

BUILDING STORIES

About the Production!

True storytelling is at it's best in this 45 minute production. At Bright Star, we know how important storytelling is, there are cultures that continue to live on through the art of storytelling and wonderful lessons that we all have learned from through some amazing stories. Without stories, this world would be a pretty dull place. Luckily, people have been creating stories for thousands of years. We want to help your audiences discover what it takes to create a story in the first place. Plot, summary, character and setting can all be confusing things to learn about. Not to mention all the vocabulary terms that come with it. Our amazing actor-educators will use your amazing audience suggestions to create an original story right before your eyes! This show is designed to get your young people (grades 1st - 6th) excited about reading and writing while encouraging them to gain a better understanding of the FUNDamentals of stories. Stories can and will continue to take us on amazing journey's together, so let's create a story together today!

What am I seeing?

This production is real life professional theatre. Our actors at Bright Star Touring Theatre come from all over the U. S. They have a short rehearsal period and then set out to perform 16 to 20 shows a week and travel about 1000 miles a week with everything they need packed into one of our cozy mini-vans!



Important Vocabulary Words

Protagonist: The leading character or one of the main characters.

Antagonist: The person who chooses to go against someone or something, also known as an enemy.

Exposition (Introduction): a complete explanation of the main idea of the story.

Rising Action: A series of events that create suspense, interest and tension.

Climax: The most intense, exciting or important part.
Falling Action:

Resolution: The action of solving a problem.

Theme: The subject of a talk, piece of writing, or person's thought.

Narrator: Who is telling the story.

First Person: When the narrator is one character at a time. The character might speak about themselves or share events that they are experiencing.

Third Person Limited: All characters are described as "they", "he" or "she", but one character is followed closely and that is the main character.

Third Person Omniscient: The narrator knows the thoughts, actions, and feelings of all the characters.

Irony: The expression of someone's language means the opposite of what they said, usually for humor.

Foreshadowing: A warning of a future event.

Setting: The place where the event takes place.

5 Elements of a Story

1. CHARACTERS

The characters are the people that any story is all about. Every story has a main character and the main character usually determines which way the plot or story will develop.

2. SETTING

The setting of a story is the location that all of the action takes place. There can be more than one.

3. PLOT

The plot is the actual story in which the entire book is based. There is a really clear beginning, middle and end so the story is easy to follow.

4. CONFLICT

Every story out there has got to have some sort of conflict. The plot is always centered around the conflict. The conflict is a problem that the character(s) in a story have to try to solve.

5. RESOLUTION

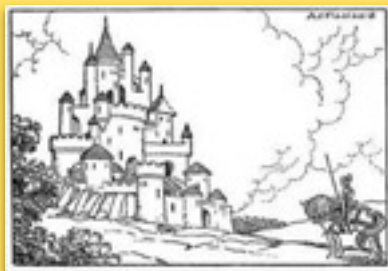
The solution to the problem or conflict is the resolution. It is how the problem gets resolved.

CHALLENGE!

Can you think of a story that has a very clear character, setting, plot, conflict and resolution? Write down what story has all of these elements and give examples of what those elements are in that story.



CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES



- **WRITE YOUR OWN FAIRYTALE** (Best for grades 3rd-5th; Materials Needed: Pencil & Paper) Have each student come up with their very own fairytale and write the story from start to finish. After all of the fairytales are written, designate a day where everyone reads their own story aloud to the class.



- **READING DAY** (Best for grades 3rd-5th; Materials Needed: Books, Blankets & Pillows from Home) Have an entire day designated to reading. Encourage students to bring blankets and pillows from home that they can cuddle up in. Spend the day before perusing the library and encourage each student to check out 2-3 books each. On Reading Day, have everyone pick a cozy spot in the room away from all distractions, lay out their blankets and pillows and reading marathon all day long.



- **COSTUME PARADE** (Best for grades Pre-K-3rd; Materials Needed: Costumes from Home) Have a designated day throughout your grade or school where books and are celebrated with costumes. Direct each student to pick a favorite character from any book they've read and love and tell them to dress up like them for a day. On the day of the costume parade, have a 30-minute period for each class set aside so they can walk through the halls and all of the classrooms showing off their classroom's special and unique characters.

DISCUSS

What is your favorite book?

Why are stories so important to our world?

What elements go into a story?

What happens when those things are missing from a story?

Why is reading so important?

What would happen if no one was able to read? What would happen if there were no more books?

What makes a good story?

What is the most important element of a story?

Think of a famous fairytale. What would happen if one of the elements of the story were missing? How would it change?

Interesting Facts about Books in YOUR Library!

