



Teacher Resource Guide and Lesson Plan Activities

Tickets: thalian.org
910-251-1788

OR

CAC box office
910-341-7860

Featuring general information about our production along with some creative activities to help you make connections to your classroom curriculum before and after the show.

The production and accompanying activities address North Carolina Essential Standards in Theatre Arts, Goal A.1: Analyze literary texts & performances.

Look for this symbol for other curriculum connections.



INTO THE WOODS

Music And Lyrics By Stephen Sondheim
Book By James Lapine

Originally Directed On Broadway By James Lapine
Orchestrations By Jonathan Tunick

March 1-10, 2019

7:30 PM Friday - Saturday and 3:00 PM Sunday

Hannah Block Historic USO / Community Arts Center
Second Street Stage 120 South 2nd Street (Corner of Orange)

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About the Musical

James Lapine and Stephen Sondheim take everyone's favorite storybook characters and bring them together for a timeless, yet relevant, piece... and a rare modern classic. The Tony Award-winning book and score are both enchanting and touching.

The story follows a Baker and his wife, who wish to have a child; Cinderella, who wishes to attend the King's Festival; and Jack, who wishes his cow would give milk. When the Baker and his wife learn that they cannot have a child because of a Witch's curse, the two set off on a journey to break the curse. Everyone's wish is granted, but the consequences of their actions return to haunt them later with disastrous results.

One of Sondheim's most popular works, *Into the Woods* is a musically sophisticated show with the opportunity to feature actors adept at dark comedy.

About Thalian Association Community Theatre

Thalian Association Community Theatre was founded in 1788, to provide arts education & bring the excitement of the performing arts to Wilmington, North Carolina & produces five major productions annually on the Main Stage at historic Thalian Hall. In fact, Thalian Hall was proudly named for our organization in 1858. Our mission is to present quality live theatre that illuminates the human experience for the citizens of Wilmington, New Hanover County and beyond. We teach life skills through theatre education and provide an outlet for artists and technicians to develop and exercise their crafts. Established over 39 years ago Thalian Association Youth Theatre is an extension of Thalian Association Community Theatre non-profit organization & is dedicated to the enrichment of arts education for our community's youth. We offer Academy classes in Drama, Song & Dance, Improvisation & Musical Theatre Technique, aligned with the National Standards for Arts Education. Thanks to generous support from the Landfall Foundation and Wilmington East Rotary we provide arts enhancement classes for the Community Boys & Girls Club, the Brigade Boys & Girls Club and the Girls Leadership Academy of Wilmington with special school performances for A. H. Snipes Academy of Arts & Design, Rachel Freeman School of Engineering, Sunset Park Elementary, & The International School at Gregory. We want to turn out great theatre artists as well as great doctors, lawyers, teachers and bankers. Thalian Youth Theatre is about developing collaborative & thoughtful members of our community.

The Characters

The Narrator – Narrates Parts Of The Story For The Audience.

The Baker – A Baker Who Cannot Conceive A Child With His Wife Due To The Witch's Curse.

The Baker's Wife – Confident And Intelligent Woman Who Wants A Child With Her Husband, The Baker, But Cannot Have One Due To The Witch's Curse.

The Witch – Rapunzel's Guardian. She Has Many Powers. She Has Cursed The Baker's Family With Infertility.

Rapunzel – Kept High In A Tower By The Witch. She Has Long Flowing Hair, As Yellow As Corn, Which The Witch Climbs To Get To Her In The Tower.

Cinderella – A Poor Young Girl Whose Mother And Father Have Died Leaving Her With A Mean Step-Mother And Two Mean Step-Sisters. She Wishes To Go To The King's Festival.

Cinderella's Step-Mother – Very Mean To Cinderella And Always Discounting Her Value In The World. She Loves Her Two Other Daughters, Lucinda And Florinda.

Lucinda – Cinderella's Beautiful, But Evil, Step-Sister. She Wants To Marry A Prince.

Florinda – Cinderella's Other Beautiful, But Evil, Step-Sister. She Also Wants To Marry A Prince.

Cinderella's Prince – A Very Attractive And Very Vain Prince, Who Searches For Cinderella After Meeting Her At The Festival. Brother To Rapunzel's Prince.

