



WALNUT STREET THEATRE



SHREK
The
MUSICAL JR.

STUDY GUIDE

SHOW SYNOPSIS



Shrek the ogre is content to live alone in his swamp—until a bunch of fairy tale misfits arrive! Join Shrek as he and a wise-cracking donkey team up to save a feisty princess and the fairy tale creatures in this hilarious musical adventure based on the Oscar-winning film!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

BEFORE THE SHOW

- Has anyone ever been to a live play before? How was it different from a television show or a movie?
- What is the difference between a play and a musical?
- Did you know the story of *Shrek* before coming to the show?
- What makes you unique? Do you have a trait or a special skill that no one else in your class has?
- Have you ever felt different or out of place? How did it make you feel?
- What can you do to make someone who seems like they feel out of place to feel more comfortable?
- How are you similar/different to your classmates?

AFTER THE SHOW

- Did you like the performance of *Shrek the Musical Jr*? What was your favorite part?
- Who was your favorite character, why?
- What lesson did Shrek learn during the show?
- How are Shrek, Fiona, and Donkey similar? How are they different?
- How are Shrek, Fiona and Donkey similar to you? How are they different?
- How did Shrek feel at the beginning of the play compared to the end of the play?
- What lesson did Shrek learn by the end of the play? What lesson did you learn?

THEATRE 101

Ever wondered how to put on a play?

There are many different elements that go into putting a show up on its feet. Please review the following with your students:

PLAYWRIGHT The playwright writes the script.

DIRECTOR The director is in charge of orchestrating the entirety of the production. They lead the actors, designers, and production crew to put the show on its feet.

COSTUME What the actors wear during the show.

SCENERY Everything on stage (*except props*) used to represent the place at which action is occurring.

PROPS All physical items on stage with the exception of the scenery. This includes lamps, chairs, pens, paper, books, and more!

LIGHTS Stage lights illuminate the actors so that they look their best. The colors used, focus of the light, and amount of lighting can really set the mood and environment of a scene.

SOUND Everything that you hear during a performance that does not come from the actors.

ACTORS The actors are the people that perform the show onstage.

AUDIENCE The lucky people that get to watch the show. New to being an audience member? Follow these rules and you will be a natural!



AUDIENCE RULES

- ◆ Unlike a movie, the actors are performing in front of you. They can see everything that you do. Talking, sleeping, poking your neighbor, or making noise during the performance distracts the actors and others around you.
- ◆ Don't bring electronics to the performance. The use of cell phones, cameras, computers, tablets, and video game devices are **not allowed**.
- ◆ Use your better judgment on when to laugh, clap, and/or cry during the performance. But don't forget to clap at the end of the show!
- ◆ Stay in your seat during the performance.
- ◆ Make sure you go to the bathroom *before* the show starts.



CLASS ACTIVITY: MY PRINCE/PRINCESS

DIRECTIONS

- Ask each student to answer the questions in the prince/princess recipe.
- Provide students with a blank piece of paper to answer questions and draw.
- Have each student present their Prince/princess idea to the rest of the class.
- Discuss how the princes/princesses are the same and how they are different.

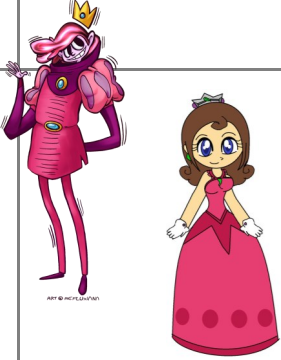
VARIATIONS

- **Act it out!**
 - Create a prince/princess day in class.
 - Provide students with materials to create their prince/princess costumes.
 - Encourage students to think like the prince/princess— how do they move? How do they talk?
 - Create a “problem” in which the prince/princess would be called to action. Encourage team work between all the different princes/princesses.

FOLLOW-UP

- Did you find that you and your classmates came up with different solutions to the problem?

