

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Elf the Musical Jr.



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Frederick A. DeLuca
FOUNDATION

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Know Before you Go:

- Arrive at the theater 15 to 20 minutes before show time. Allow extra time for Broward County traffic. We are unable to start a show late.
- Please stay on the bus until greeted by a SEAS usher. At that time, please give the usher your BUS document and the usher will escort you to the theater.
- Remember to watch our Know Before You Go Video:

<https://tinyurl.com/ElementarySeasWelcome>



Dear **TEACHER**,



We are excited to present this Curriculum Connection (Study Guide) as a valuable resource to support your teaching journey. This guide has been carefully designed to offer engaging and meaningful activities for use in your classroom before and after seeing a S.E.A.S. performance at The Broward Center's Amaturo Theater, The Parker, or Miniaci at NSU. Each section is structured to make it easier for you to integrate cross-curricular connections, providing a seamless experience for students to deepen their understanding while exploring the creative process.

The activities and lessons in this guide have been intentionally crafted to complement Florida's B.E.S.T. standards. By utilizing these resources, you will be able to foster a dynamic and creative learning environment while ensuring students meet key academic goals. We encourage you to adapt the materials to best fit your classroom's needs and objectives, empowering students to think critically and creatively across all disciplines.

We want to take a moment to express our sincere appreciation for the passion and dedication you bring to your classrooms every day. Your commitment to infusing art-full moments into education not only enriches your students' learning experiences but also ignites their curiosity and creativity. Thank you for inspiring the next generation of thinkers, creators, and innovators. We are truly grateful for the impact you have on your students' lives. Consider joining the Teacher's Lounge (QR code below) to be notified of special events and discounts just for Teachers.



Don't forget to distribute your S.E.A.S. stickers when you return to school (after the trip) and share the magic that is Student Enrichment Through the Arts!





Theater Etiquette

There is so much that goes into creating a show for the stage. Behind the scenes, there are people who control the lights and the sound, the sets and the props. There are directors, writers, producers, musicians, and choreographers. So many people work together to create the performance you and everyone in the audience watches.

It is helpful to remind students of appropriate audience etiquette by explaining and discussing WHY these rules of behavior are important:

- Restroom visits are best made prior to the performance.
- Listen carefully to the ushers and your teachers. This gets everyone to your seats quickly and ensures a pleasant experience.
- Turn watches and cell phones to silent.
- Walk single file, hold hand rails as you use the steps for your safety.
- Listen carefully to each performer. They are working hard to entertain and inform with lots of clues about the story.
- Refrain from TALKING. This allows everyone to enjoy the show without distraction. Sometimes we think that if we whisper it is okay. But, if everyone in the audience whispers, it becomes disruptive.
- Laugh if something is funny, but not too loudly, you don't want to miss any dialogue.
- Photography and recording are not permitted.
- Pay attention to the lighting, scenery, costumes and music. All of these elements help provide more details to tell the story in an interesting way.
- Applaud (clap) and laugh at the right moments. This shows the performers that you respect and appreciate their work.



My Theater Review

I saw: _____

Reviewed by: _____

This play/musical was about...

Here's a drawing of
my favorite character:

It made me feel:

I learned:

I gave this play/musical stars.



**We'd love to hear from you! If you'd like to submit this review,
please send to jenriquez@browardcenter.org**

From Page to Stage

An adaptation in theater is when a book, short story, novel, or even a poem is transformed into a stage performance, like a musical or play. The original story is usually kept at the core, but parts may be changed or added, such as songs, dialogue, or characters to make it work better for a live audience.

Vocabulary of an Adaptation

Adaptation: Something that has changed so that it can be presented in another form.

Author: A person who writes something such as a book or an article.

Characters: the individuals portrayed by actors in a play or musical.

