



# WALNUT STREET THEATRE

Touring Outreach Company

## A Forest Fable

By: Craig Mason

### Study Guide



### Play Synopsis

*Please read aloud to your class before the show!*

Sir has very big plans. With help of his trusty sidekick Rex, and a few workers, Sir builds his very own railroad! But his grand ideas don't stop there. Once Sir and Rex travel across the country in the train, Sir gets another idea: He decides to start his very own town!


Sudbury is the best, most beautiful town ever. There are plenty of trees around to use to build houses. Many people come to live and work in Sudbury, and Sir even finds a certain "treasure" in the rocks of his town.

Soon, though, Rex realizes the damage that has been done to all of the nature. There used to be so many trees, animals, and flowers in Sudbury... but now all of the natural beauty is gone!

Journey with Sir and Rex as they learn the impact humans have on their environment. Will Sudbury now be without trees forever?

Watch as Sudbury changes from a beautiful treescape to a lonely moonscape. And you never know... Sir and Rex might even need YOUR help to save their beloved town!!

### Pre-show Questions

 \* *What are you expecting from a show called A Forest Fable?*

\* *Why are trees an important part of the environment? How do trees help human beings survive?*

\* *What are ways that you can help preserve the environment?*

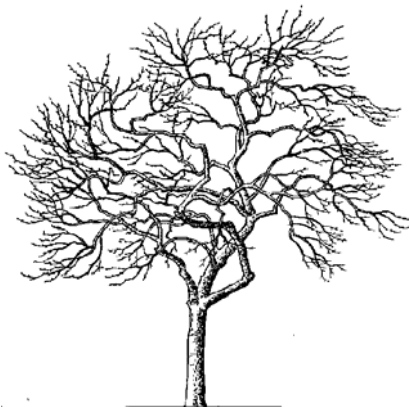
\* *What is the difference between renewable and non-renewable resources?*

### Post-show Questions

\* *What do you think would have happened to Sudbury if Sir and Rex didn't replant any of the trees?*

\* *How else can Sir make Sudbury a more "green" town to live in?*

\* *What are things that your family or school does to help save the environment?*



### Pre-show Activity

Throughout the show, Sir and Rex are going to need everyone's help by making various sounds and gestures. Warm up your body and voice with this simple game! At their desks, ask your students to act out a pose and sound that corresponds with an item from nature. Challenge them to create a sound for things that don't typically make noise (i.e. a flower). Here are some ideas to get you started:

- |          |        |            |
|----------|--------|------------|
| - Robin  | - Frog | - Bee      |
| - Flower | - Tree | - River    |
| - Grass  | - Wind | - Sunshine |

# Classroom Activities



## Bulletin Board

Have each student trace their hand onto a piece of construction paper and cut it out. On each finger, they should write different ways in which they can help the Earth. Display the colorful hands around a picture of planet Earth or a map of the world.

### **REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE!**



In your classroom, designate different bins for paper, plastic, and glass. Remember that children learn best by example. Show them that you recycle, and that they should too!

## Toy Drive

Why throw out used items when people in need could make use of them? Teach your students about the importance of community service, while reusing and recycling. Have your students bring in their old toys or games. Encourage them to participate by giving them an incentive (i.e. bonus points, stickers, candy, etc.) Donate your class' items to a local shelter.

## Adopt-A-Tree

Children spend much of their time indoors. Encourage them to explore opportunities to connect with nature. When the weather is nice, take your class outside. If your campus is rural, visit a nearby woods. If your school is located in the city, you could visit a nearby park (many people are surprised by how much ecology they can find in cities). Have your students explore the area and pick their favorite tree. They should "adopt" this tree and give it a name, age, family history, personality, etc. Have your students sketch their tree and on the back write why they love their adopted tree. Next, have your students imagine that their adopted tree has been chopped down. How does this make them feel? Also, have them imagine how their tree "feels" after being cut down. As an extra bonus, have your students write a letter to the person who chopped down their adopted tree.



