The International Children’s Theater Festival at PlayhouseSquare is an opportunity to introduce children to the arts and help them to discover the beauty and cultures of our world. Whichever performances you see or activities you participate in, we hope you leave the festival feeling uplifted and more connected to our community and our world.

This year, the performances in the International Children’s Theater Festival come to us from Australia, Canada, Italy, United Kingdom and the United States. Learn more about these and other exciting cultures through the following websites:

- **Canadian Geographic**
  https://www.canadiangeographic.ca/kids

- **Explore & More**
  http://www.exploreandmore.org/world/default.htm

- **KidsKonnect.com**
  http://www.kidskonnect.com/subjectindex/26-places/countriesplaces/

- **Kid Zone**
  http://www.kidzone.ws/geography/quebec

- **Global Kids**
  http://www.globalkids.org/#/about-global-kids

- **Global School Net**
  http://www.globalschoolnet.org/

- **National Geographic Kids**
  http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/places/

- **Quebec City and Area**
  http://www.quebecregion.com/en

- **Time for Kids**
  http://www.timeforkids.com/around-the-world

Some of the information and activities in this guide have been adapted from Tout à Trac’s. Visit their website at: [http://www.toutatrac.com/en](http://www.toutatrac.com/en)
The lessons and activities in this guide are driven by the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects (2010) which help ensure that all students are college and career ready in literacy no later than the end of high school. The College and Career Readiness (CCR) Standards in Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language define general, cross-disciplinary literacy expectations that must be met for students to be prepared to enter college and workforce training programs ready to succeed.

21st century skills of creativity, critical thinking and collaboration are embedded in process of bringing the page to the stage. Seeing live theater encourages students to read, develop critical and creative thinking skills, and to be curious about the world around them. This Teacher Resource Guide includes background information, questions, and activities that can stand alone or work as building blocks toward the creation of a complete unit of classroom work.

The following is a partial list of Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy, History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects that align with the performances and activities found in the Teacher Resource Guide:

**College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Reading (K-5):**

**Key Ideas and Details**
2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
3. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

**Craft and Structure**
6. Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

**Integration of Knowledge and Ideas**
7. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.
9. Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

**Grades 6-8:**

**Key Ideas and Details**
2. Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.

**Integration of Knowledge and Ideas**
7. Integrate visual information with other information in print and digital texts.
ABOUT THE SHOW

The adaptation of Carlo Collodi’s book tells the story of a puppet, Pinocchio and his quest to be a real boy. Geppetto is a poor, elderly man whose job as a wooden toy maker is falling by the wayside, as technology and machines have taken over the toy industry. Planning to use his last log in the fire to warm himself, Geppetto is surprised when the log talks to him, and even more surprised when he finds himself carving it into a boy.

As with all version of this classic tale, we follow Pinocchio on his journey to becoming a real boy. However, one key difference in this version is the idea that Pinocchio becomes a “real boy” by working hard and learning to care for others, not by magic. During the course of the play, Pinocchio will experience all forms of temptation, and will have to face the consequences of his actions. He will battle with the lure for money, fame, false religion, easy success and more, and eventually learns that none of these things matter.

When the Blue Fairy finally appears at the end, she tells Pinocchio that he is already a real boy. There is no magic want changing him from wood, but instead a gradual growing up of the character.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Tout à Trac (pronounced too-ta-trak): For 15 years, Tout a Trac has been exploring the inner workings of imagination and of theatre through a creative process in which mask theatre, story-telling and puppetry all play an active part. The company name is a french expression, “without stopping” 1493; Aged – while expressing itself in an abrupt manner, suddenly and without preparation. Since 1998, Théâtre Tout à Trac has been exploring theater through various mediums such as masks, tales and puppetry, never limiting itself, but rather always following its imagination wherever the creative process leads.

Pursuers of imaginary lands, digging in invisible worlds and exploring a universe where the impossible is possible, Théâtre Tout à Trac has been constantly searching for a theater that embraces magic and dreams.

By entering fantastic worlds, and by being archaeologists of the invisible, the company strives to dust off the classics of children’s literature and to help audiences discover or rediscover them from a different angle.

CHARACTERS FROM PINOCCHIO

Pinocchio – a puppet
Geppetto – an old man who makes wooden toys
The Cricket – a talking cricket!
The Fox – a thief
The Cat – The Fox’s sidekick
Mangiofuoco – director of the puppet theatre
Candlewick – a disobedient boy
The Jolly Man – the host of Toyland
The Blue Fairy – a fairy who protects children and grants their wishes

Pinocchio from Tout à Trac is another amazing journey into the heart of childhood and imagination.