- Alice in Wonderland used to be banned in China because animals weren't supposed to speak.
- Before settling on Nancy Drew, the names Diana Dare, Stella Strong, Helen Hale and Nan Nelson were all contenders.
- Margaret Wise Brown, author of Goodnight Moon left all of her money and future earnings to a young neighbor boy. She didn't have children.
- Before they were books, Strawberry Shortcake & The Care Bears were just greeting card designs.
- 81% of youth think bullying online is far easier to get away with than bullying in person.
- While he was in art school Maruice Sendak, author of Where the Wild Things Are, was a window dresser for the famous toy store F.A.O. Schwarz in New York.

Stories to Write in Class

1. **A Letter To Yourself.** (Best for grades 2nd-5th; Materials Needed: Envelope, Pencil & Paper) At the beginning of the year, have each student write a letter to themselves for the end of the year. It can include tips, advice, new things they want to try, goals, dreams, whatever they want. After they're done, have them fold up the letters and put them in a sealed envelope with their name on them. At the end of the year just before summer break, pass out the letters back to each student so they can read what their past self wrote.
2. **What I Will Do When I'm The President.** (Best for grades 1st-3rd; Materials Needed: Pencil, Paper, Crayons) Have each student write a page describing what they will do when they are the President of the United States. What sorts of laws will they have? How will they spend their days? Anything they want. Then let them draw a picture of themselves as a normal day as the President. After they're done, post them all up on the wall for everyone to admire.
3. **The Adventures of Cat.** (Best for grades 2-5; Materials Needed: The cat picture on the following page of this guide Pencil, Paper and Crayons) Have each student take the picture of the cat and color and decorate it to their heart's desire and give the cat a name. After that, have them write an adventure that their specific cat goes on. The stories must contain all of the elements that are needed to make a story (Character, Plot, Setting, Conflict, Resolution).

How to get your class to want to READ!

- Let them choose the book! Plan trips to the library where they get to pick whatever they want. Also, keep books readily available in the classroom.
- **READ TO YOUR CLASS. ESTABLISH A ROUTINE AND READ DURING THAT TIME EVERYDAY.**
- Read aloud together. Pick a book your students love and have everyone read pieces of it aloud. Do this one on one if you get the chance, too.
- Discuss what you read. Have group discussions about the books you read. Ask questions before, during and after the book is over.
- Show your students that you enjoy reading, too. Be a reading role model. Let the class see that you yourself are an avid reader and they just may follow suit. You are a role model, after all.



CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

1. **PUT ON A PLAY** (Best for grades 3rd-5th; Materials needed: Pencil, Paper & Creativity) Divide the classroom up into groups of 3-4. Have each group write, create and then perform a play of their choice. The only catch is that every play has to have all of the elements of a story in it: Characters, Setting, Plot, Conflict & Resolution. After each group presents to the class, be sure to have an open discussion of what worked about each of the plays and whether or not they included all of the elements.
2. **FRACTURED FAIRYTALES** (Best for grades 2nd-5th; Materials Needed: None) Divide the class into groups of 3-4. Have each group pick two different fairytales and then create a short play melding the two fairytales together anyway they wish. Don't let any two groups repeat any fairytale. After the short plays are finished, see if the class can guess what two fairytales were represented in their story.
3. **DO WHAT I SAY** (Best for grades K-2; Materials Needed: None) Pick a group of 3-4 students to get up in front of the class. Narrate a story a little bit at a time that the students up on their feet have to act out. Make sure to have a clear beginning, middle and end and give enough time for the students to act everything out. After they've gone or while they're still going, discuss the elements of the story that you're covering.

Date:_____

A black and white line drawing of a cat sitting and looking back over its shoulder. The cat is shown from the back, with its head turned to look over its right shoulder. It has large, pointed ears, whiskers on both sides, and a long, curved tail. The drawing is simple, with clean lines and no shading.

Title:_____

Your Story: _____

[illegible]



YOU CAN DO THIS TOO!

Where to start: All of our actors started out playing and telling stories when they were young -then they decided to study acting in school. Now they are pros! Here are some ways you can start doing theatre right away!

In School! Does your school have plays or musical performances? This is a great place to start.

In Your Community! Many towns have community theaters or local acting groups. See if you can try out!

Start Something! If your school doesn't have a drama club or a theatre club, talk to your favorite teacher about how you might be able to start one.

At Home! Get together with friends, cousins, brothers and sisters and make your own play. You can make up plays based on your favorite books and stories. Invite family and friends to see your performance.

Try new things and do your best at them! There are lots of jobs in the theatre besides acting. There are people who paint the sets, make costumes, write plays and more. Get the most out of your art, music and English classes. You can use all of these things to be a live theatre pro!