## Cafeteria Waste

School cafeterias create a great deal of waste every single school day. Have your students observe the trash habits of their peers for five days. They should record their observed data in chart.

They should observe and enter the number of items into the chart:

### **Survey of Cafeteria Waste**

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
# of students at my table					
Paper					
Foil					
Cans					
Bottles					
Juice Boxes					
Milk Cartons					
Plastic					
Food Scraps					
Other					

Also, have your students observe whether most students bring or buy lunch. Is there any difference in waste generated by either? What type of food is wasted the most, the least? They could also calculate the ratio of trash items per student.



# Classroom Activities



## SCIENCE

### Solar S'Mores

Explore the topic of solar energy with your class. Explain to your students how solar energy is radiant energy given off by the sun. When light energy is absorbed by objects it is changed to heat energy. Share how the solar energy can be used for cooking, warming, and melting. Also, emphasize how solar energy does not pollute. For this activity you will need:

- Graham crackers
- Mini marshmallows
- Plain milk chocolate candy bars
- 8 x 11 inch glass baking pan
- Clear glass lid for the baking pan
- Thermometer

This experiment requires a warm day of at least 85°F. Put the graham crackers side by side on the bottom of the glass baking pan. Place the chocolate bars on top of the graham crackers and the marshmallows on top of the chocolate. Cover the pan with the glass lid and place it in an area of full sunlight. Time how long it takes for the chocolate and marshmallows to melt.

Use this experiment as a foundation to explore other uses of solar energy. Does anyone in your community use solar energy in any way? What products can use solar energy instead of another form of energy? Why is solar energy use good for the environment? Do you think in the future people will use more solar energy?

## MATH

### Junk Mail

For a week, bring your junk mail into your classroom. Have your students keep track of how many items are collected each day. Sort junk mail into different categories: Catalogs, Fliers, Coupons, etc. After a week, your class can graph the amount of junk mail received each day and what types. Multiply the total amount by the number of students in the class and re-graph. Every household is receiving tons of junk mail every day. Emphasize how trees are cut down to produce this "junk." After the activity, shred and recycle the junk mail.

## LANGUAGE ARTS

### Bird Feeder

Encourage your students to observe wildlife with this simple craft! Building a simple birdfeeder is easy. Recycle an empty milk carton to use as the base. Cut windows into the carton. Create a bird-perch by poking a small stick into the carton just below each window. Punch a hole through the top and thread twine through it, so you can hang it from a tree branch. Fill the carton with bird seed. Encourage your students to use recycled scraps of paper, newspaper, or magazine clippings to decorate their birdfeeder. Have your students keep a journal for describing what birds visit. Make sure they use details and descriptive adjectives. Then they can use their notes to write a fictitious story about life in their bird house.

## ART

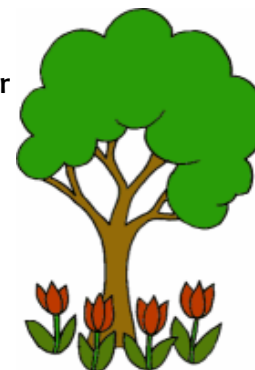
### Nature Prints

Recycle brown paper bags into beautiful nature art! Cut open the bags into large flat sheets. Then try these different techniques to create unique prints:

- Find leaves with raised veins and place them on a newspaper, underside up. Pour tempera paint onto a plastic lid or other flat surface. Brush a thin layer of paint onto the leaf. Carefully place the painted leaf onto the brown paper bag and press firmly. Repeat to cover paper with prints. Experiment with different leaves and colors.
- Discover unique textures found in nature. Have your students do crayon rubbings of leaves, tree bark, rocks, etc. Just simply lay the brown paper bag on the selected object and gently rub over the surface with the side of a crayon. Use different colors and surfaces to create a unique design.

- Lay leaves on a piece of photo paper. Leave outside in the sun for about 5 minutes. Remove the leaves to reveal a unique design!

