



The B Street Theatre  
School Tour  
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## Teacher's Guide

# FANTASY AMERICANA

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# BEFORE THE PLAY

## SYNOPSIS

Join us for a celebration of American histories, folktales & legends! From the Little Big Horn to Calaveras County, and from real Revolutionary War heroes to the Legend of Blackbeard the Pirate--these tried and true tales are guaranteed to keep you in stitches.

**THEMES:** American History, California History, Character Counts (Law & Justice, Honesty)

## THEATRE TERMS

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS  
3.0 Historical & Cultural Context

Make sure you know the following terms so you can use them later.

**SCRIPT:** The written play that tells actors what to say and what to do.

**ACTORS:** The people who say the words and do the actions on stage.

**CHARACTER:** The person or thing that an actor pretends to be or portrays.

**DIRECTOR:** The person who tells the actors how to say the words and how to do the actions.

**SCENERY or the SET:** The backdrops, furniture, and other pieces that show the audience where the play is happening.

**COSTUMES or WARDROBE:** The clothes and other things an actor wears to show who they are.

**PROPS:** The things that actors use (such as a book or broom) during the play.

**SOUND:** The sound effects (like a doorbell or thunder) that help to tell the story.

**LIGHTING:** The lights that help the audience to see the actors and scenery on the stage.

**THEATER:** The place where a play is performed. It is from the Greek word *THEATRON*, which means "watching place".

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

SPEAKING & LISTENING: Comprehension & Collaboration

1.1 2.1 3.1 4.1 5.2

SPEAKING & LISTENING: Presentation of Knowledge & Ideas

1.4,6 2.6 3.6 4.6 5.6

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

1.0 Artistic Perception

1. What are the differences between folktales, legends, and histories? How are they similar? Can true stories become legends? Can legends be proven true?
2. Introduce the terms listed in the Theatrical Terms list provided. Can you give examples of these terms from plays or movies you've seen?
3. You will meet each of the following people during the show. Choose one or more of them and compile everything you know about them as a class (no research required): Gen. George Armstrong Custer, Jesse James, Robert Ford, Nancy Hart, Edward Teach/Blackbeard
4. What do you know about Mark Twain, his life, and his stay in Calaveras County? What kinds of people, events, and experiences inspired him as he wrote his stories and novels?
5. How much do you know about how history gets written? Think about the history that you have studied: where did the information come from? Who gave the information? Who gathered it? How was it organized? Was there bias? Was everyone's point-of-view represented? Why or why not?

# DURING AND AFTER THE PLAY

## DURING THE PLAY

### AUDIENCE BEHAVIOR

While watching a live theatre performance, it is important to sit quietly and listen. It does not mean that you need to be silent. Be sure to laugh at the funny parts (or cry at the sad parts), and certainly applaud at the end! Actors love it when an audience is involved with the show by actively watching and listening.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

SPEAKING & LISTENING: Comprehension & Collaboration

1.2 2.2 3.2,3

SPEAKING & LISTENING: Presentation of Knowledge & Ideas

1.4,6 2.6 3.6 4.6 5.6

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

1.0 Artistic Perception

4.0 Aesthetic Valuing

5.0 Connections, Relationships, Applications

1. Refer back to the Theatrical Terms list on page 3. What examples of these terms did you find in the play?
  - a. What did you think of the scenery, costumes, and props? Did they help you understand the stories that were told? Why or why not?
  - b. How did the music and sound effects used during the show help you understand the stories being told?
  - c. What else did you learn about theatre from the play?
2. Which was your favorite character or story from the play and why? Which was your least favorite and why?
3. What themes or ideas did the playwrights develop throughout the play?
4. Choose one or more of the stories you saw during the play and answer the following questions:
  - a. How much of this story did you already know? What was new to you?
  - b. How were the events and characters presented? How did they differ from the way you imagined or understood them to be?
  - c. If you were to research the people and events from this story to figure out what was true and what was legend, where would you start?
5. Guns have many different uses: for sport, hunting, protection, and weaponry in war. In your opinion, where and when is it (in)appropriate to carry a gun? Why?

# CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

## VOCABULARY

LANGUAGE: Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

2.4,6 3.4 4.4 5.4

READING (Foundational Skills): Phonics and Word Recognition

2.3 3.3 4.3 5.3

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

5.0 Connections, Relationships, Applications

### Activity 1: Wild Wild Words

The following words can be used in discussion of the play and in other activities.

- |            |              |                 |
|------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. Mourn   | 6. Terminate | 11. Undertake   |
| 2. Coward  | 7. Puny      | 12. Bet         |
| 3. Outlaw  | 8. Sailor    | 13. Soldier     |
| 4. Pertain | 9. Brim      | 14. Fiddle (n.) |
| 5. Scout   | 10. Muscular |                 |

Use a **DICTIONARY** to do the following:

- Define each word and identify its part(s) of speech
- Divide each word into syllables and identify its root and language of origin plus any prefixes or suffixes. Can you add any prefixes or suffixes to make different words?
- Do any of these words have multiple meanings or usages? How do you know which meaning the author or speaker intends?
- Choose five of these words and see if you can use each in a sentence

## MATH

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

5.0 Connections, Relationships, Applications

### Activity 2: Calaveras Counting

MATHEMATICS

1.OA:1

Solve the following word problems:

- Jim wants to have a frog jumping race! If Jim has 2 frogs and Old Feller has 3 frogs, how many frogs are in the race? If Rev. Walker joins the race with 3 frogs, how many frogs are there now?
- There are 12 people at the dance, but Kay is missing. If 4 people leave to look for Kay, how many are left? How many are left after 3 more people go home?
- Blackbeard the Pirate has 5 rings, 9 necklaces, and 6 bracelets in his treasure chest. How many pieces of jewelry does he have total? If he gives 7 necklaces away, how many pieces does he have then?

### Activity 3: Paying with Credit

MATHEMATICS

2.OA:1

2.MD:8

Miss DuBois buys food from the store on credit. If you buy an item on credit, you are allowed to have it because you are promising to pay the money later. Use the following math problems to learn more about buying things on credit.

- The amount of money you *charge* to your credit, or promise to pay, is called your *balance*. If Miss Dubois has a balance of \$5.00 and then charges \$12.00 for flour, what is her new balance?
- Those who give credit set a *limit* on how much you can charge. If Miss Dubois' credit limit is \$50 and she has a balance of \$32, how much more can she charge?
- If you pay back the money you charge like you promise to, then you can charge more. If Miss Dubois has a balance of \$45 and she pays back \$19, how much does she owe now?

# CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

## Activity 4: Find Your Story

WRITING: Text Types and Purposes

1.3 2.3 3.3 4.3 5.3 6.3

Writers like Mark Twain look everywhere for inspiration for their stories—their own lives, the lives of people they know and meet, events they witness, world events and media, other works of literature, etc.

Throughout one day, make a list of all the sights, sounds, people, events, and other things you observe that might inspire you to write and share some of your favorites with the class. Could you write a story based off of one or more of your observations?

## SPEAKING AND LISTENING

SPEAKING & LISTENING: Comprehension and Collaboration

SPEAKING & LISTENING: Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

5.0 Connections, Relationships, Applications

Listen carefully to your classmates' presentations and ask them questions.

## WRITING

WRITING: Production and Distribution of Writing

1.5 2.4,5 3.4,5 4.4,5 5.4,5

WRITING: Range of Writing

LANGUAGE: Conventions of Standard English

LANGUAGE: Knowledge of Language

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

5.0 Connections, Relationships, Applications

Be sure to revise and edit what you write.

## Activity 5: The Stuff of Legend

WRITING: Text Types and Purposes

2.3 3.3 4.3 5.3 6.3

WRITING Research to Build and Present Knowledge

2.7,8 3.7 4.7 5.7 6.3

HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

People Who Make a Difference; Continuity and Change, California: A Changing State, Making a New Nation; Ancient Civilizations

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

2.0 Creative Expression

A legend is a story people think is based in historical fact, but all of the story's facts have not been proven historically accurate. Divide your students into groups and have them choose a legend from a culture you are studying to research. Have them answer the following questions.

- When and where does the story take place?
- Who normally tells this story and to whom?
- Why is this story told? What cultural, social, moral, or political values does it uphold?
- Which facts have been proven true and which ones have not?

