up the play instead? Rewrite the opening from the perspective of one of the characters. What would they want to tell the audience about their feelings or situation at the beginning of the story?

Coming to Life (RL.3.3, TH:Cr1.1.3.b)

- In this production of *Jack and the Beanstalk*, several objects and animals are played by actors – Milky White, the beans, the bag of gold, the harp and the goose. When objects or animals have human traits, it's called personification. How did the actors use their bodies and voices to portray the qualities of each object or animal? How did the costumes or make-up help create the illusion of an object come-to-life?
- Choose an object in your classroom and decide how you would bring it to life on stage. Design a costume. Decide what voice or movements it might have.

Stranger Danger (21.3–5.TL.5)

- The strangers in the play trick Jack several times. Use the play as an opportunity to discuss safety guidelines both in the real world and online. How do you know who to trust? Check out Safety 4 Kids: https://www.safety4kids.com.au/safety-zone_stranger-danger



What's it Worth? (21.3–5.FL.6)

- What is Milky White "worth"? It depends who you ask! What kind of value did Jack, Mother, and the Strangers place on Milky White? Why did they expect to sell or buy the cow for different amounts?
- Compare financial vs. non-financial value. For instance, what is the financial and non-financial value of your house or your favorite toy? Can you think of something with no financial value, but a very high non-financial value?

PART 3: RESOURCES

WEBSITES:

Playtime Poppy Children's Theatre

<http://www.playtimepoppy.org>

Washington High School Drama Department

<http://washppa.com/drama-speech/>

Kids' Drama and Puppet Activities

<https://dramaresource.com/drama-games/>

<http://www.kidactivities.net/post/drama-introduction-and-menu.aspx>

<http://www.kinderart.com/drama>

<https://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/educators/how-to/tipsheets/five-easy-drama-games>

<http://kidsactivitiesblog.com/66700/26-puppets-kids>

<http://wonderteacher.com/teaching-with-puppet-power/>

Thematic Resources

<https://www.weareteachers.com/fairy-tales-gone-wild-10-creative-ways-to-teach-fairy-tales-2/> -

Interactive lesson ideas for teaching fairy tales. Includes drama activities!

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/unit-plans/teaching-content/once-upon-genre/> - Lesson plan for writing fractured fairy tales, grades 3-5.

<https://www.teachhub.com/12-fascinating-ways-use-drama-curriculum> - How drama can be used in the classroom to meet curricular goals and foster social-emotional growth

<https://educationcloset.com/2014/08/01/integrating-drama-in-the-elementary-classroom-where-do-i-start/> - Arts integrated experiences to incorporate drama into literacy lessons

<https://www.agclassroom.org/teacher/matrix/lessonplan.cfm?lpid=28> - National Agriculture in the Classroom's lesson plan Magic Beans and Giant Plants.

https://www.safety4kids.com.au/safety-zone_stranger-danger - Safety 4 Kids website with tips about Stranger Danger



BOOKS:

Compare and contrast these versions of *Jack and the Beanstalk*. They feature different settings, characters, points of view and moral lessons!

The Jack Tales: Folktales from the Southern Appalachians by Richard Chase

It's Not Jack and the Beanstalk (It's Not a Fairy Tale) by Josh Funk

Paco and the Giant Chile Plant by Keith Polette

Waynetta and the Cornstalk by Helen Ketteman

Kate and the Beanstalk by Mary Pope Osborne

Jack and the Beanstalk by Richard Walker

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Washington High School Drama Department

Directors: Carrie Tinkham, Bill Lammers and Kyle Woolums

Season Sponsor:



Matinee Sponsors:



Tuesday Noon Optimists

Media Sponsor:



Playtime Poppy Board of Directors & Volunteers



**Don't forget to learn the
Playtime Poppy Song!**

*"I love to sing
and dance and
play..."
-Playtime Poppy*

For the lyrics and music go to:

<http://www.playtimepoppy.org/about/playtime-poppy-song/>

Playtime Poppy Children's Theatre has been producing imaginative and interactive theatre since 1951. Our mascot, "the happy little ear of corn" named Playtime Poppy, is a beloved community icon. Throughout the school year, Playtime Poppy presents three children's theatre productions in partnership with Jefferson, Kennedy, and Washington High Schools, and provides educational theatre experiences through Playtime with Poppy, Operation Backstage, One Great Line, and matinee performances for elementary students and patrons with special needs. In the summer, Playtime Poppy presents the Summer Theatre Adventure and Brucemore Outdoor Children's Theater. You can find all the details about Playtime Poppy Children's Theatre programs at www.playtimepoppy.org and by following us on Facebook!