Display your students artwork outside of your classroom to encourage passerby to observe the beauty of nature themselves.



## WEB RESOURCES



Here are some websites that provide more ideas for your classroom activities:

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/mathhunt/StartGame.asp?QuizID=3>

<http://holidays.kaboose.com/earth-day/>

[http://www.picadome.fcps.net/Lab/currl/earth\\_day/default.htm](http://www.picadome.fcps.net/Lab/currl/earth_day/default.htm)

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/earthday/>

### Did you like the show? Let us know!

Write to us at:

Walnut Street Theatre  
Education Department  
825 Walnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

### About the Playwright

Craig is thrilled to have *A Forest Fable* included in Walnut Street Theatre's outreach season. The play (originally called *Moonscape to Treescape*) was written with the assistance of the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Energy and toured to schools throughout Northern Ontario. As an actor, Craig has performed on stages across Canada. Upcoming, he will be performing in *The Flying Bandit*, a one-man adventure play written by his wife Lindsay Price. The play, ironically enough, will be performed at the Sudbury Theatre Centre, the very same Sudbury in which *A Forest Fable* takes place. Craig is a partner in Theatrefolk ([www.theatrefolk.com](http://www.theatrefolk.com)), a publisher that specializes in playscripts for schools.

***This production was directed by David Stradley.***

### Walnut Street Theatre Education Department Staff

Director of Education.....*Susan Nicodemus Quinn*  
Outreach Coordinator.....*Caroline Leipf*  
Theatre School Coordinator.....*José Avilés*  
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Education Apprentice.....*Alyssa Mulligan*  
Dorothy Haas Acting Apprentices.....*Langston Darby*  
.....*Matt Mancuso*  
.....*Tinuke Oyefule*  
.....*Emily Rast*



## WALNUT STREET THEATRE



Walnut Street Theatre has the unique distinction of being the oldest, continuously operating theatre in the English-speaking world, having served Philadelphia audiences for 200 years! It is also the Official State Theatre of Pennsylvania, and a National Historic Landmark.

Today, under the direction of Producing Artistic Director Bernard Havard, Walnut Street Theatre is in its 26th season as a self-producing, non-profit theatre. Walnut Street Theatre continues to entertain and enlighten diverse audiences with high quality theatrical programming. With more than 56,000 season ticket holders, the Walnut is also the most subscribed theatre company in the world!

The Walnut Street Theatre is celebrating 24 years of bringing high-quality professional theatre to schools across the Delaware Valley. Our multi-cultural Touring Outreach Company introduces students to the world of theatre through age-appropriate, curriculum-based pieces, that are socially relevant, entertaining, and exciting. Last season, 111,505 children and adults were impacted by the Walnut's Education Programs.

### Touring Actors

Each season, Walnut Street Theatre holds a nation-wide search to recruit accomplished young professionals for Dorothy Haas Acting Apprenticeships. These actors form our Touring Outreach Company. Nearly 350 candidates are considered each year for these four positions.

**The Walnut Street Theatre Educational Programs gratefully acknowledge support from the following:**

*ARAMARK \* The Barra Foundation*

*Bazelon, Less and Feldman, P.C. \* Louis N. Cassett Foundation \* Connelly Foundation  
The Peter & Audrey Denton Fund \* Fox 29 \* William Goldman Foundation \* Hamilton Family  
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*United Way of :Bucks County, Burlington County, Delaware,  
Capital Region, North Penn, Southeastern PA, and Tri-State \* US Airways Education Foundation \*  
Virginia and Harvey Kimmel Arts Education Fund of the Philadelphia Foundation*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**List 4 things you love about nature:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Draw your favorite place in nature:**

**Draw a problem the Earth faces:**

**Describe 2 "green" things you can do to help Earth:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

What if you were given the chance to build your own new town, just like Sir and Rex? How would you do things differently? What would your town look like? How would you help preserve nature? What type of energy would your town use?

Draw a picture of what your town would be like. Make sure to include details about the above questions.