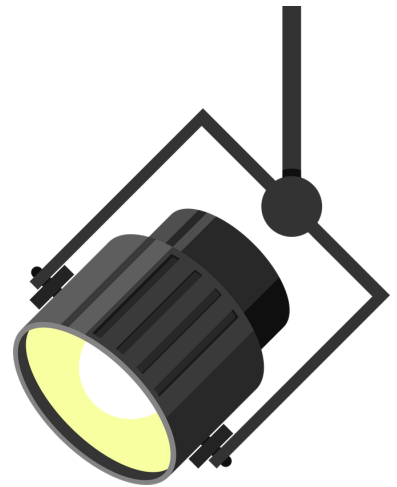
Composer: A person who writes music.

Director: A key creative figure in theater responsible for overseeing the artistic aspects of a production.

Lyricist: A person who writes the words of a song.

Playwright: A person who writes plays.

Scriptwriting: Turning narration into dialogue and scenes.



10 of the most famous stage adaptations:

Les Misérables

The Lion King

Wicked

Matilda the Musical

Harry Potter and the Cursed Child

The Phantom of the Opera

To Kill a Mockingbird

Hamilton

The Wizard of Oz

Oliver!

Les Misérables by Victor Hugo

Based on Disney's animated film (inspired by Hamlet)

Wicked by Gregory Maguire (a reimagining of The Wizard of Oz)

Matilda by Roald Dahl

Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling

Le Fantôme de l'Opéra by Gaston Leroux

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Based on the Alexander Hamilton biography by Ron Chernow

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum

Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens



Synopsis

Welcome to the hilarious and touching world of ELF The Musical! Not only does this show provide delightful holiday fun for all ages, it has a huge heart.

Buddy, a young orphan, mistakenly crawls into Santa's bag of gifts and is transported to the North Pole. The would-be elf is raised, unaware that he is actually a human, until his enormous size and poor toy-making abilities cause him to face the truth.

With Santa's permission, Buddy embarks on a journey to New York City to find his birth father and discover his true identity. Faced with the harsh reality that his father is on the naughty list and that his half-brother doesn't even believe in Santa, Buddy is determined to win over his new family and help New York remember the true meaning of Christmas.

This modern-day holiday classic is sure to make everyone embrace their "inner elf"! This show is not just about Christmas. It's about believing!

Theater Vocabulary: "From Script to Spotlight"

Play: A story told live on stage by actors in front of a live audience.

Musical: A story told live on stage by actors in front of a live audience that also involves singing and dancing.

Genre: The style of a play.

Plot: The timeline of actions in the story from beginning to end.

Setting: Where a story takes place.

Characters: Who the story is about.

Conflict: A problem that the characters in the story have to face and overcome. A conflict arises when a character wants something but something else gets in their way.

Objective: What a character wants to achieve or solve in the story. In other words, a character's goal.

Protagonist: The story's **hero**. This is the character who is out to accomplish a goal or find purpose.

Antagonist: The story's **villain**. This character is usually against what the protagonist(s) needs to accomplish their objective or goal.

Dialogue: a conversation between two or more people in a play or musical.

Moment Before: an acting term that encourages actors to consider what is going on in their character's life just before the present moment.

Blocking: Movement the director give to the actors to show them where to go on the stage

Choreography: A sequence of dance moves assigned to a dancer in a musical number (song) that are used to help tell the story.

Cue: In theater, a cue signals when another action should begin. Ex: The actor's cue to enter the stage might be after they hear the thunder sound effect.

Make-Up: Artistically designed cosmetics to enhance an actor's portrayal of a character.

Playwright: The writer or writers of the play. Playwrights write the dialogue between characters in a play.

Composer: The artist who writes music for a musical.

Lyricist: the artist who writes words to the music in a musical.

Actor: the artist who embodies or puts themselves "in the shoes of" a character or characters in a play or musical to tell that character's story to the audience.

Audience: a group of people who attend a live event like a theatre performances to watch, listen, and respond to the event on stage.

Director: the artist who works with the writers, actors, and designers to tell a clear story on stage for the audience.

Stage Manager: The artist who manages the onstage and backstage areas before, during, and after a performance.

Costume Design: A costumer designer chooses and creates the articles of clothing that characters wear on stage to help tell the audience who the characters.