Rapunzel's Prince – Brother To Cinderella's Prince, Also Very Vain And Very Handsome. He Seeks Rapunzel After Hearing Her Singing In Her Tower.

The Wolf – A Wolf Who Meets And Tries To Eat Little Red Riding Hood In The Woods.

Jack – A Very Ambitious Boy Who Loves Is Cow, Milky White. Sells Milky White For Magic Beans After His Mother Tells Him The Cow Needs To Be Sold For Food Money.

Jack's Mother – Angry With Jack For Being Such A Dreamer. Terribly Worried About Money.

Little Red Riding Hood – A Spoiled And Naïve Girl. She Meets The Wolf On Her Way To See Her Granny.

Granny – Little Red Riding Hood's Grandmother.

The Mysterious Man – Father Of The Baker Who Is Thought To Be Dead.

The Prince's Steward – Serves Cinderella's Prince.

Listening for Lines

When you attend *Into the Woods*, listen for these lines and for how they are delivered & observe what that tells you about how the characters feel.

"It takes two.
I thought one was enough. It's not true.
It takes two of us.
You came through
When the journey was rough. It took you.
It took two of us."
—The Baker, Act I Scene III

"Mother cannot guide you. Now you're on your
own. Only me beside you. Still, you're not alone.
No one is alone. Truly. No one is alone."
— Cinderella, Act II Scene II

Re-Imagining

Fairy Tales



The plot of *Into the Woods* draws on the plots of many well known fairy tales. Have students explore this concept of adapting & changing stories to create new stories of their own with the following writing exercises. The story map to the right can be copied and enlarged.

Fractured Fairy Tale

Select a well know story such as *Cinderella*. Brainstorm with students ways in which the story might be altered. For example:

- Cinderella is homely but good at heart. (a la *Shrek* style)
- The prince can't dance and is very shy.
- Cinderella doesn't want to get married.

Outline a new story based on one of your ideas. After modeling, allow students to select a story of their own and change the tale to create their own story.

From A Different Perspective

Read *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs* by Jon Scieska aloud. Talk about how the story changes when told from the wolf's perspective. Have students select a different fairy tale and tell the story from one of the other character's point of view. For example:

- The evil stepmother in *Snow White*
- The wolf in *Little Red Riding Hood*
- The Giant's mother in *Jack & the Beanstalk*
- The stepsister in *Cinderella*

Predictions

Read the synopsis for *Into the Woods*. In small groups, allow students to make predictions about Act. II. Have them create their own story.

Story Map

Main Characters:

Setting:

Problem (conflict):

Event (action):

Event (action):

How the problem is resolved (resolution):

What the characters learn (moral):

“The Woods”

Top of Act I

**Into The Woods
To Get My Wish
I Don't Care How
The Time Is Now...**

The Way Is Clear
The Light Is Good
I Have No Fear,
Nor No One Should.
The Woods Are Just Trees
The Trees Are Just Wood.
No Need To Be Afraid There.
There's Something
In The Glade There...

End of Act I

Though It's Fearful,
Though It's Deep,
Though It's Dark,
And Though You May
Lose The Path,
Though You May
Encounter Wolves,
**You Mustn't Stop,
You Mustn't Swerve,
You Have To Act!**
You Can Have Your Wish,
But You Can't Just Wish—
No, To Get Your Wish
You Go...Into The Woods
And Through The Fear...

End of Act II

Though It's Fearful,
Though It's Deep,
Though It's Dark,
And Though You May
Lose The Path,
Though You May
Encounter Wolves,
**You Can't Just Act
You Have To Think!**

There Are Always Wolves,
There Are Always Spells,
There Are Always Beans,
Or A Giant Dwells There...

**Into The Woods
But Not Too Fast
Or What You Wish
You Lose At Last.**

Into The Woods, But Mind The Past.
Into The Woods, But Mind The Past

Lyricist and composer Stephen Sondheim uses the journey through the woods to represent the characters' journey through life's challenges.

The columns above, contain excerpts of lyrics from the title song in it's various forms throughout the play. Read each set of lyrics and see if you can tell what Sondheim is trying to say about the woods, about life, and about how we should approach obstacles in our lives. Look specifically at how the lyrics change from one act to the next. What do you think the characters learn in their journey?

What is a metaphor?



