

# Once Upon A Time

A fairy tale is a fictional story that features magical characters, such as fairies, goblins, elves, trolls, witches, giants, and talking animals. Fairy tales also feature enchantments, and often involve a far-fetched sequence of events.



So to be a fairy tale, a story must:

- 1) Be Fictional
- 2) Contain a "legendary deed"
- 3) Contain magical creatures



## LEARN ABOUT OUR SHOW!

Lenny and Mabel are two Elizabethan traveling actors who are very excited to share two beloved fairy tales, Cinderella and Jack and the Beanstalk. Through their high-energy and hysterical performance, the characters of Cinderella, her wicked step-sister, the Prince, Jack and the Giant (along with many others!) are brought to life onstage. Believe it or not, the story of Cinderella has its origins in the first century BC in an ancient Greek/Egyptian text about a maiden name Rhodopis. While washing her clothes in a stream, a bird steals Rhodopis' slipper and delivers it to the Pharaoh's lap. Enchanted, he soon orders all the women in the kingdom to try on the slipper before finally discovering a perfect fit with Rhodopis. Indeed, virtually every culture has a folkloric tale with the key elements of the Cinderella story. The first recorded version of Jack and the Beanstalk dates back to 1730 in the British publication, *Christmas Entertainments*. Here a skit involving Jack Spriggins and an enchanted bean, bring the story to life. The next printed version of the story doesn't turn up again until 1807 by Benjamin Tabard. While these early publications do suggest some cultural familiarity, it wasn't till 1890 when Joseph Jacob's book *English Fairy Tales* was published and gained popularity. We hope that our version of these stories, told with a handful of audience volunteers and just two actors, will quickly become one of your favorites!

## Quiz Questions:

- 1) Who helped make it possible for Cinderella get to the Prince's ball?
- 2) What time does Cinderella have to be home before the spell runs out?
- 3) How did the Prince identify that Cinderella was in fact the woman he danced with at the ball?
- 4) How did Jack meet the giant?
- 5) How does Jack get golden eggs?
- 6) What is the giant's favorite possession and the reason he follows Jack down the beanstalk?
- 7) How does Jack escape the giant?
- 8) What caused the beanstalk to grow in the first place?

## Discussion Questions:

- 1) Who were some of the good characters in these fairy tales? Who were some of the bad characters? Why do you think they acted that way?
- 2) What do you think would have happened if Cinderella had never lost her shoe?
- 3) Describe Cinderella's family. Does Cinderella get the things she needs from her family? What are the most important things about family?
- 4) The Step-sister was very mean and bullied Cinderella. What kinds of things can you do if someone is bullying or being mean to you? (for example: ignore them, tell an adult, walk away...)
- 5) Why do you think Jack traded his cow for the magic beans? Would you have done the same thing or something different?
- 6) What if the giant had been able to follow Jack all the way down the vine? What would have happened?
- 7) What would you do if your family suddenly had endless amounts of golden eggs?
- 8) How was the play different from other versions of the stories you have read or seen? How was it similar?
- 9) Do you think our Fairy Tale passes the Fairy Tale checklist?

## Design Your Own Show

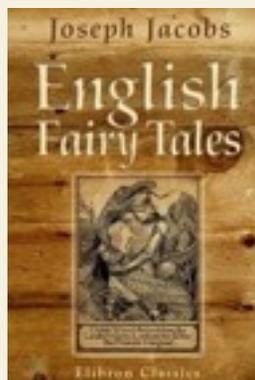
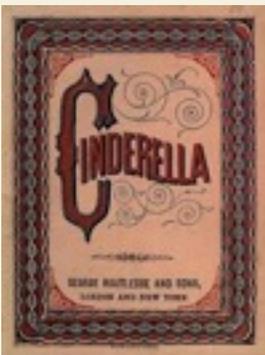
This activity incorporates creative thinking, writing, and visual art!

Have students imagine that they have been asked to design a production of a fairy tale. Then, get out crayons or colored pencils and plenty of blank paper. Ask each student to choose a fairy tale (examples: "Little Red Riding Hood", Hansel & Gretel", "Rapunzel", "Three Little Pigs", etc.) Have students draw and color a backdrop as well as costume for their characters, and at least one prop that could be used in the show.