Sound Designer: an artist that creates the mood or atmosphere of the play through the use of sound, sound effects, and music in a play or musical.

Props: Objects used by a character on stage to help tell the story. Ex: A character may use a prop like an umbrella on stage if it is raining in that scene of the play.



Cast of Characters

Buddy

Born a human but raised at the North Pole as a Christmas Elf, Buddy is eager to find his place in the world. He is a child at heart and that childlike curiosity makes him both endearing and gets him into trouble

Jovie, Buddy's girlfriend

She works at Macy's and has a bit of a cynical outlook on life and love because of the men she has dated. She is caught off guard by Buddy's genuinely big heart.

Walter, Buddy's workaholic father

He is a children's book publisher, but lacks the childlike spirit that Buddy has. He is selfish, tense, and generally angry at life

Emily, Walter's wife

Though she is sweet and willing to take him in, she thinks Buddy is crazy at first. She wishes Walter would spend more time with their family.

Micheal, Buddy's step brother

Michael is excited to have a new friend and brother. Unlike his parents, he doesn't take much convincing to have Christmas spirit. He wishes his father would spend more time with him

Deb, Walter's secretary

Takes an instant liking to Buddy simply for the novelty of it. Though she aims to please and is a bit of a suck-up, she feels under appreciated.

Santa

Loves his job and Christmas, but also likes to relax and watch the game when a rare opportunity arises. A natural storyteller.

Shawanda

One of Santa's elves lives in the North Pole.

Charlie

One of Santa's elves lives in the North Pole.

Mr. Greenway

Walter's boss. He is what Walter will become if he continues down the path he is on.

Ensemble

They play elves, New Yorkers, office workers, etc





DO YOU EVER GET THAT FEELING, AND THERE JUST ISN'T A WORD FOR IT?

Buddy comes into Macy's Department Store and tells the manager that he is feeling

"Sparkle Jolly Twinkle Jingly."

The manager, of course, has no idea what he is talking about.

Buddy says that is a happy magical feeling, a Christmas feeling. Much like Dr. Seuss, the writers of Elf the Musical used words that we all know and understand, and put them together to create a new word that sounds similar to what it feels like.

We will now use our understandings of words, phrases, and onomatopoeia to create new words to describe a feeling or situation.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE Use the imagination to create a new word, therefore expanding the knowledge of words already understood and sharing knowledge with others through movement.

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

1. Students may work individually or in small groups, depending on class size.
2. Have the students talk about times in their life that an emotion was so strong that normal words didn't begin to cover it. *EXAMPLES:* The time I got a new puppy. The time I was super confused in math class.
3. Explore words until students have a new word that describes the feelings from their chosen experience.
4. Have them write the word down and start to play with movements that express the new word.
EXAMPLE: If it's a sad feeling, have the kids move slowly and heavily or, if the word is extremely happy, lots of jumps and fast hands are appropriate.
5. Have students present their movement with the class.
6. Ask the rest of the class to copy the movement for themselves and try to guess the word.
7. Reflect with the class. How did the movements make the class feel? Did the word match the movement? How difficult was it to attach a movement to a feeling?

What's your new word? _____



Write About It:

When we stay within our own groups, we miss out on the beauty of other cultures. Buddy identified himself as an elf for most of his life. Then he discovers that he is, in fact, a human. Everything about his life and world has changed. At this point, Buddy has a choice: stay in the North Pole and embrace this new identity, or venture out to learn more about where he comes from. He chose to venture off and explore the world of humans. He was met with many challenges about assimilating into a new culture. He didn't understand the food, professional roles, or even the emotions of the humans living in New York City.

Does your family have any traditions around a winter holiday? Write about a tradition you share around a winter holiday.

A large rectangular area with horizontal dashed lines for writing, framed by a decorative border of red and teal diagonal stripes.





Design an ELF!