ROYAL RECIPE

<p>Name one thing you can do very well (i.e. skateboarding, reading, writing, cooking)</p>	<p>Create a Prince/princess name (i.e. Prince Goofball/ Princess Sparkle)</p>	<p>How will your Prince/princess help save the kingdom?</p>
<p>Describe what your prince/princess would wear. How does the outfit help them?</p>	<p>Describe a typical day in the life of your prince/princess. What do they eat?</p>	<p>Create a theme song for your Prince/princess.</p>
<p>Does your prince/princess work alone or with other members of the kingdom?</p>	<p>How do you help your kingdom (community)?</p>	

ACTIVITY: SHOW AND TELL



DIRECTIONS

- For this activity you will need enough floor space for students to walk around.
- Before the activity begins, discuss emotions/feelings and make a list of all the different emotions.
 - Ask students to spread out and begin walking around the room in a “neutral stance” or how they would normally walk.
 - Once students settle into a rhythm, ask the class to freeze where they are.
- Once they are frozen, ask students to resume walking, this time personifying a particular emotion (I.e. walk like you are angry, sad, elated, etc.).
- Repeat this step, allowing students to walk through the space personifying a variety of emotions.

FOLLOW-UP

- After students have a chance to walk around with varying emotions, discuss how a feeling can change how you move.
- Prompt students with questions such as: “What was your favorite emotion walk? What was your least favorite?”

VARIATION FOR AFTER THE SHOW: ACT IT OUT!

- Ask the students to choose their favorite part of *Shrek the Musical Jr.*
- Place them in small groups based off of their scene choice.
- Have them each identify with a character from that scene and identify their emotion at that point in the story.
- Have the students retell the story in their own words and begin to act out their scene, using the emotion walk as a starting point.

ACTIVITY: WHAT I WANT TO BE WHEN I GROW UP



DIRECTIONS

- Ask students to think about what job they might want to have when they grow up.
- Either in class or as a homework assignment, ask students to complete the hand out below.
- Encourage students to work with parents/guardians on this project.

VARIATIONS

- Play like Mad Libs!
- Have students come up with various adjectives, names, numbers, etc. without reading the handout to make a silly story.
- Example: use names/words from *Shrek the Musical Jr.* as a fun after show activity!



STUDENT HANDOUT: WHAT I WANT TO BE WHEN I GROW UP

When I grow up I want to be (*job / title*)

_____, because it would be a really
(*adjective*) _____ job. In order to do this job you have to
go to school for (*number*) _____ years. Some of the important people
who have done this job are (*name*) _____ and (*name*)
_____. Something you might not know about this job
is that (*fact*) _____ and (*fact*)
_____. I think that the hardest part of this job would be
(*task*) _____. The world needs
more people doing this job because (*reason*)

_____.

I learned about this job from (*name / person*)
_____.



ACTIVITY: AN ORGRE'S LIFE

IMAGINE THAT!



DIRECTIONS

- Imagine that you are an ogre living in a swamp, just like Shrek!
- In the space below, draw a picture of yourself in your swamp.
 - *Is your swamp colorful? Slimy? Muddy? Buggy? Stinky? Etc.
- Think about whether or not your friends live in your swamp with you. Was Shrek happier in the beginning of the play when he kept everyone away and was all alone? Or at the end of the play when he welcomed his new friends into his home?

**LIKE THE SHOW?
WRITE TO US!**

Send letters or drawings to:
Walnut Street Theatre
ATTN: Education Department
825 Walnut St.
Philadelphia, PA 19107





WALNUT STREET THEATRE

WALNUT STREET THEATRE BIOGRAPHY

Walnut Street Theatre has the unique distinction of being the oldest, continuously operating theatre in the English-speaking world, having served Philadelphia audiences for over 200 years!

Today, under the direction of Producing Artistic Director Bernard Havard, Walnut Street Theatre is in its 33rd season as a self-producing, non-profit theatre company. Walnut Street Theatre continues to entertain and enlighten diverse audiences with high quality theatrical programming. With more than 50,000 subscribers, the Walnut is also the most subscribed theatre company in the world!

Last season, 180,000 children and adults were impacted by the Walnut's Education Programs- including our theatre school with classes for kids and adults, Camp Walnut, Our Touring Outreach Program to local schools and our artist in residency programs.



