



LIONS
in
ILLYRIA

Study Guide

February 4 - May 31, 2019



Columbus Children's
THEATRE

In This Study Guide



Experiencing a Columbus Children's Theatre Touring Production is an engaging, fun, and educational way for students to experience live theatre! We are happy to give you a simple, yet informative guide, that will allow you to expand your students' viewing of this production of *Lions In Illyria*. In this study guide you will:

- Introduce students to theatre etiquette.
- Introduce students to the roles of a theatrical production.
- Discuss the background of the show.
- Provide insight to the show's themes.
- Ask questions to be used in further discussion.
- Highlight several activities to connect the play to other content areas in your classroom.

For more information about Columbus Children's Theatre and what we do to inspire, enrich and empower the imaginations of children and their families through live theatre and theatre education, visit our website at

www.columbuschildrenstheatre.org

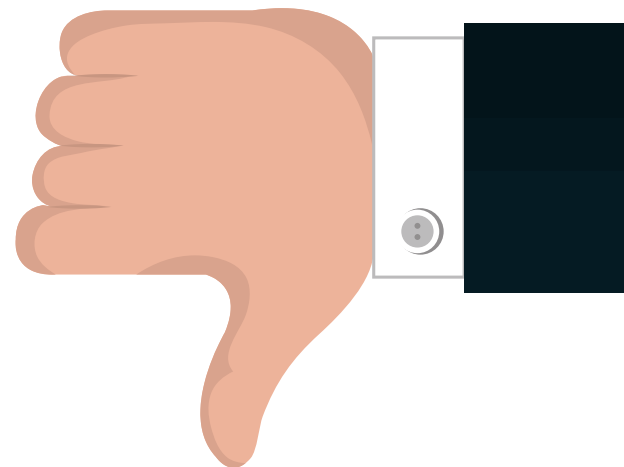
Theatre Etiquette

There are certain unspoken rules that apply to theatre audiences that only those that have been initiated into the process know. It is essential to learn and understand how to be a good audience member during a live performance, so that it can be an enjoyable experience for all!

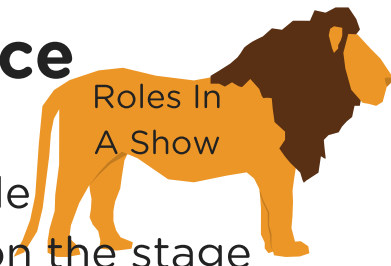


Above all, it is important to remember that the actors on stage can see and hear you at the same time you can see and hear them. Be respectful of the actors and your fellow audience members by being attentive and observing these DO's and DON'T's. Viewing a live show is a special experience, one that you will remember for a lifetime, so it's very important to remember the rules of theatre etiquette. That way, everyone can have a good time!

- DO be seated on time!
- DON'T get up during the performance.
- DO use the restroom before the performance!
- DON'T use electronic devices (unless access devices).
- DO clap and laugh if you see something that you like!
- DON'T talk to your neighbor during the performance.



Roles In A CCT Touring Performance



CCT’s touring productions are the result of many people working collaboratively together. Many people know and understand what actors are— the people on the stage telling the story. But did you know that there are more people working hard “behind-the-scenes” to make the performance happen? Below are just a few of those people.

The Director:

Responsible for the overall concept of the show - they guide a vision to create the world on stage in which the show may exist. They work with the actors to help them interpret their characters and movement on stage. They also work closely with designers in planning the sounds, lights, scenery, costumes, props - basically, everything you see on the stage.

The Road Manager:

Organizes every aspect of the production—schedules, resources and communicates with the director, designers, and Resident Artists. The Road Manager works with the Director of Education at CCT to also ensure all shows and workshops meet CCT’s high educational standards. They are in charge of making everything run smoothly and on time, from rehearsal to performance, every time!

The Cast:

The cast is what we call the group of actors who are on stage performing the characters in front of the audience. They practice for many hours over many days to learn how to tell the story.

The Audience:

This is where you come in! The show you see would not exist without you. The hard work everyone puts in to create a show is all done to share the story with you!

About The Show

Love is dumb. Totally dumb...Right? Lioness cub Violet isn't so sure after she meets Orsino, a peacock nobleman, and is completely lovestruck! Orsino, however, has his heart set on the gazelle, Lady Olivia. The problem is, Lady Olivia has declared a state of grief for 7 years to mourn her brother's death and has refused all men during that time. Orsino sends Violet in disguise as a male lion called Cesario, to woo Lady Olivia on his behalf. However, Olivia ends up falling for Cesario in return! This love triangle and retelling of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night is an exciting adventure in what it means to love, work through grief and loss, and the power of true friendship.