National Standards of Arts Education Music 9: Understanding music in relation to history and culture **Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy: L.K-5.4:** Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases. **National Standards for Arts Education Visual Arts 3.V.1.2.** Understand that artists use their art to express personal ideas.

I KNOW THINGS NOW (SUNG BY LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD)

*Mother Said "Straight Ahead."
Not To Delay, Or Be Misled.
I Should Have Heeded Her Advice...*

But He Seemed So Nice.

*And He Showed Me Things, Many Beautiful Things,
That I Hadn't Thought To Explore,
They Were Off My Path,
So I Never Had Dared.
I Had Been So Careful
I Never Had Cared,
And He Made Me Feel Excited —
Well, Excited And Scared.*

*When He Said "Come In!"
With That Sickening Grin,
How Could I Know What Was In Store?
Once His Teeth Were Bared,
Though, I Really Got Scared —
Well, Excited And Scared —*

*But He Drew Me Close
And He Swallowed Me Down,
Down A Dark Slimy Path
Where Lie Secrets That I Never Want To Know
And When Everything Familiar
Seemed To Disappear Forever,
At The End Of The Path
Was Granny Once Again.*

*So We Wait In The Dark
Until Someone Sets Us Free,
And We're Brought Into The Light,
And We're Back At The Start.*

*And I Know Things Now, Many Valuable Things,
That I Hadn't Known Before:
Do Not Put Your Faith In A Cape And A Hood —
They Will Not Protect You The Way That They Should.
And Take Extra Care With Strangers,
Even Flowers Have Their Dangers.
And Though Scary Is Exciting,
Nice Is Different Than Good.*

*Now I Know:
Don't Be Scared
Granny Is Right,
Just Be Prepared.*

Isn't It Nice To Know A Lot!

... And A Little Bit Not ...

Temptation

Read the lyrics (left) sung by Little Red Riding Hood in the musical *Into the Woods*. Use the song & what you know of Little Red's story from the traditional fairy tale to answer the following questions:

- How did the Wolf trick Little Red Riding Hood?
- Why do you think she listened to him even though she knew it was forbidden?
- What did she learn from her experience?
- What does she mean by her final two lines?

What are Morals?

- Can you learn from Little Red Riding Hood's lesson?
- Have you ever been tempted to do something you knew you shouldn't do? What happened?

Activity

Split into groups and use your experiences (or make up new ones) to write your own fairy tale with a moral at the end.

Many of the characters in *Into the Woods* are tempted to do things that they may know are not exactly the best choices to make in life in order to get something they want. In return, each of them learn valuable life lessons. After seeing the production, discuss which characters make mistakes in their journey through the woods. Do you think they learn from these mistakes?



Classroom Discussion & Activities (Post-Performance)

- There is a song in the show, “Your Fault,” that deals with nothing but everyone placing blame on others for all the terrible events that occur. The characters eventually find that they are each at fault in their own way.

- How is this familiar to any situation you have ever witnessed or experienced? What is familiar or universal about this theme of blaming others? What does it do for a person to put blame on someone else before looking at their own faults?

- Storytelling in a musical can be very different from storytelling in a traditional play without music. The most obvious difference is that the characters are singing songs to show their feelings and move the action of the play. How is the musical method of storytelling more or less effective for you, as opposed to watching a traditional play without music? What does the music do to the story for you as a listener or audience member?

Traditionally, fairy tales have one character who serves as the “bad guy.” This character is usually portrayed as very evil & out to get the main character through no fault of their own.

Name the “bad” characters in the following fairy tales:

Hansel & Gretel

Rapunzel

Cinderella

The Little Mermaid

Little Red Riding Hood

Sleeping Beauty

Snow White & the 7 Dwarfs



*Of Course What Really Matters Is The Blame,
Someone You Can Blame.*

*Fine, If That's The Thing You Enjoy,
Placing The Blame.*

*If That's The Aim, Give Me The Blame —
Just Give Me The Boy...*

No...

You're So Nice.

*You're Not Good, You're Not Bad,
You're Just Nice.*

*I'm Not Good, I'm Not Nice, I'm Just
Right.*

I'm The Witch.

You're The World.



CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.3 Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions). **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.3** Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact). **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.3** Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.