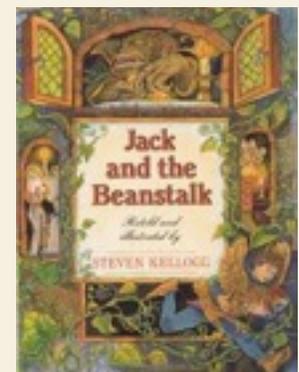
Ask students why they made their specific choices. Display the drawings in the classrooms.

What makes Cinderella such a great story that continues to be told in many different cultures?

What are some things that you really like about Bright Star's version of Cinderella?



Jack and the Beanstalk is full of magic. What are some things you love about magic and what are some things you don't like about magic?



What are some other fairy tales you can think of that were not covered in the play today?

What makes fairy tales so much fun?

# THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THEATRE!

After a play is over and everyone goes home, there is always a light left on backstage. It's called a ghost light!

The oldest play that is still around was written by an Ancient Greek named Aeschylus. It's almost 2500 years old!

The longest performance on stage was over 23 hours long! It happened in New Jersey in 2010.

William Shakespeare is a famous play writer. He wrote 37 plays and is still quoted by many people. There are 157 million google pages that mention him-- the most of any famous person ever!

In theatre, it's considered bad luck to tell an actor, "Good luck" before a performance. Instead, you're supposed to say, "Break a Leg!"

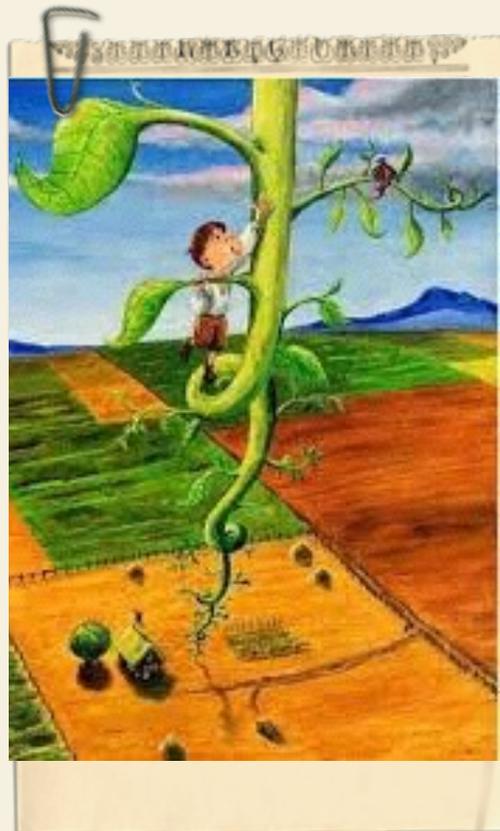
In Ancient Greece, audiences stamped their feet rather than clapping their hands as a sign of applause.

## BEFORE YOU SEE THE PLAY...

Attending the theatre is very different from watching TV or going to the movies. For one thing, the actors are real people who are performing right then and there. They can see and hear everything that happens in the audience. Because of this, you are an important part of the play and its important to do your job as an

audience member well. Here are some tips before you see the play.

1. Please be quiet and respectful so everyone else around you can hear what's happening and so the actors can do their job.
2. The actors may ask you to participate. Don't be afraid to respond, ask a question or volunteer!
3. Keep your hands to yourself and your eyes up front.
4. If you like the play, be sure to clap at the end.
5. Listen and watch the story that is being conveyed by the actors. How do they use their body and voice to be different characters?
6. Notice the facts that are in the play to understand the what the world is like in the story.



## After seeing the Play...

Write your own review of the play! A review is a way of telling your thoughts about a play, movie or book. Consider the following when you are writing your review.

Who was your favorite character? Can you summarize the play in your own words? If you had written this play, would you have done anything different? Would you recommend this play to a friend? Name one new thing you learned from watching this play!

## \* ACTIVITIES \*



### Plant a Bean and Watch it Grow!

Students will plant bean seeds and measure their growth.

Materials Needed per Student:

- Three bean seeds
- One small plastic cup
- Clear plastic baggie
- Paper towel
- Millimeter ruler
- Calendar or journal to record the plants growth