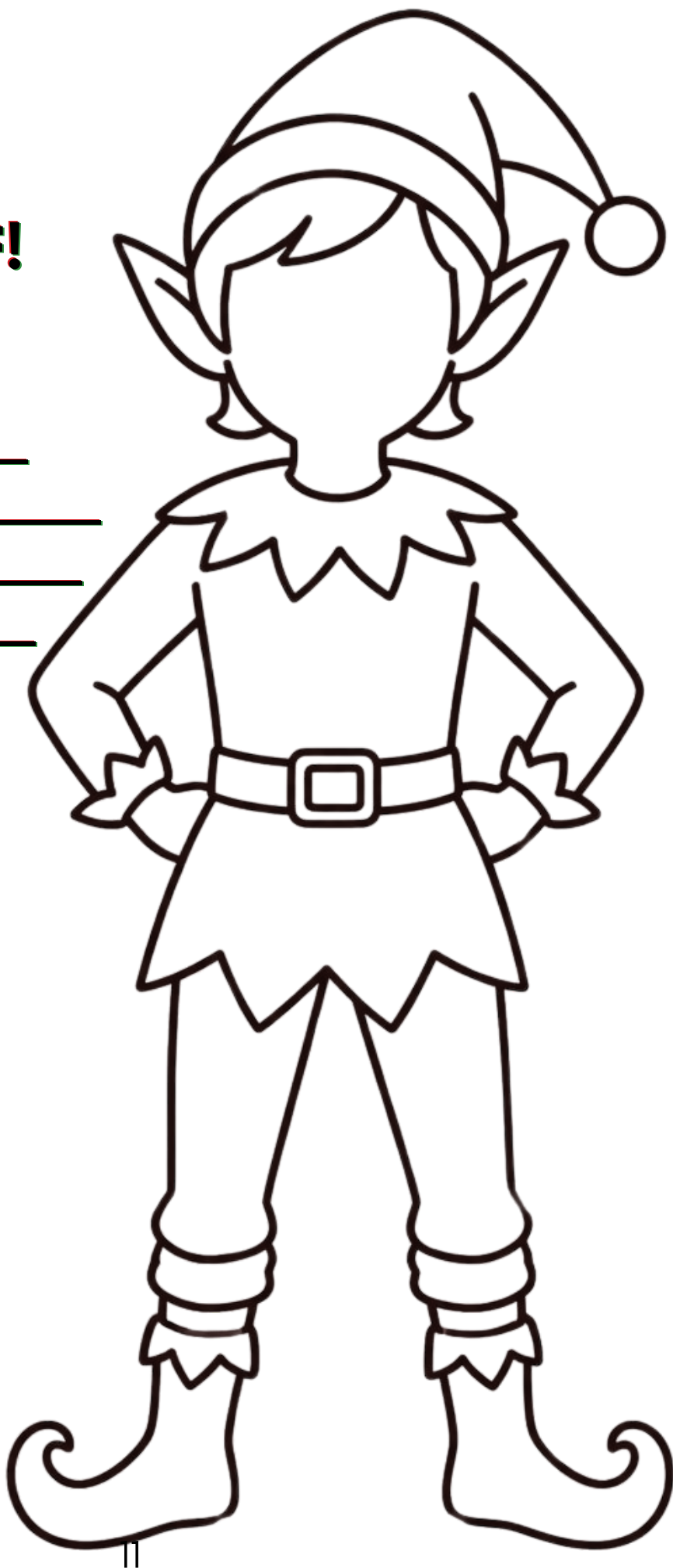
Name: _____

Age: _____

Nickname: _____

Favorite Food: _____

Super Power: _____



elf NEW YORK JR.

The Musical

New York City Fun Facts:

1. New York City is made up of five boroughs: Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx, and Staten Island.
2. More than 8 million people live in New York City, making it the most populated city in the United States.
3. The Statue of Liberty was a gift from France in 1886 to celebrate friendship between the two countries.
4. Central Park is larger than many countries' city parks and covers about 843 acres.
5. Times Square is famous for its bright lights and giant digital billboards. Around New Year's Eve, thousands of people gather there to watch the ball drop.
6. The Empire State Building has 102 floors and was once the tallest building in the world.
7. The Brooklyn Bridge, completed in 1883, was one of the first steel-wire suspension bridges ever built.
8. The New York City Subway has hundreds of stations and operates 24 hours a day.
9. The city's nickname is "The Big Apple."
10. Broadway is famous for its live theater productions, and people from around the world come to see its shows.