THANK YOU

The Walnut Street Theatre Education Department gratefully acknowledges the support from the following:

Aqua America * Cardone Family Foundation * Louis N. Cassett Foundation * Connelly Foundation * The Peter & Audrey Denton Fund * Dow Chemical Company * eBay Foundation Corporate Advised Fund at Silicon Valley Community Foundation * William Goldman Foundation * Hamilton Family Foundation * Hassel Foundation * Haverford Trust Company * Hellendall Family Foundation * Herman Goldner Company * Syde Hurdus Foundation * William Penn Foundation * Virginia and Harvey Kimmel Arts Education Fund of the Philadelphia Foundation * Lincoln Financial Group Foundation * National Corporate Theatre Fund * PECO * TD Charitable Foundation * Truist * United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey and Greater Portland * Universal Health Services * Vulcan Spring & Mfg. Co.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Educational Drama Activities
<http://dramagames.info>



- Walnut Street Theatre Touring Outreach Company
<http://walnutstreettheatre.org/education/touring.php>

WALNUT STREET THEATRE EDUCATION STAFF

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION	Thomas Quinn
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION	Ashley Kerns
EDUCATION PROGRAMS ASSOCIATE	Patrick Shane
EDUCATION PRODUCTION ASSOCIATE	Amanda Gallup
EDUCATION APPRENTICE	Angie Confredo
ACTING APPRENTICES	Jared Calhoun Devon Fields Donovan Lockett Kathryn Miller

SHREK THE MUSICAL JR. ARTISTIC STAFF

BOOK & LYRICS	David Lindsay-Abaire
MUSIC	Jeanine Tesori
DIRECTOR	Ashley Kerns
SCENIC DESIGNER	Andrew Thompson
COSTUME DESIGNERS	Sarah Mitchell Susan Benitez

ABOUT THE PLYWRIGHT

David Lindsay-Abaire is an American playwright, lyricist and screenwriter. He received the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 2007 for his play *Rabbit Hole*, which also earned several Tony Award nominations. Lindsay-Abaire has received commissions from South Coast Repertory, Dance Theater Workshop, and the Jerome Foundation, as well as awards from the Berilla Kerr Foundation, the Lincoln Center LeComte du Nuoy Fund, Mixed Blood Theater, Primary Stages, the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center, the Tennessee Williams/ New Orleans Literary Festival, and the South Carolina Playwrights Festival. Lindsay-Abaire had his first theatrical success with *Fuddy Meers*, which was workshopped as part of the National Playwrights Conference at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center under Artistic Director Lloyd Richards and ultimately premiered at the Manhattan Theatre Club. He returned to the Manhattan Theatre Club with *Wonder of the World*

Walnut Street Theatre Educational Opportunities!

2015-2016
SEASON

WALNUT STREET THEATRE TOURING OUTREACH

BRING A SHOW TO YOUR SCHOOL!

Oskar and the Big Bully Battle (Bullying) Grades K-6
Only 13 (Choices) Grades 6-9
Freedom Riders (Diversity) Grades 6-9
The Berenstain Bears Hospital Friends (Family & Good Health) Grades pre K-3
The Adventures of Nick Nutrition and his Dog Fiber (Nutrition) Grades K-6

Open a dialogue with students about issues
that affect them!

Call 215-574-3559, ext. 584

WALNUT STREET THEATRE FOR KIDS

BRING YOUR KIDS TO
WALNUT STREET THEATRE!

Shrek the Musical Jr. (September/October)
Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* (December)
Zombie in Love (January/February)
Freckle Face Strawberry the Musical (April)
Miss Nelson Has a Field Day (June)

Tickets just \$10-\$16

Read the books, then see the stories LIVE!

Call 215-574-3559, ext. 504



The Theatre School at WALNUT STREET THEATRE

CLASSES FOR KIDS, STUDENTS
AND ADULTS

For students from 5 to 105! Great for networking,
providing a creative outlet and professional training!

Find your inner star at the Walnut!

Call 215-574-3550, ext. 510

RESIDENCY PROGRAM

LET US DESIGN A DRAMATIC
AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM
FOR YOUR SCHOOL!

We support teachers' objectives with personalized
programs designed that meet your needs and budget.

Call 215-574-3550, ext. 511

WHEN WE PLAY, LEARNING HAPPENS!