Have each group write the story they chose as a narrative or play. Allow them to read or perform the piece for the class (time permitting). How did their discussion of the story affect the version they created?

## Activity 6: Share Your Story

WRITING: Text Types and Purposes

1.3 2.3 3.3 4.3 5.3 6.3

As far back as ancient Greece, History was a type of literature just like Poetry and Drama. Explore history-writing using one of the following prompts.

1. Describe one of the most important events of your life as if it were written in a history book. What facts do you include? What facts do you leave out? How do you represent yourself and others?
2. Interview someone about a historical event or period he/she lived through. Write a description of the event according to what they tell you and then research the event. How is their perspective represented in the research you did?



# CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

## HISTORY & SOCIAL SCIENCE

### HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

People Who Make a Difference; Continuity and Change, California: A Changing State, Making a New Nation; Ancient Civilizations

### VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

5.0 Connections, Relationships, Applications

#### Activity 7: Women in History

WRITING: Text Types and Purposes

2.2    3.2    4.2    5.2    6.2

Nancy Hart is one of many extraordinary women from early American history. Choose a notable woman from a time period you are studying to research and answer the following questions:

- When and where was she born? Did she marry? Who did she marry?
- What type of education did she receive? How did she use it?
- Did she have a paying job or other responsibilities outside the home? How did she involve herself in her community?
- What makes her notable for us today? What was her overall impact on her society?
- What made her famous, notorious, influential and/or controversial in her own time?
- What were her religious and/or ethical beliefs and how did these beliefs influence her behavior and actions?

Use this information to write a short biography of the woman you chose and share it with the class.

#### Activity 8: Community Builders

Though many people came to Calaveras County and other places in California specifically to mine for gold, others came because they knew that there would be opportunities to start their own businesses--general stores, barbershops, banks, etc. These early entrepreneurs helped build the communities we live in today.

Have your students choose a business from the list below (or one of their own) to run in an imaginary gold rush town. Have them make a poster or model showing their place of business (the inside or the outside) and describe their business to the class. What service would they provide or what goods would they sell? Why is their business important to the community?

General store

Doctor's office

Mill

Ferrier/Blacksmith shop

Barbershop

Feed store (for animals)

Newspaper

Carpentry shop

Tailor's shop

Hotel

Restaurant

Farm

# CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

## HISTORY & SOCIAL SCIENCE (cont'd)

### Activity 9: Company! Halt!

Members of Armies and Navies like those seen in *Fantasy Americana* put their lives on the line to protect their society's beliefs and borders. Every society in history has had some kind of fighting force drawn from its own people trained to fight on land and/or at sea. Use the following questions to investigate the traditions surrounding the fighting force of a civilization you are studying. Assign a group of students to research each bullet point if needed.

- Who could be included in your society's fighting force?
- What was their training like? What types of terrain did they train to fight on?
- How did this fighting force move from place to place? How was it organized?
- What types of weapons did they use? How were they made and what materials were used?
- Did members wear specific clothing or body decorations? How were these significant?
- Who were their most respected leaders? How did one become a leader?
- How did the society as a whole support its fighting force? What did those who did not fight do during conflict?
- How did this society treat its veterans and fallen soldiers?

## CHARACTER COUNTS

SPEAKING & LISTENING: Comprehension & Collaboration

K.2 1.2 2.2 3.2,3

SPEAKING & LISTENING: Presentation of Knowledge & Ideas

K.4,6 1.4,6 2.6 3.6 4.6 5.6

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

5.0 Connections, Relationships, Applications

### Thematic Questions for *Fantasy Americana*

#### Law and Justice

1. As in life, sometimes it can be hard to define characters in a story as "good" or "bad" people. Some people do bad things for good reasons. Some people are rewarded for doing something for the wrong reasons. Which characters from *Fantasy Americana* can be defined as good? Bad? Somewhere in between? Why?
2. Why do we have laws? What and who do laws protect? How are a society's values expressed through its laws?
3. Why and how are laws enforced? Should laws always be enforced? Why or why not?
4. Who should enforce laws and why?
5. What is justice? Are laws always just and justly enforced? What happens when they are not?
6. What can we do if we think someone has done something unjust to us?
7. What do we do if we think a rule or law is unjust? How can we express our feelings?