Before, During and After the Play...



BEFORE YOU SEE THE PLAY...

Attending the theatre is very different from watching TV or going to the movies. For one thing, the actors are real people who are performing right then and there. They can see and hear everything that happens in the audience. Because of this, YOU are an important part of the play and its important to do your job as an audience member well. Here are some tips before you see the play.

1. Please be quiet and respectful so everyone else around you can hear what's happening and so the actors can do their job.
2. If something is funny, it is okay to laugh!
3. The actors may ask you to participate. Don't be afraid to respond, ask a question or volunteer!
4. Keep your hands to yourself and your eyes up front.
5. If you like the play, be sure to clap at the end.
6. Have fun! Enjoy yourself!



Student Reviews

Did your student write a review? Encourage them to draw a picture of their favorite scene or character as well. Feel free to hang them up in your classroom. The students could also take them home and show their parents what they saw and what they learned from it. Or you can always mail your classrooms reviews to us at Bright Star Theatre! We LOVE getting mail and hearing what our amazing audience members thought of the program. Please send them to: Bright Star Theatre, 565 Long Shoals Rd., Suite 204, Arden, NC 28704.

FUN FACTS ABOUT THEATRE!

After a play is over and everyone goes home, there is always a light left on backstage. It's called a ghost light!

The oldest play that is still around was written by an Ancient Greek named Aeschylus. It's almost 2500 years old!

The longest performance on stage ever was over 23 hours long! It happened in New Jersey in 2010.

William Shakespeare is a famous play writer. He wrote 37 plays and is still quoted by many people. There are 157 million google pages that mention him--the most of any famous person ever!

In theatre, it's considered bad luck to tell an actor, "Good luck" before a performance. Instead, you're supposed to say, "Break a leg!"

In Ancient Greece, audiences stamped their feet

rather than clapping their hands to applaud.

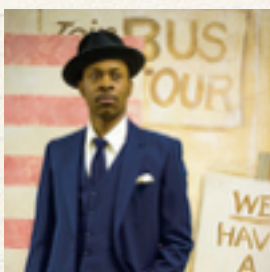
Everything about the Theatre!



A mini-van is our hip and favored mode of transportation for touring the country!

THEATRE VOCABULARY!

Actor: The people on-stage performing the play.



Backdrop: The background for the play.

Props: Anything that an actor holds while on-stage--a cane, book or rubber chicken.

Downstage: The area closest to the audience a long time ago stage were built at angles.

Upstage: The area away from the audience, like the back wall of the a stage.

Director: The person who told the actors where to go while they were on-stage and helped them create the characters they played.

Facts about us!

1. Did you know we're owned by an Emmy winning actor?
2. Our actors average 1,000 miles a week traveling the country to entertain young audiences.
3. Our programs have been seen in almost every corner of the country and even around the world.
4. We watch over 1200 actors audition before we cast our season.
5. We offer dozens of different shows a season from Black History to anti-bullying and literary classics.
6. We toured Moscow with performances of our Aesop's Fables.
7. We're based in Asheville, NC.



ABOUT US!

Founded in 2003, Bright Star Theatre tours the nation offering high quality, affordable programs to every imaginable venue. We've had countless engagements at the National Theatre, toured to Moscow and are so grateful to be in your very school today!

Costumes: The wigs, clothing and glasses that the actors wore to help flush out their characters.



Auditions: How an actor gets a role is by auditioning. They may have to interview, pretend to be a character from the play or read something from it.

Set Designer: The person who decided what should be on the background and who painted or created it.

The Process of a Play:

1. Actors audition
2. Directors cast the show (that means they choose actors)
3. The directors and actors rehearse the play (that means they practice it).
4. A team of people works on building the set, costumes and props.
5. The play opens (that means it is performed for the first time)!

Were there other terms that came from the experience of seeing the live play that you'd like to learn more about? What do you find interesting about live performances? Which do you like more, films or theatrical performances?

BRIGHT STAR THEATRE

Bright Star Touring Theatre performs across the country from Boston to Burbank and many schools, museums, theaters and community events in between. Each season our shows run the gamut from Black History to anti-bullying, from literary classics to biographical shows. Our shows are available throughout the year for any event in any part of the world.

BUILDING STORIES

Created by Bright Star Touring Theatre-Lead Authorship carried out by David Ostergaard in 2015, All Rights Reserved.

Learn more about this show, this company & our whole Season:

www.brightstartheatre.com

We want every show to be special and remarkable for our audience. Please feel free to connect with us at anytime to tell us about your experience:

David@brightstartheatre.com