“Pinocchio means “little pine” or “pine nut” in the Italian language!
Pinocchio is one of those stories that have been told for years, in many different ways. There are books, graphic novels, short stories, plays, operas and paintings on the mischievous wooden puppet, just to name a few. Tout à Trac’s version mixes ideas from the original Carlo Collodi tale with ideas from more popular versions, and then added in a few new ideas just from the director!

“It is natural to think Pinocchio has always existed, indeed we cannot imagine a world without Pinocchio” – ITALO CALVINO

A WORD FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

If the story of this little puppet seems timeless, that is because it is about much more than just his nose that grows longer whenever he tells a lie. Pinocchio is one the most beautiful representation of mankind, with all its faults and shortcomings but also its most touching and noble aspects.

Collodi did not want to relate the feats of princes and princesses. Rather, he decided to tell the life of someone who was born at the very bottom of the social ladder; at the lowest rung imaginable: That of a “common block of firewood, one of those thick, solid logs that are put on the fire in winter.” Pinocchio is a story about the growth of a tiny being who has the misfortune of being born into a difficult environment and who will learn, through the many hardships of life to become what he has always dreamt of becoming; a real boy, a good son and a righteous man.

We still need Pinocchio because life, with all the hardships and hurdles it still throws at us, nonetheless remains a magnificent adventure. We still need Pinocchio because telling the story of a small block of wood dreaming to become human brings hope to a world that is losing its humanity and becoming increasingly dependent on machines.

And because a child that grows up and carves out his place in the world is still a miracle or life. With or without the help of the Blue Fairy.

Bon spectacle!
–Hugo Belanger

“Tout à Trac takes this classic and turns it into an original and creative entertainment experience for the whole family.” – Le Journal de Montréal
Not Your Disney’s Pinocchio!

What image does the name Pinocchio conjure up in our minds? We can’t help but think of the little boy-puppet drawn by Walt Disney. He looks a lot like a cute child, and only a little like a wooden puppet. He has friend, the avuncular Jiminy Cricket, who plays the part of his conscience, and who sings a song about wishing upon a star. Like all kids, he is charmingly naughty, but unlike real children, his nose has a tendency to grow whenever he tells a childish fib.

In short, Pinocchio has become synonymous with Disney’s creation released in 1940. Pinocchio was the master animator’s second feature-length film, and is widely seen as a technical triumph and a landmark in the history of cinema. But Disney’s’ version of the puppet longing to be a boy is very different than the original story written by Carlo Collodi in 1883.

Here are a few things to note about the Tout à Trac version you will see that are unlike Disney’s and more like Collodi:

• Pinocchio spends much of the time as a mean-spirited trouble maker who is rude and not always likeable.

• Geppetto is an elderly, impoverished woodcarver and the creator (and thus father) of Pinocchio.

• The piece of wood that is used to create Pinocchio starts talking to Geppetto before he begins to carve it.

• There is no Jiminy Cricket. There is, however, a character called the Talking Cricket.

• The Fox and the Cat are greedy characters who lead Pinocchio astray.

“Tout à Trac takes this classic and turns it into an original and creative entertainment experience for the whole family.”
– LE JOURNAL DE MONTRÉAL
Commedia Dell’Arte

Commedia dell’arte originated in Venice in the 1600s. It featured stock characters – such as foolish old men, tricky servants, and blustering soldiers. Click here for videos from London’s National Theatre has some videos about Commedia Dell’Arte here.

These plots and characters in turn had their roots in Roman and Greek New Comedy (Plautus, Terrance, Menander). It’s very much a feature of New Comedy that young men are basically hot-headed, behave in a spendthrift and irresponsible way and disobey their parents – a good example would be Pinocchio. He is not so bad as to lose our sympathy, but certainly are driven by their impulses and emotions.

*Tout à Trac brings the classic story of Pinocchio to life while incorporating creative, sophisticated elements of theatre.*

Puppetry
Tout à Trac uses imaginative puppetry, not only to create many characters with only a few actors, but also to solve the challenges presented by the unique and fantastical stories they present.

Masks
Tout à Trac often uses Commedia dell’arte style half-maskes for their performances. In this play, the Fox and the Cat both wear half-maskes like this.

Property and Set Design
This performance has a stationary set that does not change. However, the set itself is filled with moving pieces, puppets and props that create different scenes throughout the show. Toys in Geppetto’s workshop will become props or puppets in other scenes while the wheels on the wall become gears. The ingenious set design ensures that every piece of the set is used during the performance.
COMING TO THE THEATER!

