

Study Guide for Teachers

Enchantment Everywhere *The Brave Little Tailor*

presented by
Young Audiences New Jersey & Eastern PA
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ABOUT THE PROGRAM

A feisty tailor kills seven flies in one blow! Impressed with his accomplishment, he sets off to make his fortune. Faced with a series of challenges, he uses courage and intelligence to defeat nasty giants, conquer a rampaging rhinoceros, and save the kingdom from a ferocious dragon! This epic story blends physical theatre with masked actors, magic, puppets, music, and dance. It's a perfect introduction to the performing arts that also provides your students a creative way to interact with literature.

LEARNING GOALS

Myths, fables, and fairy tales have intrinsic value in children's development. These classic and magical tales are filled with promise—the weak can become strong, the poor can become rich, the unimaginable becomes possible—and they provide children with models for how to be in life. Most important, they invite children into a new way of seeing and being, where they can discover a deeper understanding of others and of themselves.

These stories model problem solving, build emotional resiliency, give us a common language (cultural literacy & canon), cross cultural boundaries, teach the dramatic structure of a story, develop a child's imagination, and give teachers opportunities to teach critical thinking skills

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

The story of *The Brave Little Tailor* was written by two brothers, named Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm. They are known as the Brothers Grimm and they lived over 200 years ago. When Jacob was 11 and Wilhelm was 10, their father died. This caused great hardship for their family and affected the brothers for many years.

Despite their family's poverty, Jacob and Wilhelm were able to attend college at the University of Marburg. While at university, the brothers developed a passion for folktales. They began to collect and write down many of the stories that they knew from growing up in Germany. The stories that they wrote down are called folk stories.

Folk stories are tales or legends that are told and passed on by a group of people through many generations. Most of the time these stories are told out loud. Because Jacob and Wilhelm were from Germany, they wrote down and recorded all of the stories they could find from the German people.

Folk tales often have to do with everyday life and frequently feature wily peasants getting the better of their superiors. In many cases the characters are animals with human characteristics. Fairy tales are a subgenre of folk tales and almost always involve some element of magic and the triumph of good over evil.

BEFORE THE PROGRAM

In our experience it's best to read the story several times to the students before they come to see the show. This can be done in a single sitting or over several days. You can find the story here: <http://yanjep.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Enchantment-Everywhere-Synopsis.pdf>

1. Read the story to encourage imagination.

Simply read the story to your students, no need to act it out, just keep a matter-of-fact tone. During the first reading, invite children to close their eyes, simply to listen to the story and imagine the scenes. Ask them: What did they see in their mind's eye (tailor, giant, castle), what did they hear (loud footsteps, dragon's roar), what did they sense (quiet forest, dangerous animals)?

2. Read the story for understanding

On the second reading, ask your students to notice different characters, language, and descriptions. What kind of story is it (fictional, fantasy)? Is it set in an imaginary world? How do you know? Is the ending happy or sad? Are there any words you don't understand (e.g., tailor, sash, wits)?

3. Read the story for elaboration

This time, read the story and ask your students to remember their favorite parts so they can retell them in their own words, retell the whole story, or act out a new ending like Enchantment Theatre does. You may want to talk about the moral of the story. What is it teaching us? What is the Tailor able to accomplish by using his wits and his courage? What does the story tell us about judging someone by outward appearances? Sometimes the Tailor goes along with what people believe him to be. What do you think about doing that?

AFTER THE PROGRAM

Speak with your students after the performance and then ask them to draw a response to the show. Creating a visual piece of work allows the response to remain in the imaginative realm of their mind's eye, rather than being committed straightaway to an intellectual realm.

1. Make half-masks in class (the same style that the actors wear).

- Cut a paper plate in half. Cut out a triangle along the center of the edge, giving a space for the nose.
- Using a large hole punch or scissors, create holes for the eyes.
- Punch two small holes on the sides and twist pipe cleaners through them to attach the mask behind the head.
- Decorate the mask using materials of your choice (markers, crayons, glitter, feathers, stickers, paper scraps of different colors, gems, etc.)

2. Have students create cartoons of their favorite parts of the story. Then create a group comic strip. Take the original cartoons and hang them up in sequence. What are the missing scenes? What is the dialogue needed in between scenes?

3. Writing prompts:

- Describe/write about the characteristics of the Tailor (clever, brave, confident, etc.). Then describe/write about the characteristics of the Giants and the King. How are they different from the Tailor?
- Write a personal account from the point of view of the Princess.
- Write a poem based on the story.
- Review the performance. Pretend you are a theater critic: What was good about the performance, the story, the acting, etc.

ARTIST INFORMATION

Enchantment Theatre Company was founded on the vision of creating imaginative, magical theater works for children and their families. Based in the heart of Philadelphia, ETC has grown into a major theater company for young audiences, touching the lives of more than 120,000 children annually throughout Philadelphia, the region, and North America. Their works have been seen in theaters around the world and across the country, ranging from sophisticated venues like Lincoln Center and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts to rural high schools in North Dakota and Texas. Over 3 million children worldwide have experienced ETC since 1979.