



Teacher Resource Guide and Lesson Plan Activities

Featuring general information about our production along with some creative activities which will help you make connections to your classroom curriculum, before and after the show.

Tarradiddle Travels



Adapted by Flora Atkin
Directed by Mark Sutton

Founded in 1948, Children's Theatre of Charlotte has been opening young minds to the wonders of live theatre for over half a century. Today it continues to be one of the most technically imaginative and resourceful theatres in the country. Annually it reaches over 320,000 young people and their families with multiple program areas: Mainstage productions, Tarradiddle Players Professional Touring Company and a full scope of Education classes for both community and schools. Children's Theatre of Charlotte is housed in **ImaginOn: The Joe & Joan Martin Center**. The facility is shared with the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library.

About the Play

Tarradiddle Travels takes you around the world with four favorite folk tales from several different countries. It is designed especially for preschool children, ages 3-5 years, with an emphasis on story-telling and audience participation. It was the first play ever performed by the Tarradiddle Players, and it is how we got our name! The following stories are featured in *Tarradiddle Travels*:

Donkey Ride, a Mexican folk tale, is about a farmer and son who bring their vegetables to market everyday on the back of their donkey. When passersby start giving them advice on how to travel, a real adventure begins!

In **Mouse Marriage**, the parents of Chuko, the fairest girl mouse in Japan, make Shiro, a handsome boy mouse, prove he is the grandest being in the whole world before they will let him marry their daughter.

Caps for Sale, a story from Sudan, features a tired peddler who is selling caps. When he falls asleep under a tree, some mischievous monkeys steal all his hats and he must use a clever trick to get them back.

Cricket Song, from Puerto Rico, is the story of Canita the cricket who longs for a visit from Carlos, the gallant songbird who sings and dances beautifully. When he arrives, however, their visit doesn't go quite as planned!

Preparing Students to See a Live Performance

Being a part of a theatre audience is different than watching a movie or a television show. As an audience member, you play a very important part, too! The performers are in the same room with you and are affected by what you do. When you listen and watch carefully, you can hear the words and see what the actors are doing. During the play the audience should be: **quiet**, so everyone can hear, but it is all right to laugh, since everyone will be laughing; **still**, so everyone will be able to watch without distraction; **seated**, so everyone will be able to see. Enjoy the show!

Questions for Discussion

1. Talk about **Donkey Ride**. What is the donkey carrying on his back at the beginning of the story? Why do the father and the son make so many changes?
2. In **Donkey Ride**, the father finally says, “you can’t please all the people all of the time.” What does he mean by that?
3. In **Caps for Sale**, what happens when the peddler falls asleep under the tree? Why do you think the monkeys took the caps?
4. Do you think the monkeys in **Caps for Sale** are very smart? Why? How does the peddler fool them in the end?
5. Who do the parents think is good enough for their daughter to marry in **Mouse Marriage**? Why is Cloud stronger than Sun? Why is Wind stronger than Cloud? Why is Wall stronger than Wind? Why is the mouse stronger than Wall?
6. In **Cricket Song**, what is Canita the cricket cooking on the stove? What does she ask each animal that wants to visit her? What does each animal reply (cat, rooster, duck, frog)?
7. What happens to Señor Carlos in **Cricket Song**? Does Canita the Cricket understand why he has flown away?

Vocabulary Enrichment

Below are a few words found within the play. It may be helpful to review some words with the students before or after seeing the show.

imagination	musician	fair (beautiful)
flan (pudding)	satisfied	tiptoe
balcony	pretend	clever
divine	splendid	excellent
Señor	gallant	greatest
amigo	departed	seek
vast	waddle	farmer
market	rude	vegetables
ashamed	almond	burro (donkey)
foolishness	divide	fellow

Creative Dramatics

Dramatize the story of “**Caps for Sale**” in your classroom. The teacher can read the story and the students can be the monkeys. Let one student be the peddler. Make sure you have plenty of hats!!

Theatre Corner

Every play produced by Children's Theatre of Charlotte is created in the city of Charlotte by a talented team of designers, carpenters, stitchers, props masters and lighting technicians, not to mention the director and the actors. Because it is presented live, a play is very different from a television show or a movie. As a class, discuss what you experienced when you went to the theatre.

1. What was the first thing you noticed on the stage?
2. Name three things you noticed about the set. Did the set help tell the story? What sort of set would you have designed?
3. What did you like about the costumes? Did they fit the story? What sort of costumes would you have designed?
4. What role did lighting play in telling the story? How did the lights enhance what you were seeing?
5. Talk about the actors. Were there moments you were so caught up in the story that you forgot you were watching a play? Talk about those moments.
6. Is there a TV or movie version of the play you saw today? What makes a stage play unique?
7. Were there any actors who played more than one character? At what point in the play could you tell that it was the same person? What are some ways that you can be the same person but play different characters?

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