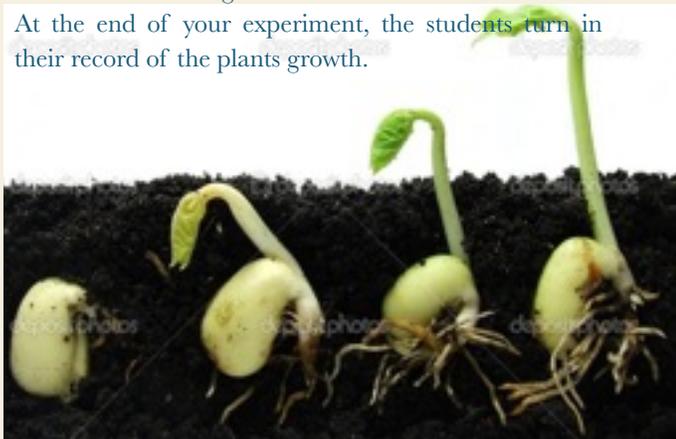
Day 1 - Place three bean seeds into the plastic cups. Observe the seeds (looking closely at the size, shape, texture, color, etc.) Measure them. After recording all of your information, top the seeds with hot water and let them soak overnight.

Days 2 & 3 - Place the soaked seeds on a paper towel. Observe them. Are they different from yesterday? Then put them back in the cup with hot water.

Day 4 - Complete the steps for Day 2. Place a wet paper towel in the plastic baggie, then add the seeds. Tape the baggie to the window. (The teacher can also plant one set of beans in a glass jar with soil and water as the class beanstalk.)

Day 5 through the end of the experiment - Continue watering the seeds and recording it's growth everyday. Ask questions relating back to the story, "What did we do differently than Jack and his mother? What do seeds need to grow? What would happen if you tried to climb it?" etc. Ideally, you need one month to grow the seeds so the students experience accountability and see the maximum changes of the seeds.

At the end of your experiment, the students turn in their record of the plants growth.



### Fairy Tales Word Search Puzzle

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

CHARACTERS	HAPPY ENDING
CHILDREN	LEGEND
DEMONS	MAGIC
ELVES	MORAL
ENCHANTMENTS	PRINCESS
FAIRIES	ROMANCE
FARFETCHED	STORY
FOLKLORIC	TALKING ANIMALS
GIANTS	TROLLS
GOBLINS	WITCHES

# Once Upon A Time



A mini-van is our hip and favored mode of transportation for touring the country!

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## THEATRE VOCABULARY!

**Actor:** The people on-stage performing the play.

**Backdrop:** The background for the play.

**Props:** Anything that an actor holds while on-stage--a cane, book, a pen, etc.

**Downstage:** the area closest to the audience a long time ago stages were built at angles.

**Upstage:** The area away from the audience, like the back wall of the a stage.

**Director:** The person who told the actors where to go while they were on-stage and helped them create the characters they played.

**Costumes:** The wigs, clothing and glasses that the actors wore to help flush out their characters.

## Facts about us!

1. Did you know we're owned by an Emmy winning actor?
2. Our actors average 1,000 miles a week traveling the country to entertain young audiences.
3. Our programs have been seen in almost every corner of the country and even around the world.
4. We watch over 1200 actors audition before we cast our season.
5. We offer dozens of different shows a season from Black History to anti-bullying and literary classics.
6. We toured Moscow with performances of our Aesop's Fables.
7. We're based in Asheville, NC.

### ABOUT US!

Founded in 2003, Bright Star Theatre tours the nation offering high quality, affordable programs to every imaginable venue. We've had countless engagements at the National Theatre, toured to Moscow and are so grateful to be in your very school today!

**Auditions:** How an actor gets a role is by auditioning. They may have to interview, pretend to be a character from the play or read something from it.

**Set Designer:** The person who decided what should be on the background and who painted or created it.

### The Process of a Play:

1. Actors audition
2. Directors cast the show (that means they choose actors)
3. The directors and actors rehearse the play (that means they practice it).
4. A team of people works on building the set, costumes and props.
5. The play opens (that means it is performed for the first time)!

Were there other terms that came from the experience of seeing the live play that you'd like to learn more about?



## BRIGHT STAR THEATRE

Bright Star Touring Theatre performs across the country from Boston to Burbank and many schools, museums, theaters and community events in between. Each season our shows run the gamut from Black History to anti-bullying, from literary classics to biographical shows. Our shows are available throughout the year for any event in any part of the world.

## ONCE UPON A TIME

Created by Bright Star Touring Theatre-Lead Authorship carried out by David Ostergaard, All Rights Reserved.

Learn more about this show, this company & our whole Season:

[www.brightstartheatre.com](http://www.brightstartheatre.com)

Once Upon A Time  
Made it's debut in January 2008.

We want every show to be special and remarkable for our audience. Please feel free to connect with us at anytime to tell us about your experience:

[david@brightstartheatre.com](mailto:david@brightstartheatre.com)