#### Honesty

1. What is honesty? Which characters from the play were honest or dishonest and how?
2. Think of a time when someone was dishonest with you? What were the consequences of this person's actions?
3. How should we react when someone is dishonest with us?



# RESOURCES & ADDENDA

## FURTHER READING & LEARNING

### Electronic Resources

Nancy Hart in the *New Georgia Encyclopedia*

<http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/history-archaeology/nancy-hart-ca-1735-1830>

The Life and Death of Blackbeard the Pirate from Learn NC

<http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nchist-colonial/1669>

Ballad of America: American Heritage Music

<http://www.balladofamerica.com/music/indexes/songs/ontopofoldsmokey/index.htm>

The Price of Freedom: An Exhibition of the Smithsonian National Museum of American History

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/activity/oral-history-writing-workshop>

### Online Activities

Oral History: A Writing Workshop

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/activity/oral-history-writing-workshop>

Spending and Credit: A Math Hunt Activity

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/activity/spending-and-credit-math-hunt-activity>

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### MATH

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### HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

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### VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

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2.0 Creative Expression: 6

3.0 Historical & Cultural Context: 3

4.0 Aesthetic Valuing: 4

5.0 Connections, Relationships, Applications: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

# Wild Wild Words

## Word Search

Find these words in the word search.

- |            |              |                 |
|------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. Mourn   | 6. Terminate | 11. Undertake   |
| 2. Coward  | 7. Puny      | 12. Bet         |
| 3. Outlaw  | 8. Sailor    | 13. Soldier     |
| 4. Pertain | 9. Brim      | 14. Fiddle (n.) |
| 5. Scout   | 10. Muscular |                 |

T Z T Z C W W M G J U Q Q I G  
X E F O A X U B V M N Y W Y F  
R X R L P S X W Q D D R M J U  
D E T M C N I A T R E P O T S  
M U I U I F R U R A R F U E Z  
O I L D F N J U S W T W R L H  
H A R E L I A P A O A T N C H  
R D C B Q O D T H C K E F S T  
S A I L O R S D E M E B C N Q  
O Y Q S D I V R L Y Z O N T R  
G S J I Z Q O C T E U I T D F  
S P R O Z G O L X T W T B U F  
F M H Q F C Z H M Q M R B D N  
C B H X Y W Y N U P Y Q Q N F  
O D I C D T U H J Y Q K D S M

# Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

## Attention 3rd - 8th Grade Teachers!

### B Street Theatre wants *MORE PLAYS!!!*

In addition to our annual highly acclaimed and wildly successful *Fantasy Festival* playwriting contest, this year the B Street Theatre will also be accepting student written plays for our Winter Tour show: *History Extravaganza 3!*

From Ancient Greece to the California Gold Rush, from Medieval Europe to the Making of a New Nation, and onto the Industrial Revolution! Enjoy this veritable buffet of select plays written by students of ALL grade levels based on topics tied directly to curriculum. Adapt your favorite histories in play script form, and submit them to the B Street Theatre!

#### The Nitty & The Gritty:

5. Contest Deadline December 16th, 2016!
6. Students in grades 3 - 8 are eligible to submit plays.
7. Send a photocopy of the play to *The B Street School Tour* with your student's name, telephone number, and name of school. Please note that scripts will not be returned.
8. B Street School Tour will perform the winning plays for over 70 schools and organizations in January & February of 2017!

#### The Victors Shall Receive:

9. Your name proclaimed at every performance!
10. Recognition in local newspapers!
11. Special Award & Certificate of Achievement presented at B Street Theatre Public Performance!

# ATTENTION 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> GRADE TEACHERS:

The B Street Theatre is looking for

## YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS

11

For our annual playwriting contest open to kids in  
Northern California!

Give your students the chance to have their plays performed by  
*The B Street School Tour*  
in

FanTaSy FeStiVal 31!

### Rules

- Students must be 7-14 years of age.
- Plays must be no longer than 10 pages.
- Plays may contain up to 8 characters.
- No more than 2 students may collaborate on a script.
- Send a photocopy of the play to *The B Street School Tour* with your student's name, telephone number, and name of school. Please note that scripts will not be returned.
- Plays are accepted until January 31 every year. That same year, the B Street School Tour performs the winning plays for over 110 schools and organizations from March to June.