- In the song “Last Moonlight” (above), what do you think the witch trying to say to the other characters?
- What do they do, that seems bad or selfish? What do they do that seems good or selfless?
- Do you think of them as a good or bad person?
- Does doing a bad thing mean you are a bad person? What is your definition of a good person?
- Can you think of a time in your life when you did something that hurt someone else, even though you did not intend for that to happen? How did you feel afterwards? What did you do?



Research and Writing Prompts

The final line in *Into The Woods*,
Cinderella says, “I wish…….”

- Make a list of 25 things you wish were yours.
- Write about the thing on your list you most want to have. What must happen in order for that wish to come true? What would you be willing to do to make it come true? Where would you “draw the line?” What would you not be willing to do to make your wish come true?
- Write about a situation were you or someone else has acted in a particular way in pursuit of a desire or dream because of the timetable involved. How might your actions have been different in the absence of time pressure?
- Write about a wish that comes true in the opposite way than you, or a fictional character you create, might expect.

Leadership and Community

Questions and Discussion Prompts

- What is moral leadership?
- Do the members of the Royal Family in *Into The Woods* assert moral leadership?
- How does the Steward reply when the Baker reminds him he tried to warn the Royal Family of the dangers in the woods?
- Imagine a situation in which your community experiences a disaster. There are suddenly no media to rely upon. Everyone has to figure out how to proceed based on the information that is directly observed. What would change? Who would become the leaders?



Theater Corner

Plays produced by **Thalian Association Community Theater (TACT)** are created in the city of Wilmington, by a talented team of artists such as designers, carpenters, lighting & sound technicians, props masters, musicians, seamstresses, directors and actors, with the help of *numerous* parents and community volunteers.

A play is very different from a movie or television show, because it is presented live. As a class, discuss what you experienced when you went to the theater and how you felt afterwards.

1. What was the first thing you noticed on the stage?
2. Name three things you noticed about the set. Did the set help tell the story? What sort of set would you have designed? How could you have used recycled materials?
3. What did you like about the costumes? Did they fit the story? What sort of costumes would you have designed? Can costumes be everyday clothing?
4. What role did lighting play in telling the story? How did the lights enhance what you were seeing?
5. Describe the actors. Were there moments you were so engaged in the story that you forgot you were watching a live play? What characters remind you of someone you know in real life?
6. Is there a movie version of the play you saw today? Have you read the book? What made your experience of seeing the live play unique?
7. Were there any actors who played more than one character? When could you tell that it was the same person? What are some ways that you can be the same person but play different characters?
8. If you could adapt a story into a play, which story would you choose? Describe how you would use special effects, lighting, costumes, characters, sets and music to create your play.



North Carolina Essential Standards in Theatre Arts 3.A.1.2: Evaluate formal or informal theatre productions. **North Carolina Essential Standards in Visual Art: 2.V.2.3:** Create art from real & imaginary sources of inspiration. **3.V.1.2.** Understand that artists use their art to express personal ideas. **4.V.1.2.** Apply personal choices while creating art.



Study Guide References: theatre works, Wikipedia, Field Guide for Teachers produced by StageNOTES, ncpublicschools.org, playbill.com, commoncore.org, essential standards, kennedy center, BMI, illuminations.nctm.org., books units teachers, Pinterest, MTI, lewis Carroll.org, scientificamerican.com, moma.org, teachers pay teachers.

Youth Theatre Academy Classes

Over 39 years ago Thalian Association Community Theatre **established the Youth Theatre** program dedicated to the enrichment of arts education for our community's youth.

We offer affordable classes in Drama, Song & Dance, Improvisation & Musical Theatre Technique that are **aligned with the National Standards for Arts Education, N.C. Essential Standards in Theater Arts & N.C. Common Core.**

Starting as young as three years old (in TACT Tots) all the way to high school seniors, we have something for everyone! Classes are offered **downtown** at the **Hannah Block Historic USO/Community Arts Center Building** & **mid-town** at the **First Baptist Activity Center.**

Thalian Association Youth Theatre Academy is the place to be if you want to **learn “the ropes” from local professional artists currently working in their field.** ★

If you are an **aspiring performer** or just want to **build confidence & make new friends**, check out thalian.org for more information on the **Youth Academy.**

Learn what it is like to be part of a show. Join the Theatre Community!



Next on stage:

***Footloose the Musical*, April 26-May 5, 2019**

Hannah Block Historic USO/Community Arts Center