



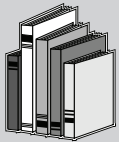
THEATRE IV

Classroom Connections Teacher Resources



In the Classroom
Teachers & Students
Grades K - 5

The Shoemaker and the Christmas Elves is based on the Grimm Brothers tale *The Shoemaker and the Elves*.



At the Library

Cherry, or the Frog Bride
Hansel and Gretel: a fairy tale
Rapunzel: a fairy tale
by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm

Look for more of your favorite fairy tales in the J398 section of your local library.



On the Web

Theatre IV www.theatreiv.org

Wikipedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brothers_Grimm

National Geographic: The Brothers Grimm: Fairy Tales, History, Facts, and More

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/grimm>

The Shoemaker and the Christmas Elves



Two Christmas Elves are sent to work for a poor cobbler until he does something nice for them. When he does, the elves will become true Christmas Elves and be sent to work for Santa at the North Pole.

Not knowing how to make shoes, the Christmas Elves do what they do best and make toy dolls for children. Using the cobbler's leather scraps, the elves busily make dolls for the cobbler and his wife to sell in their shop. Over time, the cobbler and his wife become rich and no longer need the help of the elves, but the elves can't leave until their kindness has been repaid.

One night, the cobbler and his wife discover the Christmas Elves asleep in their kitchen. They realize that it is the elves who have helped them during their time of need and decide to return their kindness by making each of the elves a new pair of shoes.

The elves awake to see their new shoes and rejoice that they can now become Santa's elves!



Behind the Scenes

Who's Who? People in the Theatre

Actors are the people who perform the story on stage. You see them every time you come to the theatre.

There are a lot of people that you never get to see who work hard to get the show ready. Here are a few:

The **director** tells the actors where to move on the stage and oversees the work of everyone involved in the play.

The **stage manager** is responsible for calling lighting and sound cues and for supervising the technical crew.

The **playwright** writes the musical or play.

The **prop master** is in charge of the objects used by the actors.

The **costume designers** plan the clothing actors wear.

The **lighting designers** plan the kinds of lights to show the setting and mood of each part of the story.

The **set designers** plan the scenery for the play.



Back Stage

The Playwright's Job

Playwrights are responsible for writing the play. What they write tells the actors what to say on stage. Some playwrights adapt stories so that they can be performed on stage.

When a playwright adapts a story the characters, events and even settings may change to fit the stage production. The playwright may change a characters' thoughts or parts of the story into events and actions that happen on stage. Additional scenes and characters may be added or cut to make the story the best play it can be.

There are many adaptations of fairy tales in books, movies, and plays.

adapt: to change to fit a new use or situation

Match the following adaptations to their original stories:

Original Story

Adaptation

Cinderella

The Horned Toad Prince

The Gingerbread Man

The Runaway Tortilla

Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves

Kate and the Beanstalk

CinderElmo

The Frog Prince

Ali Baba and the Forty

Aliens

Jack and the Beanstalk



Try It!

At your local library, check out the fairy tales in the J398 section. Read an original story and an adaptation! Then diagram what was the same, and what was different



Write Your Own Fairy Tale

Use the frame below to start writing your very own fairy tale.

Once upon a time, there was

a _____ who lived in a

_____. But there was a

mean _____ who always

_____.

So one day the _____

decided to _____. There was a

magic _____ that _____!

After that, _____

_____. Then, the _____ never

_____.

And they lived happily ever after.

~The End~



Behind the Scenes

Writing the Play:

Fairy tales are types of folk tales. They usually begin with "Once upon a time..." and end with "...happily ever after." Also, fairy tales usually have events happening in threes, and involve magic.

Folk tales...

- are short, with a simple plot;
- have characters representing a characteristic like good or bad;
- feature events that are repeated, especially in threes; and
- are based in fantasy.

Can you think of other fairy tales?

List three here:



Out on the Web

Fairy tales are just one type of interesting story. Try some of your own at www.kids-space.org/HPT/1a/11a.html.

This site allows you to create your own play, choose characters, and even assign dialogue.



This Theatre IV activity is in support of the following VA Standards of Learning in English:
K.2, K.6, K.8, K.11, 1.7, 1.11, 1.12, 2.4, 2.8, 2.9, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.8.

You are the Prop Master!

Circle the props that might be used for a play about a shoemaker and elves. Remember, the story took place a very long time ago.



Back Stage
Prop List
 After watching The Shoemaker and the Christmas Elves make a list of props used by the actors. How many can you remember?



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Theatre IV presents...

The Shoemaker and the Christmas Elves

Book, Music and Lyrics by Paul Deiss

Theatre IV:
 Bruce C. Miller, Artistic Director

Phil Whiteway, Managing Director

Classroom Connections Study Guide written by Heather Widener, MAT
 Widener Consulting LLC

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Behind the Scenes

What's What?
 Things in the Theatre

There are many things in the theatre that the actors use to help them tell the story. Some of these things include:

set - the scenery used in the play to describe the location of the actors.

props - objects used by the actors in the play.

lights - objects used in the theatre to make vision possible. Lights help to describe the setting and create the mood of a play.



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