Let's test your knowledge about NYC:

How many boroughs make up New York City?

- A. 3
- B. 4
- C. 5
- D. 6

Which country gave the Statue of Liberty to the United States?

- A. England
- B. France
- C. Canada
- D. Spain

What is the nickname for New York City?

- A. The Windy City
- B. The Big Apple
- C. The City of Angels
- D. The Emerald City

Which park covers about 843 acres?

- A. Bryant Park
- B. Prospect Park
- C. Central Park
- D. Liberty Park

What happens in Times Square every New Year's Eve?

- A. A fireworks contest
- B. A giant parade
- C. The ball drops
- D. A concert only





Family is Family

The story of Buddy the Elf is also a story of family. In *ELF THE MUSICAL Jr.*, the Hobbs family embraces Buddy as part of their family unit and welcomes him into their lives. There are a lot of family structures that are represented in media, similar to how *ELF-THE MUSICAL, Jr.* shows us a blended family.

Below, you can explore different types of families; and note that this is not an exhaustive list! The family types listed below may also have variances within them.

Not all families will have two parents and not all families will have children; family can be whatever you want it to be, and can take the shape of whatever type of unit you want to create.

NUCLEAR FAMILY A nuclear family describes a family unit that is made up of married parents and two children. Traditionally, one parent is a man/father, the other parent is a woman/mother, one child is a boy/son, and the other child is a girl/daughter.

EXTENDED FAMILY Extended families, or multigenerational families, extend beyond the nuclear family and include other relatives like cousins, grandparents, aunts, or uncles. While not everyone may live with their extended family, some do, and share household responsibilities across all generations

CHOSEN FAMILY A chosen family is a group of people, not related biologically, legally, or through marriage, who come together and form close bonds. Sometimes, people who create chosen families may not have biological family that they can connect to, and other times people can have both a biological family and a chosen family.

BLENDED FAMILY A blended family can also be called a stepfamily. In this family structure, a couple comes together and may bring children from previous relationships; both adults “blend” their families. The children may refer to their new parent as a step-parent, and to their new sibling as step-siblings.

ADOPTIVE FAMILY In an adoptive family, an adult adopts a child that is not biologically theirs, and assumes the role of the child’s parent. Sometimes children are adopted from extended families, and sometimes children are adopted without a pre-existing familial connection.