PlayhouseSquare is an exciting venue to see live theater! As the country’s largest performing arts center outside of New York, the not-for-profit performing arts center utilizes the arts to engage individuals and attract more than one million guests per year to 1,000+ annual events. PlayhouseSquare thus acts as a catalyst for economic growth and vitality within the region.

As audience members, you and your students play a vital role in the success of the performances. You are part of a community that creates the theater experience. For many students, this may be their first time viewing a live theater production. We encourage teachers to discuss some of the differences between watching a television show, attending a sporting event or viewing a movie at the cinema. Here are a few examples to start the discussion:

• Students are led into the theater and seated by an usher.
• Theaters are built to magnify sound. Even the slightest whisper can be heard throughout the theater. Remember that not only can those around you hear you; the performers can too.
• Appropriate responses such as laughing or applauding are appreciated. Pay attention to the artists on stage; they will let you know what is appropriate.
• There is no food, drink or gum permitted in the theater.
• Photography and videotaping of performances is not permitted.
• When the houselights dim, the performance is about to begin. Please turn your attention toward the stage.
• After the performance, you will be dismissed by bus number. Check around your seat to make sure you have all of your personal belongings.
**PRE-SHOW ACTIVITIES**

Grades PreK-2

**MAKE YOUR OWN PUPPET!**

1. Use markers to give your puppet any kind of clothes, hair, and expression.

2. Cut out all of the pieces with scissors.

3. Put your puppet together by matching up the letters and fastening the pieces with brads or punching holes and tying together loosely with yarn.

4. Attach popsicle sticks to the hands with glue or tape. Now use your imagination to bring your puppet to life!
Grades 3-5

Cook Up a Fairy Tale

Fairy Tales like Pinocchio have been around for thousands of years, beginning with oral traditions. These fictional stories come from all cultures, and many have their own versions of well-known tales in the English world.

Adaptations of fairy tales continue today, and the nature of the fairy tale makes them appealing for children. Young children’s minds are best taught through storytelling, and fairy tales enhance a child’s ability to “make a movie” in his or her mind while listening, thus improving comprehension.

Have your students make up their own fairy tales with the help of the “ingredients” shown below. Fill in the lines to plan your own fairy tale.

**Good Characters** (A kind, innocent person who is helped by others)

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

**Bad Characters** (For example: a witch, an evil step-sister, a sinister gnome)

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

**Setting** (Usually enchanted, and can include forests, castles, water or kingdoms)

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

**Problem** (Things/Events which usually happen in sets of threes)

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

**Solution** (Resolving the problem)

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

**Happy Ending** (What is the lesson learned)

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

**College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Writing**

Text Types and Purposes
3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.
POST-SHOW ACTIVITIES

Grades PreK-2

Pinocchio: Out of Order

Directions: Read the pieces of the Pinocchio story below, which are out of order. Cut out the sentences and put them into the correct order.

The Fox & The Cat tell Pinocchio that it is OK to tell a lie.

Pinocchio tells his father the truth about not going to school.

Pinocchio saves Geppetto.

Geppetto makes a little boy puppet from a log of wood.

Pinocchio leaves for his first day of school.

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Reading

Key Ideas and Details
2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
Classroom Connections – Building Perspective

Part I – Connecting to Pinocchio
Connect your students’ experience of watching Pinocchio at PlayhouseSquare to a lesson from character perspective. Have your students write a journal entry from another character’s point of view. After they choose the character they wish to explore, lead your students in the following exercise to prepare them to write their journal entry.

Print out template on the following page

1. In the center of the page, ask your students to draw a picture of the character whose perspective they wish to explore.

2. Ask your students to take some time to answer the questions in the corner of the page regarding that character.

3. Put your students into groups based on who they picked and have them compare and edit their answers along with their peers.

Part II – Hot Seat
To further explore these characters, play the game “hot seat” with your students. Bring one student volunteer up to the front of the classroom at a time and have the student take on the role of the character they are exploring.

Invite the other students in the classroom to ask questions and encourage students to answer in character. The questions should be relevant to what the class knows about this character. Rotate through as many students/characters as you wish!

Part III – Dramatization
Dramatize your students’ exploration of the different characters with this activity. Ask your students to stand in a large circle. Inform them that on the count of three, half of the circle is going to freeze as their characters, while the other half of the class is watching as the audience.

Once you have counted and the students have made their dramatic poses, tap your students on the shoulder one at a time and tell them to make a statement or ask a question that their character might say or ask. Repeat this activity with the other half of the circle doing the freezes.

