

Chicken Little: The Sky Is Falling!

About the Show

Chicken Little: The Sky Is Falling is an adaptation of a classic fable. A fable is a story that has a moral or lesson and often uses personification of animals. That means making animals seem like they are human. In Bright Star's version, Chicken Little is a skeptical young chick who ends up being the hero of our tale because she uses critical thinking skills like deep reading, using context clues, and verifying sources to be sure she's getting the correct information. However, the original story is quite different. You can see the original version in the column on the right.

The History of Chicken Little

Various titles "Chicken Little," "Henny Penny" or "Chicken Licken" the story began appearing in written collections about the time of the Brothers Grimm in Europe. However, folklorists believe the show could be as much as 25 centuries old.



The Original Chicken Little!

One day, Chicken Little was walking in the barnyard when an acorn fell on her head! "Oh my, the sky must be falling," she said. "I must go and tell the king." On her way to tell the king she ran into Ducky Luck, Cocky Locky, Gander Dander, and Turkey Lurkey, all of whom were separately convinced that the sky was falling and joined forces to go and tell the king. However, on their way they ran into Foxy Woxy who told the group that he knew a secret short cut to make it to the king's castle. In reality, Foxy Woxy was just tricking the animals so that he could lead them to his lair and eat them. Different versions of the story have different endings - in some all of the animals get eaten, in others the animals just escape that fate. No matter the ending, the moral of the story is the same, "Always check your sources!"



ACTIVITIES!!!

Create an *Chicken Little* Newscast - This activity incorporates creative thinking, writing, and performance!

- 1) Break students into small groups. Have each group create a segment of a newscast about the fable, *Chicken Little*. The possibilities are endless and the more creative, the better the result! Ideas for segments could include: "straight from the barnyard" - interviews with the various characters from the story, "Foxy Loxy's Kitchen" with recipes for his plans to eat the animals - even the weather and commercials could be tackled!
- 2) Discuss all the things that make a play possible. Have each group think about how costumes, props, and the set could help bring their news segments to life. If there's time, try to create some of these from everyday items!
- 3) Time for performance! Have each group perform their segment of the news. Before you begin the "newscast" have students warm up their voices with a *Chicken Little* themed tongue twister (actors do this all the time!) like: "six chickens stuck in chicken stock" or "tick tacky turkey fox trot". Remind the other students about being good audience members while they watch their friends onstage!

Draw your favorite animals and present your artwork with an explanation of what makes it your animal and their qualities.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS?

-Fables end with a moral, or a lesson, we can learn from the characters in the story. What do you think the morals are within the story of *Chicken Little*?

-Who was your favorite character in today's performance? What makes them your favorite character?

-Can you think of a time when you felt like one of the *Chicken Little* in the story? What did you learn?

-Why do you think it's important that we learn about critical thinking skills? Can you explain what is meant by 'Critical Thinking'?

-If you were going to create your own play about *Chicken Little*, what would you do differently? What would you keep the same?



CHICKEN FACTS

Chickens dream while they sleep!

Chickens see in full color!

There are more than 25 BILLION on Earth!

Mother hens talk to their chicks while they are still in the egg!

A HEN CAN LAY MORE THAN 300 EGGS A YEAR!

Chicken Little Coloring Page

Think about your favorite moment from the play and draw a picture of it here:





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.

Always 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!**



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 show. Instead performance. Instead, you're supposed to say, "Break a leg!"

After seeing the Play...

Write your own review of the play! A review is a way of telling your thoughts about a play, movie or book. Consider the following when you are writing your review.

What was your favorite part? Who was your favorite character? Can you summarize the play in your own words? If you had written this play, would you have done anything different? Would you recommend this play to a friend? Name one new thing you learned from watching this play!



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.

Everything about the Theatre!

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 more than 50 different shows a season from Black History to anti-bullying and literary classics.
6. We tour across Europe!
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 did you like about being involved in a live performance?

BRIGHT STAR THEATRE

Bright Star Touring Theatre performs across the country from Washington State to Moscow, Russia 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 anywhere.... literally!

CHICKEN LITTLE: THE SKY IS FALLING

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

www.brightstartheatre.com

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Made its national tour debut in Fall 2017.

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:

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