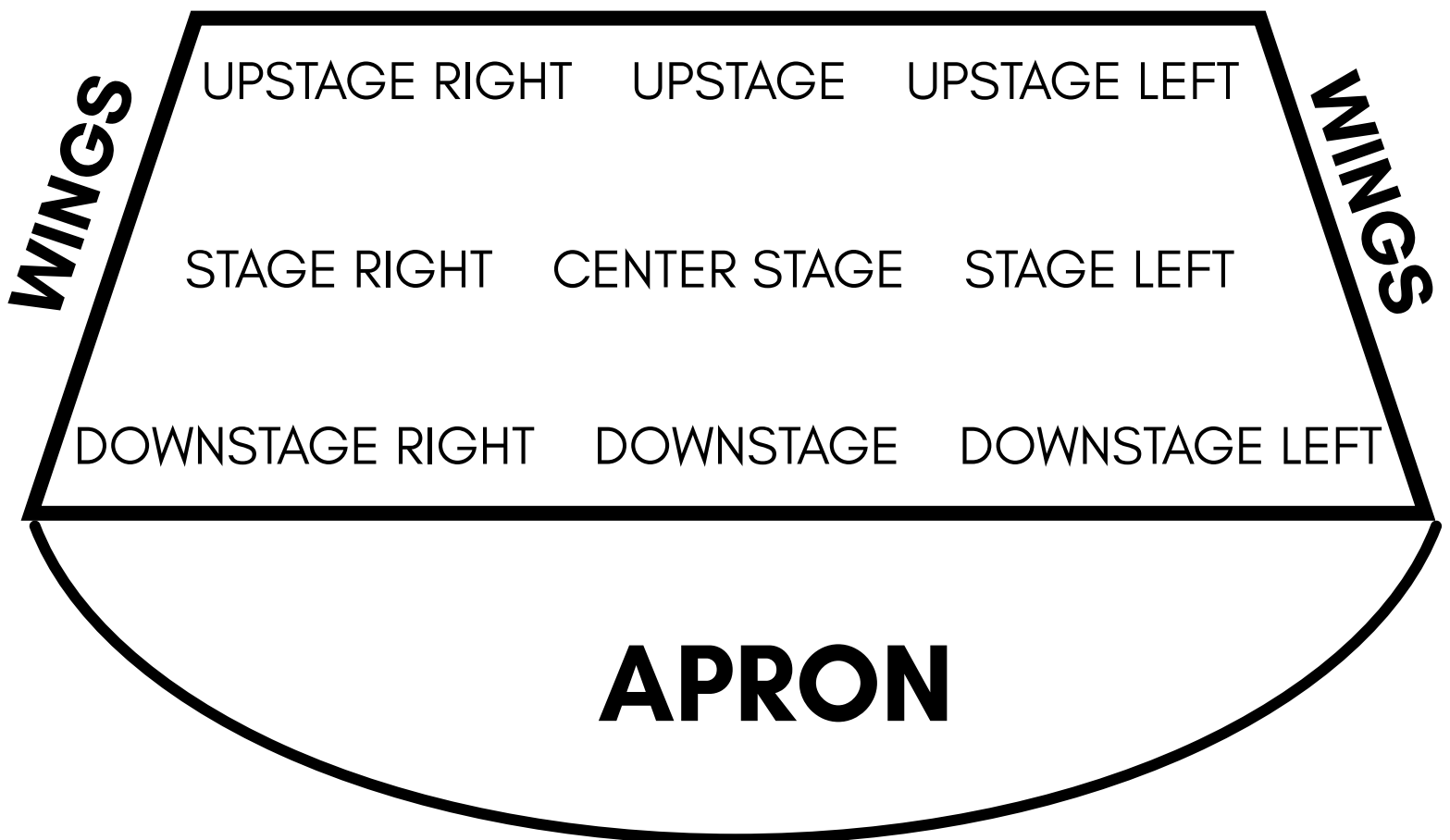
Which type do you have (can be more than one)? _____

THE PARTS OF A STAGE

A proscenium stage is a traditional theatre configuration where the audience views the performance through a "picture frame" arch, separating the stage from the seating area.

- Stage Left and Stage Right are named from the actor's point of view while facing the audience, **not** from the audience's view.
- Upstage means the back of the stage, and downstage means the front. These terms come from old stages that were sloped upward toward the back.
- Wings are the areas on the sides of the stage where actors wait to enter and where scenery and props are kept out of the audience's sight.

BACKSTAGE



HOUSE

THE PARTS OF A STAGE FOUR CORNERS GAME

Adapt Four Corners with you as the **DIRECTOR**. Start at center stage, close your eyes and count to 10. Students move to a part of the room. Call out a stage direction. Students in that section are "out" and become part of the "house" to watch the rest of the game until there is a winner!

BACKSTAGE

UPSTAGE RIGHT UPSTAGE UPSTAGE LEFT

STAGE RIGHT CENTER STAGE STAGE LEFT

DOWNSTAGE RIGHT DOWNSTAGE DOWNSTAGE LEFT

APRON

HOUSE

Post Show Cooperative Learning Opportunities

(Group Work Ideas for Teachers)



1. Group Reflection Circle

Sit together and share your favorite moments, characters, or songs from the performance. Encourage everyone to explain why they liked those parts.

This builds listening skills and helps everyone appreciate different perspectives.

