



The B Street Theatre
Main Office:
2711 B St.
Sacramento, CA 95816
www.bstreettheatre.org

Contact: Alison Whismore
(916) 442-5635
schooltour@bstreettheatre.org

Teacher's Guide

Queens and Kings, Jokers and Jacks

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FURTHER READING & LEARNING

Electronic Resource

History of Weather Observing Tools

<http://www.weathershack.com/static/ed-history-of-weather-observing-tools.html>

Kidopedia: Medieval Science

<http://www.historyforkids.org/learn/medieval/science/>

Writing with Writers <http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/>

STANDARDS INDEX

READING

Vocabulary and Concept Development: 5
Comprehension

Literary Response and Analysis

LISTENING AND SPEAKING

1.0 Strategies

-Comprehension: 3, 4, 6

-Organization and Delivery of Oral

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HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

Continuity and Change: 5

California: Changing State: 5

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2.0 Applications: 6

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VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

1.0 Artistic Perception: 3, 4

3.0 Historical & Cultural Context: 3

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BEFORE THE PLAY

QUEENS AND KINGS, JOKERS AND JACKS WINNERS:

A Friendly Rivalry by Lilly Ann Edwards-Graves

The Jester by Angela Tomasello

Polyphemus' Cave by James Poetzsch, Jack Setrakian, Maya McDonald, Douglas Dawkins

Perseus and the Gorgon's Head by Lucy Hurlbut, Blair Mendes, Simone Jacques, Claudia Elsesser, Tabitha Cahan

THEMES:

Medieval & Ancient History, VAPA, Literacy, Language Arts, Science

THEATRE TERMS

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

3.0 Historical & Cultural Context

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 portrays.

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

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

COSTUMES/ WARDROBE: The clothes and other items that actors wear to show who they are.

PROPS: The things that actors use (such as a book or a 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

LISTENING & SPEAKING 1.0 Strategies: Comprehension

K:1.2 3:1.3 4:1.1 5:1.2

LISTENING & SPEAKING 1.0 Strategies: Organization and Delivery of Oral Communication

1:1.4 2:1.6 5:1.5

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

1.0 Artistic Perception

1. When you watch a play or a movie about historical events, how can you tell the difference between fact and fiction?
2. Introduce the terms listed in the Theatre Terms list provided. Can you give examples of these terms from plays or movies you've seen?
3. What is a narrator and what does he or she do? Name examples from books, movies, or plays you have seen.
4. Summarize the story of Odysseus and the Cyclops as you've heard it: who are the major characters? What are the major events of the story?
5. In what ways can seeing a play help you to understand a concept or course of events?
6. What does creative or dramatic license mean? Why is it used? Give examples of when you have seen this used. Why was it used? When is it useful and when not?
7. Who are the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles named after and why do you think they were named after artists from Renaissance Italy?

DURING AND AFTER THE PLAY

DURING THE PLAY

AUDIENCE BEHAVIOR

While watching a live theatre performance, it is important to sit attentively 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.

AFTER THE PLAY

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

LISTENING & SPEAKING 1.0 Strategies: Comprehension

K:1.2 3:1.3 4:1.1 5:1.2

LISTENING & SPEAKING 1.0 Strategies: Organization and Delivery of Oral Communication

1:1.4 2:1.6 5:1.5

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

1.0 Artistic Perception

4.0 Aesthetic Valuing

5.0 Connections, Relationships, Applications

1. Who was your favorite character or what was your favorite scene from the play? Explain why.
2. If you could be any character from the play, which one would you be and why?
3. Refer back to the Theatre Terms list on page 4. 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 to understand the stories that the actors told? Why or why not?
 - b. How did the music or sound effects used during the show help you to understand the stories being told?
4. Define the major conflict of each play. How did the action depicted in each play help to escalate and resolve these conflicts?
5. Name some examples of when you saw dramatic or creative license used during the show. Why do you think it was used?
6. What did the playwright and actors do to develop their characters? Each actor played more than one character—what did the actors do to make each unique?

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

VOCABULARY

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

5.0 Connections, Relationships, Applications

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

READING 1.0: Vocabulary and Concept Development

3:1.7-8

4:1.2-4,6

5:1.2,4-5

6:1.2

7:1.2

8:1.1

LISTENING & SPEAKING: 1.0 Strategies: Organization and Delivery of Oral Communication

3:1.7

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1. anomaly | 6. challenge | 11. scoundrel |
| 2. petrify | 7. catalyst | 12. mortify |
| 3. commission | 8. cyclops | 13. dire |
| 4. abstract | 9. scant | 14. prototype |
| 5. desperate | 10. barracks | 15. ostensibly |

1. Use a DICTIONARY to do the following:
 - a. Define the words and identify their parts of speech.
 - b. Divide each word into syllables and identify roots, prefixes, and suffixes.
 - c. Identify the origins of five of these words.
 - d. See if you can use three of these words in a sentence.