Part IV – Endless Possibilities!
Re-use these activities for other pieces of literature you are studying in your classroom to further your students’ exploration of character perspective.
BUILDING PERSPECTIVE
All Grades

1. WHAT DOES THIS CHARACTER LIKE?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

2. WHAT DOES THE CHARACTER WANT?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

3. WHAT DO OTHER PEOPLE THINK OF THIS CHARACTER?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

4. WHAT DOES THIS CHARACTER THINK OF HIM OR HERSELF?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
Grades 3-5

Compare and Contrast: Pinocchio’s Origins

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
9. Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

Matrix... enter here!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Location Matrix</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florence, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Québec, Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland, Ohio</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Resources for the Pinocchio MATRIX:
- Fact Monster – http://www.factmonster.com
- InfoPlease – http://www.infoplease.com
CRITICAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

Students develop their comprehension when they reflect upon what they wondered about, noticed and felt. Prompt students to respond with the following questions

1. Pinocchio's nose grows every time he tells a lie. Even though your nose doesn't grow, have you ever been caught in a lie? Why did you lie? What were the consequences?

2. Why is it important for Pinocchio to go to school?

3. What was the performer's(s') purpose? Was the objective to inform you? Entertain you? Persuade you? Express feelings? How well did the performer(s) meet the objective?

4. Is there a character in the performance that you identify with? How are you like the character? How are you different?

5. What traits of the main character would you change? Why?

6. Do you agree with the author's ending to the story? Support your answer.

7. Were there any parts of the performance that were confusing? Discuss why.

8. What do you think happened in the story just before the performance started?

9. If you were in the story, what would your relationship be to the main character?

10. List three facts about the performance. Then list three opinions about it.

11. If you could ask the main character three questions, what would you ask?

12. Compare and contrast this performance to another live performance you have witnessed.

13. Think about the performance then complete this sentence in three different ways: I wonder...
Book Resources

*Abe's Honest Words: The Life of Abraham Lincoln* by Doreen Rappaport (Author), Kadir Nelson (Illustrator), Disney-Hyperion, 2008.


*Classic Starts: Pinocchio* (Abridged) by Tania Zamorsky (Adapter) Carlo Collodi (Author), Lucy Corvino (Illustrator), Sterling Publisher, 2008.


*A First Book of Fairytales* by Mary Hoffman (Author), Julie Downing (Illustrator) DK CHILDREN Publishing; Reprint edition, 2006.


*Junie B. Jones is not a Crook!* by Barbara Park, Random House Books for Young Readers, 1997.


*Pinocchio* by Carlo Collodi (Author) in English, CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2013.


Online Summaries of Commedia history, characters, and related sites:

**Dell’Arte International School of Physical Theatre** – Information on characters, history, scenarios and links.

**Commedia dell’Arte** – An article from Winifred Smith's quite accurate 1912 description of Commedia.

**I Sebastiani** – a well-researched Boston-based Commedia Troupe.

**Roberto Delpiano**

**TheatreHistory.com** – Information on most of the major time periods in the history of theatre can be accessed here, including Commedia Dell'Arte.

**Commedia Information Site** – an Australian site by Delyse Ryan

**Obscure Stages**: an annotated bibliography of Commedia and other obscure theatre forms

**Dario Fo** – Pulitzer prize winning and most performed contemporary playwright in world theatre, he utilizes the ancient Italian style of commedia dell'arte in many of his plays.
Web Resources

Busy Teacher's Café
http://www.busyteacherscafe.com/themes/fairytales.html

Storytelling Activities and Lesson Plans
http://storyarts.org/

Fairytail Units
http://www.teachnet.com

Fairytail Biz
http://www.fairytales.biz/list.html

Apps for Story Telling

Fairy Tale – A fun children’s story production App where you become the author

Grimm’s Fairy Tales

Fairy Tales

Fairy Tales and Storyboards

Cinderella – Nosy Crow animated picture book
Nosy Crow, best for ages 3-8, $5.99, iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad
App developer Nosy Crow has made its mark in the iTunes store by creating magical fairy tale apps for kids. With three options for reading – “read and play,” “read to me” or “read to myself” – this book app can grow with your children as they learn to read. Plus, all of the words highlight as read. Don’t miss this magical and modern Cinderella.

Snow Queen
Timecode, best for ages 6-12, $3.99, iPad
Sophisticated and magnificent, this fairy tale is meant to be enjoyed by older children and even adults. It retells Hans Christian Andersen’s tale of how the child Kai was taken by the Snow Queen and then rescued by his best friend Gerda. With more than 300 interactive objects, kids can tap ice skaters to make them glide, open windows to see who is hiding inside and touch portraits to make them talk. Blowing on the iPad’s microphone can create a snow blizzard.

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