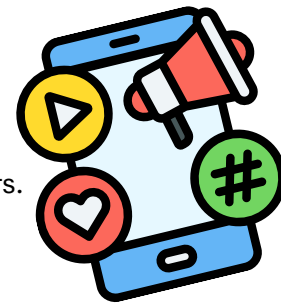


2. Create a Mini Review Together

Work as a team to write a short review of the show.

Assign roles: one person writes, another edits, others brainstorm key points.

You can post it on social media or keep it in a class journal.



3. Reenact a Scene

Pick a favorite scene and act it out as a group.

Add your own twist—maybe change the setting or improvise new dialogue.

This sparks creativity and teamwork.



4. Design a Poster or Program

Collaborate to create a poster or program for the performance you saw.

Include drawings, quotes, and fun facts.

This is great for artistic expression and memory keeping.



5. Plan a "Behind the Scenes" Discussion

Research how the performance was made (costumes, music, choreography).

Assign each group member a topic to present.

This turns curiosity into a cooperative learning activity.



K-5 Student to Family Cooperative Activity Ideas:

- Create a home theater space: Dedicate a specific area in your home as a temporary theater space. It can be anywhere with a little bit of space to "put on a show". Create a cozy ambiance with lighting and comfortable seating.
- Create tickets and programs: Design and print them at home or even hand made. Deliver the tickets to family members, and the programs can include information about the performance, cast, and crew. This adds a touch of authenticity and excitement.
- Snack bar and concessions: Set up a snack bar or concessions stand with a variety of treats and refreshments. You can even create special themed snacks related to the performance you are watching.
- Interactive viewing experience: Encourage audience participation during the performance. For example, during a musical, you can sing along to the songs and clap during applause-worthy moments!
- Post-show discussions: After the performance, have a family discussion about the show. Share your thoughts, favorite moments, and discuss the themes or lessons portrayed. This can foster critical thinking and encourage creativity in your kids.
- **Remember, the goal is to create a memorable and immersive experience. Adapt these ideas based on your family's preferences and the resources available to you. The key is to have fun and enjoy the theater experience in your digs!**

Additional Activity Ideas:



- Memory jars: Create a memory jar with your children. Write down favorite childhood memories on small pieces of paper and put them in a jar. Each week or month, take turns pulling out a memory and sharing it. This can spark conversations and lead to further discussions about your childhood experiences, and theirs too!
- Bedtime stories: Instead of reading traditional bedtime stories, take turns sharing personal stories from your childhood. These could be tales of adventure, funny incidents, or heartwarming experiences. This can create a strong bond between you and your children as you share personal narratives.
- Encourage your kids to create their own journals or scrapbooks to document their childhood memories. Take the opportunity to share your childhood stories as you help them with their own projects. You can even contribute by adding some of your own stories or mementos to their journals.
- What was your favorite song, band or genre growing up? Play a few songs for your child/children and let them play a few of their favorites for you!
- Create traditions with your child/children!: Establish special rituals or traditions that you can share. It could be a weekly movie night, cooking together on weekends, going for a walk after dinner, or singing at the top of your lungs before bedtime.

Standards Alignment: The activities in this guide are aligned with the standards listed below. When teachers incorporate the arts, they increase student engagement, offer multiple points for students to access the curriculum, and provide alternate means for students to demonstrate what they know.

Florida's Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.)	
Kindergarten through Grade 12/ English Language Arts	
ELA.K12.EE.1.1	Cite evidence to explain and justify reasoning.
ELA.K12.EE.2.1	Read and comprehend grade-level complex texts proficiently.
ELA.K12.EE.3.1	Make inferences to support comprehension.
ELA.K12.EE.4.1	Use appropriate collaborative techniques and active listening skills when engaging in discussions in a variety of situations.
ELA.K12.EE.5.1	Use the accepted rules governing a specific format to create quality work.
ELA.K12.EE.6.1	Use appropriate voice and tone when speaking or writing.
Theater	
TH.K.C.3.2	Share reactions to a live theatre performance.
TH.1. H.3.1	Identify similarities between plays and stories.
TH.2. O.3.1	Identify theatrical elements and vocabulary found in everyday life.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS DONORS

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Florida Panthers Foundation
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