

THE RELUCTANT DRAGON

National Touring show

www.brightstartheatre.com

THIS PRODUCTION IS PART OF A
NATIONAL TOUR WITH BRIGHT
STAR THEATRE--SERVING MORE
THAN 1000 AUDIENCES ANNUALLY
ACROSS THE COUNTRY!
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This story has had a
Disney film, an
operetta, live action
television shows,
theatrical
performances &
many more
renditions.

A Dragon manages to teach a town about friendship!

ALL ABOUT THE SHOW!

OUR VERSION

Jack discovers that a dragon is living in his village! Much to his surprise, this dragon is friendly and loves a good book. Soon, Jack and the dragon become best friends, but not everyone in the village believes a dragon can be friendly. With the help of the hilarious and heroic Sir George, Jack and his new best friend use teamwork to win the hearts of everyone in the village. Kindness, respect and friendship abound as the quiet village learns to accept everyone who lives there. Through this fun and exciting adventure, young audiences learn the importance of teamwork, accepting others and solving problems.

THE HISTORY

Kenneth Grahame, (1859-1932) a Scottish writer wrote this classic work of literature along with his most famous work *The Wind in the Willows*. *The Reluctant Dragon* was first published in 1898--ten years before he published *The Wind in the Willows*. He wasn't able to attend Oxford--his dream to the cost, so instead rose through the ranks working at the Bank of England from 1879-1908.



Two of our actors!



The Writer's Edinburgh Birthplace



Kenneth Grahame, writer

While working as a
banker Mr.
Grahame composed
two famous literary
works!





Make fun catapults for a Medieval Themed craft



Medieval Jewelry from plastic!

MEDIEVAL INSPIRED CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES!

Thanks to the popular rise of Renaissance Festivals and the do-it-yourself attitude of so many websites (Pinterest) there are a zillion craft projects that can be found on the internet for your classroom. From creating catapults to cardboard shields and helmets. We've even seen how to make a knights helmet using the bottom of a plastic gallon milk jug.

CLASSROOM IDEAS! POSTINGS

One fun activity for young people is to learn about the various roles of Medieval people. Create a bulletin board advertising Medieval Jobs, or maybe a Medieval Grocery Store advertisement...have your students create the job postings, the popular foods from this time, etc and post to the board.

CLASSROOM IDEAS! MEDIEVAL FAIRE

Does your school or classroom have the resources to create a Medieval Faire? This could be a small event in the classroom with food and music from this time period to a much larger PTA/PTO event with craftspeople, knights, etc.

CLASSROOM IDEAS! EAT LIKE A KING!

While a Medieval Faire is pretty ambitious--could you work with the cafeteria to pull off a medieval feast--chicken, vegetables, bread, etc. could be served and your students could eat the meal as if they were figures from that time period--and without utensils!

CLASSROOM IDEAS! CASTLE BUILDING!

Build a cardboard castle. This simple hands on activity could enable valuable lessons like the various parts of a castle, the purpose of a moat and drawbridge, etc.

CLASSROOM IDEAS! MAKING DRAGONS!

Wanna delve into dragons? Consider a simple project like using recycled goods to make a craft dragon or there are origami tutorials available to help you make a dragon head by folding paper!

CLASSROOM IDEAS! DRAW A DRAGON

What do real dragons look like? Have your students create drawings based upon their idea of what a real dragon would look like and maybe introduce it as not so scary by having them add their own favorite hobby to the picture. Is the dragon playing soccer, or reading or dancing?

Education in the Middle Ages was mostly done from parents to children by word of mouth. Wealthier families were able to afford a more formal education, most often done by clergy.

Ye Olde Classroom Stuff

MORE IDEAS AND A LITTLE ABOUT DRAGONS

CLASSROOM IDEAS! SIMPLE WORD PLAY

How many different words can your students make from the word dragon?

CLASSROOM IDEAS! READ THE BOOK

We think one of the best activities for young people is reading! Consider getting a copy or copies of the book 'The Reluctant Dragon' and have your students read the original story first published in the 1890's. What are the differences between the original book and the version your students saw with our show? What changes had to be made to bring the show to your young audience and especially using only two professional actors? Which version do they like better?

CLASSROOM IDEAS! MAIL US

We love getting mail as do our actors! If your students would like to write a review of the show or cards to the actors and mail them into us we'll be sure to get them into the right hands

and if our actors are still on tour, they'll happily send your class a thank you card!

CLASSROOM IDEAS! DRAGON EGG!

Consider making a giant paper mache dragon egg for your classroom. This prop could inspire all kinds of other learning. Like how long do reptile eggs typically need before they start to crack open? Who left the egg and could your students write a newspaper style report about where it came from and how it got there? Will this dragon be a good dragon or a bad dragon and what could these young people do to foster the kind of dragon they'd like to have around their classroom?

CLASSROOM IDEAS! CREATE A PLAY

We adapted a short story for our play. Can your students do the same thing? Consider their favorite short story and how could they go about adapting it to a real play. Can this play be performed

in front of the class? What kinds of things would go into taking the script and bringing it to life? How would they handle costumes? What kind of set would they need to build and what are the props that would be necessary?

CLASSROOM IDEAS! DISCUSSION

So what would your students do if they were in the same position as Jack? What's the lesson of the play and how does this apply to their own life?

EUROPEAN DRAGONS

Dragons are legendary creatures found in folklore and mythology across Europe and throughout the world. In Western folklore dragons tend to be evil while in Chinese culture dragons are benevolent. Most often dragons are portrayed as living in caves or underground lairs. In many European portrayals the dragon can be found guarding a hoard of treasures.



Saint George and the Dragon by Paolo Uccello, painted in the 1400's!



A Dragon in France—they are everywhere

Our storefront.



We travel the country in mini vans!

WHO ON EARTH IS BRIGHT STAR THEATRE?

Founded in 2003, Bright Star tours with a number of shows each season from anti-bullying to Black History and everything in between. The company strives to make professional theatre as accessible as possible with affordable pricing and quality shows. We thank you for the opportunity to serve your young audience and hope you found the show and actors pleasant and enjoyable! We strive to make theatre a part of every young person's life!

THEATRE DEFINITIONS

Actors: The people on stage that performed 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 actors--a long time ago stages were built at angles.

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

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

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, read something from it, etc.

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

CONTACT US ANYTIME

Connect with us anytime! We love hearing feedback, thank you cards, pictures and whatever else from you and your students. David@brightstartheatre.com is our founder's email. If you have an experience you'd like us to know about--please take the time to let us know!

Our actors average around 1,000 miles a week traveling the country to entertain young audiences.

Our company is owned by an Emmy winning Actor.

Our programs have been seen around the country and across the world!