SCIENCE, HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

5.0 Connections, Relationships, Applications

SCIENCE: Life Science, Earth Science, Physical Science

HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE: Continuity and Change, California: A Changing State, Making A New Nation, Ancient Civilizations, Medieval and Early Modern Times

ACTIVITY 1: Narrative Elements

How much of what you are studying in science today is built upon discoveries made and theories devised in ancient Greece? Renaissance Europe? Medieval Times?

1. Divide your students into groups and have them research the roots of the following topics in ancient Greece, Renaissance Europe, or a time period you are studying, and find a story that is interesting to them about people's work in these areas that is interesting to them. Have each group present its story to the class and explain how these early successes help us today.

Classifications and uses of plants

Human and animal anatomy

Weather observation and measurement

simple machines

light and optics

observation of the sun, stars, and planets

2. Have your students investigate alchemy and its contributions to modern science. What is the difference between alchemy and science? What do alchemists study?
3. What knowledge and technology would you consider "state of the art" for the time period and culture you are studying? Have your students describe, orally or in writing, one modern piece of information or form of technology they would introduce if they could travel back in time. Why would they introduce it and how would it help?

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

WRITING

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

1.0 Artistic Perception

5.0 Connections, Relationships, Applications

ACTIVITY 1: Narrative Elements

READING 2.0: Reading Comprehension and Analysis of Grade-level Texts

3:2.3-4, 2.6 4:2.2 5:2.3-4 7:2.4

READING 3.0: Literary Response and Analysis: Narrative Analysis of Grade-level Texts

3:3.2, 3.4 4:3.2-3 5:3.2-3 6:3.2-3, 3.5 7:3.2, 3.5 8:3.2, 3.4

Discuss the following narrative elements with your students using a story your students have recently read in class or the nursery rhyme *Jack and Jill* (see below) as an example:

1. CHARACTERS (who)

Jack

Jill

2. SETTING (when and where)

Summertime

Outside

3. PROBLEM (what)

They are thirsty and want to get some water

4. RISING ACTION (events lead to the climax)

They grab a pail

They hike to the top of a hill

They get the water

They start for home

5. CLIMAX (everything leads to this moment)

Jack falls and hurts his head

6. RESOLUTION (the problem is solved)

Jill tumbles after him

Stories and Plays should have a Beginning, Middle, and End. The Narrative Elements can be found in the following sections:

Beginning:

Characters

Setting

Problem

Middle:

Rising Action

End:

Climax

Resolution

Have students get into small groups, and choose one of the five plays from *Queens and Kings*, *Jokers and Jacks* to discuss. Have them work together to complete the following chart and share it with the class.

CHARACTERS (who)

SETTING (when & where)

PROBLEM (what)

RISING ACTION (events)

CLIMAX (high point)

RESOLUTION (problem solved)

ACTIVITY 1: Alternative Perspectives

WRITING: 2.0 Applications

2:2.1 3:2.1 4:2.1 5:2.1

LISTENING AND SPEAKING: 2.0 Applications

2:2.2 3:2.1 4:2.1 5:2.1

Choose one of the plays you saw or another story from history that you know and write or tell it from a different perspective:

- What would **Chester the Jester** be like from the Guard's perspective?
- What would **Polyphemus' Cave** be like from a sheep's perspective?
- What would **A Friendly Rivalry** be like from the perspective of da Vinci's paint brush?

ATTENTION 3rd-8th GRADE TEACHERS:

The B Street Theatre is looking for
YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS

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 XXIX!

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. The B Street School Tour performs the winning plays for over 110 schools and organizations from March to June that same year.

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

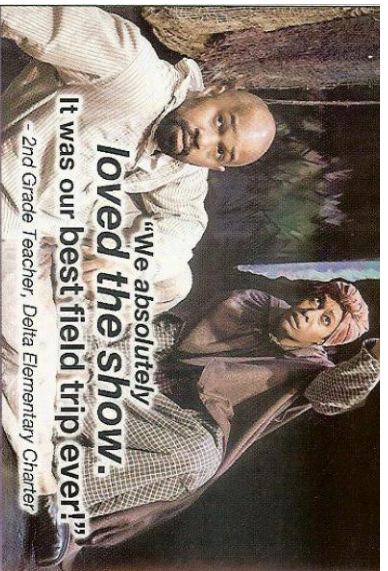
Teachers can go to our website and
download our playwriting curriculum guide.

