

Study Guide -

Jack and The Beanstalk

- The Brothers Grimm

adapted for Maritime Marionettes by Darryll and Heather Taylor

“It’s how big you are on the inside that matters most of all”

B E F O R E T H E P E R F O R M A N C E

1. Have the children discuss or write about any puppet shows they have seen. This can be puppets they saw live in a theatre, at an event, or at school or in the movies or on television.

Our show is performed with marionettes, (string puppets) and shadow puppets. Have they seen or have they tried marionettes or shadow puppets? What was their impression of them?

Do they have any puppets at home? What kind of puppets? (Hand puppets, rod or stick puppets, giant sized puppets, finger puppets, sock puppets, or ventriloquist dummies.)

2. Find a story of *Jack and the Beanstalk*, by the Brothers Grimm and read it in class. Look for other versions, that are told, from other countries.

3. Do the students think this story would be interesting to watch as a puppet show?

Why, why not?

What part of the story are they most interested in seeing or hearing in a puppet show? ie: (any action parts,

seeing the characters and how they move,

hearing the sound effects and music,

the type of puppets being used,

what will the giant look like,

what will happen to Jack)

AFTER THE PERFORMANCE

LEARNING ABOUT OURSELVES THROUGH THEATRE

1. Together in class, list the characters in the play.

Which character was their favorite and why?

2. Next, list some of the special moments in the play.

Have each student pick a few of these moments and write or discuss how they felt while watching them. (Happy, sad, angry, sleepy, excited etc.)

3. Have the students draw a picture of their favorite part, and write how they felt while watching it and what they liked about it.

4. Questions for discussion or journaling:

- a. Did you like how the story ended?
- c. Examples of how two wrongs don't make a right.
- d. How are your relationships valuable to you (family, pets, friends, neighbours)?
- d. Explore this idea: The lessons Jack learned are more important than reaching his goal of becoming rich?

Further Learning about ourselves.

1. On Sharing

- a. Do you have things at home that are important to you.
- b. How do you feel when you share with your friends?
- c. How do you feel when your friends share with you?

2. Explore the idea that everyone makes mistakes.

- a. Do you believe Jack learned from his mistakes?

3. Explore these ideas, that address envy and greed.

- a. In what ways do you envy others? (ie: what they have, what they can do, how they look...)
- b. How would I feel if I lived in a world where everyone had exactly the same things, the same talents, looks, clothes, traditions, beliefs etc?

c. How do I feel living in this world where everyone is different? (ie. looks different, has different abilities, possessions, different families etc.)

4. When Jack realized he had done something wrong, he wanted to make it right and find the owner of the harp and hen.

- a. How do you think he felt when he returned the hen and harp to the traveler?
- b. Have you ever stolen or found something that did not belong to you? How did you feel?
- c. Have you ever returned something you stole or found to the owner? How did you feel?
- d. Has anyone ever stolen something from you? Has anyone ever returned something to you that was lost or stolen?
- e. How important is it to your relationships with others that you right your wrongs?

DRAMA- (Adapt according to grade)

1. Together in class, list the different elements in the play, (what helped to tell the story.)

Elements of the play:

narration
puppets
puppetry movement
costumes
props
lighting
music

Now, make a second list of what the audience learned from the above list. ie:

the location of a scene
the time of day, or the general era
the mood of each scene
The personality of the characters.
The emotions of the characters

Give specific examples of this from the play, using this sentence structure if needed.

ie: From (element of the play), I learned that _____.

From the movement of the Giant, I learned that he was angry.

CREATIVE WRITING- Suggestions for students

1. Write a story about what happens next in the story of Jack and The beanstalk.

Draw a picture to go with your writing.

or

2. Consider writing this story in a different location, in a different time, maybe with different people in different situations.

Ideas-

What if Jack started his journey from a place you know?

What places might he travel to on his journey?

What dangers might there be for Jack in the time and place you choose?

What if the story had a different ending?

Draw a picture of the new version of the story you have imagined.

PUPPETRY

1. Have the students make their own puppets from mismatched socks and cut out props from cardboard. They can present their own plays in class. Keep the plays short and simple.

or

2. Have the students create their own shadow puppets, cut out of black construction paper, with popsicle sticks for controls, taped on the back. Use a white sheet for a screen, in front of a window, or with a light behind it for the screen. They can present their own plays in class. Keep the plays short and simple.

*Please email or mail us any work the students wish to share with us.

Thank you

Heather and Darryll Taylor

taylor@maritime-marionettes.com