To book Fantasy Festival 31  
please call: (916) 442-5635

Teachers can go to our website and  
download our playwriting curriculum guide.

### Winners Receive

- Oscar Statuette
- Certificate of Achievement
- Official Notification of Award
- Name announced at every performance.
- Recognition in local newspapers
- Awards will be presented at a public performance in Spring 2017 at the B Street Theatre.



**B Street Theatre School Tour**  
2711 B Street  
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# SCHOOL MATINEES

## You come to us!

**"My kids absolutely loved it, as did the adults!"**

- 8th Grade Teacher, Arcade Fundamental Middle School



### THE GARDEN OF RIKKI TIKKI TAVI

September 29 - November 4, 2016

In this wild comic adaptation of Rudyard Kipling's famous book, the loveable mongoose Rikki Tikki Tavi squares off against Nag, the fearsome cobra. Ages 6 and up.

### ROBIN HOOD

November 17 - December 23, 2016

This action packed adventure brings to life the story of Robin Hood and his merry men as they steal from the rich to give to the poor. Featuring sword play, chivalry and lots of laughs! Ages 6 and up.

### GOING WEST: THE STORY OF THE TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD

February 23 - March 31, 2017

This original work celebrates the men and women who made history by joining our vast nation together - from sea to shining sea! Ages 10 and up.

### JUNIE B JONES IS NOT A CROOK

April 20 - May 26, 2017

B Street Family Series beloved favorite Junie B Jones is back with an all new adventure. Join us for this delightful adaptation of Barbara Park's endearing book. Ages 5 and up.

(916) 442-5635

email: [arts.education@bstreettheatre.org](mailto:arts.education@bstreettheatre.org)  
[www.bstreettheatre.org/for-educators/school-matinees](http://www.bstreettheatre.org/for-educators/school-matinees)

# WORKSHOPS & RESIDENCIES

## We come to you!

**"We've enjoyed the B Street Playwriting experience tremendously!"**

- 6th Grade Teacher, Encina Preparatory High School

### Introduction to Playwriting

Single interactive 90-Minute Playwriting Workshop designed to inspire and empower students to write their own plays.

### Playwriting Towards Production

Three interactive 90-Minute Playwriting Workshops designed to lead students from inspired ideas to completed drafts of original plays.

### After-School Workshops & Residencies

Our Teaching Artists will tailor your after-school program to suit your organization's needs. Participants:

- Learn theatre games and exercises!
- Develop communication and performance skills!
- Perform plays either from their own writing or from B Street's own catalog of scripts!



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email: [arts.education@bstreettheatre.org](mailto:arts.education@bstreettheatre.org)  
[www.bstreettheatre.org/for-educators/workshops-&-residencies](http://www.bstreettheatre.org/for-educators/workshops-&-residencies)

# SCHOOL TOUR

## We come to you!

**"Our students laughed and were completely engaged the moment we were seated."**

- 2nd Grade Teacher, St. James School



### FANTASY AMERICANAI

October 24 - November 23, 2016

A celebration of American Folk Tales & Legends! From the Little Big Horn, to the Top of Old Smoky, to the Legend of Blackbeard The Pirate - these tried and true tales are guaranteed to keep you engaged and in stitches!

### FANTASY AMERICANANA - WITH A TWIST!

November 28 - December 23, 2016

The B Street School Tour performers add our traditional holiday twist to these classic tales!

### HISTORY EXTRAVAGANZA 3

January 16 - March 10, 2017

From Ancient Greece to the California Gold Rush, from Medieval Europe to the Making of a New Nation, and onto the Industrial Revolution! Enjoy this veritable buffet of select plays written by students of ALL grade levels based on topics tied directly to curriculum.

### FANTASY FESTIVAL 31

March 27 - June 2, 2017

Now in our 31st year! The winning plays of our annual playwriting contest for kids. Behold the extraordinary results of putting a professional theatre's staff at the service of young writers' talents.

(916) 442-5635

email: [arts.education@bstreettheatre.org](mailto:arts.education@bstreettheatre.org)  
[www.bstreettheatre.org/for-educators/school-tour](http://www.bstreettheatre.org/for-educators/school-tour)