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 2014 at the B Street Theatre.



B Street Theatre School Tour
2711 B Street
Sacramento, CA 95816
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"We absolutely loved the show. It was our best field trip ever!"

- 2nd Grade Teacher, Delta Elementary Charter

SCHOOL MATINEES (You come to us!)

September 30 – November 7, 2014

The Flying Machine

Travel back in time and bear witness to the death-defying adventures of the Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk as they dazzle the world with their new invention: The Aeroplane!

November 18 – December 19, 2014

Snow White and Rose Red

The delightful Grimm's fairy tale about two sisters and the enormous bear they befriend will enchant kids of all ages, just in time for the Holidays.

February 17 – March 27, 2015

Dia de los Cuentos

Four hilarious, touching and sometimes spooky classic folk tales are brought to life with music and dance in a celebration of California's deep Hispanic influence.

April 28 – June 5, 2015

The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County and Other Tales

Mark Twain's wit and wisdom leap from the stage in this delightful presentation of tales from America's favorite humorist.

(916) 442-5635 X114
www.bstreettheatre.org/for-schools/school-matinees

B STREET THEATRE OUTREACH & EDUCATION 2014-2015

"...the students were left with the sense that they could write a play. They were empowered to try."

-5th Grade Teacher, Peter Shields Elementary

WORKSHOPS & RESIDENCIES (We come to you!)

Playwriting Workshops

"INTRODUCTION TO PLAYWRITING"

Single 90-minute Playwriting Workshop

"PLAYWRITING TOWARDS PRODUCTION"

Three 90-minute Playwriting Workshop Series

Working cooperatively in groups, students:

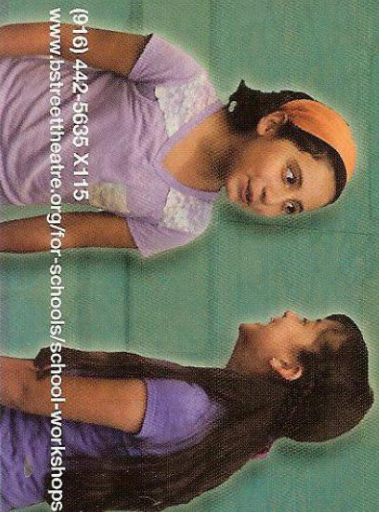
- Learn basic outline and story structure!
- Hone creative writing and performance skills!
- Submit scripts for B Street Playwriting contests!

After-School Theatre Workshops

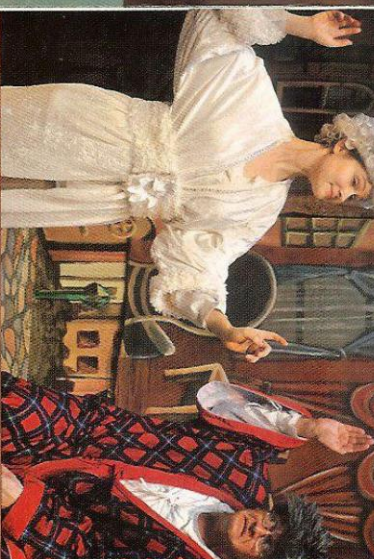
Working with B Street's teaching artists, students:

- Learn theatre games and exercises!
- Develop performance skills!
- Perform plays from B Street's catalogue of scripts!

Workshop series culminates with a performance for invited guests and friends!



(916) 442-5635 X115
www.bstreettheatre.org/for-schools/school-workshops



SCHOOL TOUR (We come to you!)

November 3 – 26, 2014

Science-sationally Savvy Days

Be in the know! Discover how most or all of our daily activities are based on science!

December 1–19, 2014

Science-sationally Savvy Days with a Twist

The B Street School Tour performers add our traditional holiday twist to these scientifically filled days!

January 12 – February 27, 2015

Queens & Kings, Jokers & Jacks

Historical adaptations of Medieval and Ancient History inspired and submitted by students of all ages.

March 16 – June 5, 2015

Fantasy Festival XXIX

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 X115
www.bstreettheatre.org/for-schools/school-tour