Characters

Violet - a lioness cub, Sebastian's sister

Sebastian - a lion cub, Violet's brother

Orsino - a peacock nobleman

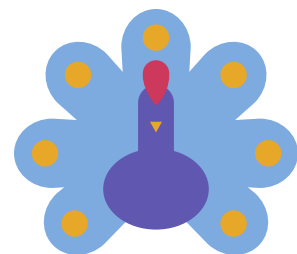
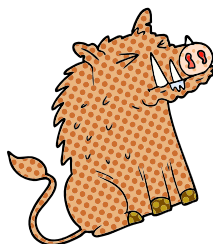
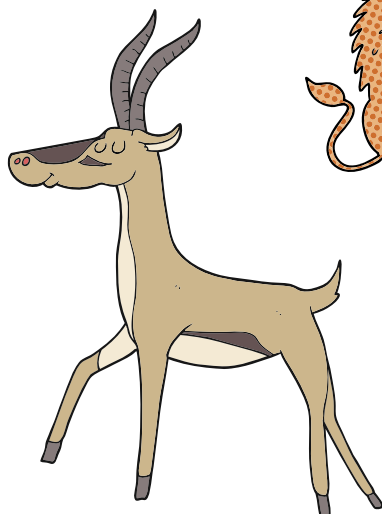
Olivia - a gazelle noblewoman, Toby's sister

Toby - a warthog knight, Olivia's brother

Andrew - a dodo knight

Maria - a hyena maid

Antonia - a monkey pirate



Themes



Deception:

The theme of deception is an important component of *Lions In Illyria*. Physical disguises and lies make us think about the relationship between appearances and reality. In the case of physical disguises, costume, voice, and demeanor all shape one's social identity, but don't necessarily reveal one's inner nature. Words (both spoken and written) are also associated with deception, and leave characters vulnerable to each other's lies.

Identity:

Going along with the theme of Deception, things are not always what they seem. The characters in *Lions In Illyria* play with their identities at different times to trick one another, or to gain a different perspective. However, this causes chaos, as mistaken identity leads to characters falling in love with the "incorrect" versions of people. The lesson learned is that our identity goes far beyond how we appear to others, and includes how we present ourselves below the surface as well.

Love:

There are many forms of love that are explored in *Lions In Illyria*; romantic love, friendship, brotherly and sisterly love, unrealistic love and self-love. In the beginning of the play, we hear Orsino speaking dramatically of his love for Olivia, however, he seems to be more in love with the IDEA of love, rather than Olivia, as he doesn't yet know her. Olivia's love for her deceased brother is so strong that she has decided to mourn for 7 years. Violet's love for Orsino causes her to disguise herself and help him get what he desires, even though she wants him to love her.

Questions

Use these questions with your students to deepen their understanding of the story. You can use them as a class discussion, as a journal prompt, or as a group activity!



- How does Violet end up in Illyria?
- Why does Olivia want to mourn for seven years?
- Do you think the pranks on Andrew went too far? Do you think his friends were bullying him?
- Why do you think Violet lied about who she actually was?
- In the end, who fell in love?



Who is Shakespeare?

Lions In Illyria is a retelling of William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, but who is Shakespeare? William Shakespeare was an English poet, playwright and actor, widely regarded as both the greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist. He is often called England's national poet. He was born in 1564 in Stratford-Upon-Avon, United Kingdom. Although very little is known about his personal life, we do know that for the past 400 plus years, Shakespeare's plays have been performed all over the world. There have been countless adaptations and retellings of his plays, performed for audiences from children to adults. Some of his most popular works include Romeo & Juliet, The Tempest, and Twelfth Night. Along with stage adaptations, some of Shakespeare's play retellings have been made into movies, like The Lion King (Hamlet), 10 Things I Hate About You (The Taming of the Shrew), and West Side Story (Romeo & Juliet).

Activities

Create a Character Web

After seeing the play, and using the Character list from above, create a character web to see how each character is connected.

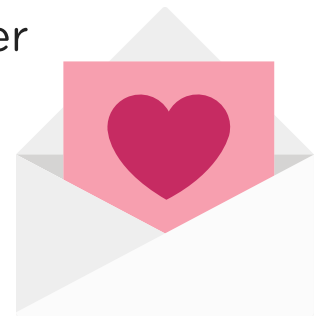
Materials:

- Poster Board or Large Paper
- Markers
- Post-its or brightly colored squares of paper (approximately 2x2 inches)
- Yarn (variety of colors)
- Glue

Use the markers to write the Character's names on the squares of paper. Place them on the Poster Board in whatever way you want, and then use the different colored yarn to connect the various characters. Create a key for the different colors of yarn to show different relationships (example: yellow yarn is Friendship, red yarn is Romantic Love, blue yarn is Family).

Write A Love Letter

Choose a character from the play, and write a love letter or a poem about love from their perspective! Think about who they are speaking to and why they would speak to that character. Are they going to deliver the love message themselves or send someone else in their place? Be creative and have fun!



Create Your Own Adaptation

As a class, read another one of Shakespeare's plays and create your own adaptation of the story! It can be a story, a poem, a song - anything you want! Let your creativity take control!

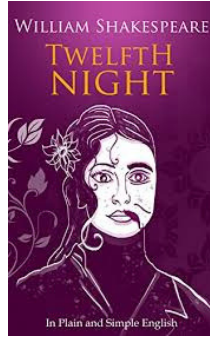


Suggested Reading

Twelfth Night

By, William Shakespeare

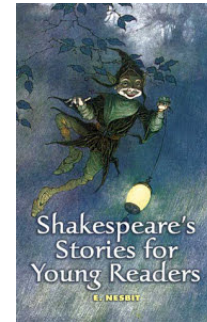
Grades 9-12



Shakespeare's Stories For Young Readers

By, E. Nesbit

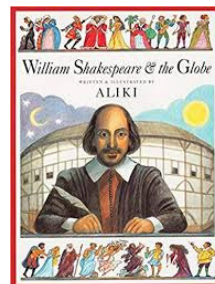
Grades 4-8



William Shakespeare & The Globe

By, Alik

Grades 3-5



We can't
wait to perform
for you!