



**ORLANDO
SHAKESPEARE
THEATER**
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UCF

Study Guide 2017 - 2018

SHOWTIME WITH SHAKESPEARE:

A MAGIC TREE HOUSE[®]
ADVENTURE

Based upon the book by

Mary Pope Osborne

Adapted for the stage by

Will Osborne, Jenny Laird & Randy Courts

Florida Standards

Language Arts

LAFS.4.W.1: Text Types and Purposes

LAFS.4.RI.1: Key Ideas and Details

LAFS.4.RL.3: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

LAFS.3.RL.1: Key Ideas and Details

Theater and Visual Arts

TH.2.F.2: Careers in and related to the arts

TH.4.S.1: The arts are inherently experiential.

VA.4.S.1: The arts are inherently experiential.

G

Content appropriate for all audiences.

Children two years of age and younger may sit on laps. Older children must have a ticket.

Showtime for Shakespeare: A Magic Tree House Adventure

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Educators:

Thank you for taking the time out of your very busy schedule to bring the joy of theatre arts to your classroom. Brandon Yagel, Education Coordinator, and I are well aware of the demands on your time and it is our goal to offer you supplemental information to compliment your curriculum with ease and expediency.

1. We've added **Study Guide Spotlights** for quick reference to the standards addressed in each production.
2. We have two **NEW MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL WORKSHOPS** for your students.
 - **Shakespeare Alive Day 2** includes a mini performance by actors in your own classroom.
 - **Text Based Playwriting** helps your students prepare for testing by mapping Shakespeare speeches from *Julius Caesar* to create an acting scene of their own devising.

Additionally, please take a moment to explore our website at orlandoshakes.org/education. We've added 10-15 minute "on your feet " activities that you can do in your classroom to supplement your curriculum. We've also posted edited of Shakespeare scripts that range from 60 – 120 minutes long that are perfect for school productions. As always, we've included Sunshine Standards to assure you that those curriculum needs are being met.

We look forward to hosting you at the Lowndes Shakespeare Theater. Additionally, should you wish to bring our Actor/Educators into your classroom, we will work around your schedule. Feel free to contact us at Orlando Shakes should you have any questions or suggestions on how we can better serve you. We are always learning from you.

Thank you for your tremendous work in nurturing our audiences of tomorrow.

Anne Hering
Director of Education



Showtime for Shakespeare: A Magic Tree House Adventure

Enjoying Live Theater

Theater is a Team Sport

The **Playwright** writes the script. Sometimes it is from an original idea and sometimes it is adapted from a book or story. The Playwright decides what the characters say, and gives the Designers guidelines on how the play should look.

The **Director** creates the vision for the production and works closely with the actors, costume, set and lighting designers to make sure everyone tells the same story.



Stage Manager -
Stacey Renee
Norwood
Photo: Rob Jones

The **Actors** use their bodies and voices to bring the author's words and the director's ideas to life on the stage.

The **Designers** imagine and create the lights, scenery, props, costumes and sound that will compliment and complete the director's vision.

The **Stage Manager** assists the director during rehearsals by recording their instructions and making sure the actors and designers understand these ideas. The Stage Manager then runs the show during each performance by calling cues for lights and sound, as well as entrances and exits.

The **Shop** and **Stage Crew** builds the set, props and costumes according to the designer's plans. The Stage Crew sets the stage with props and furniture, assists the actors with costume changes and operates sound, lighting and stage machinery during each performance.



Creative Team of The Merry Wives of
Windsor
Photo: Rob Jones

Mission:

To enrich our community with engaging professional theater, inspiring educational experiences, and thought-provoking new plays.



Sound Designer -
Britt Sanducky
Photo: Rob Jones



Costume Designer -
Denise Warner
Photo: Rob Jones

Showtime for Shakespeare: A Magic Tree House Adventure

Enjoying Live Theater

The Actor/Audience Relationship

The Audience is the reason Live Theater exists. At Orlando Shakes, we cherish the Actor/Audience relationship, the unique give and take that exists during a performance which makes the audience an ACTIVE participant in the event. The actors see the audience just as the audience sees the actors, and every, laugh, snuffle, chuckle and gasp the audience makes effects the way the actor plays his next moment. We want you to be engaged, and to live the story with us!

There are certain Conventions of the Theatrical Event, like, when the lights go down you know that the show is about to start, and that the audience isn't encouraged to come and go during a performance. Here are some other tips to help you and your classmates be top notch audience members:

- Please make sure to turn off your cell phones. And NO TEXTING!
- Please stay in your seat. Use the restroom before you take your seat and stay in your seat unless there is an emergency.
- Please do not eat or drink in the theater.



Showtime for Shakespeare: A Magic Tree House Adventure

About the Play

The Author



Mary Pope Osborne is best known for her award-winning and bestselling Magic Tree House series, which has been translated into more than 30 languages and has sold more than 130 million copies worldwide. She was born on May 20th 1949 in Fort Still, Oklahoma. Her father's career in the military required Mary's family to travel rather extensively. Osborne herself says of the experience: "Moving was never traumatic for me, but staying in one place was." After her father retired and her family stopped traveling, Osborne found in the

local community theater that sense of adventure that she was missing. She graduated from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. She initially studied drama, however, in her junior year, she switched to a major in religion, after she discovered "an even greater realm of adventure" in the worlds of mythology and comparative religion. Immediately after college, Mary traveled all over the world joining up with a small band of European young people heading to "The East." They traveled overland in a caravan of rickety vans through sixteen Asian countries. Then she finally settled in New York where she met and married her husband Will Osborne, an actor, playwright and director. He is a co-author in many of the books in the MTH series. Looking back on her writing career, Mary says about her husband, "Will has given me the support and encouragement I've needed to be a professional daydreamer-in other words, an author of children's books."

The Collaborators - Book and Lyrics

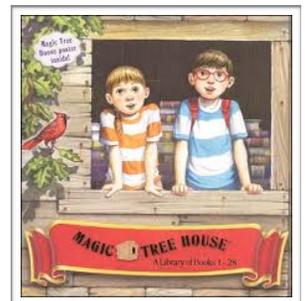


When Will Osborne was a boy, his imagination was full of characters from his favorite books. Pretending to be Robin Hood, Tarzan, and Peter Pan, Will and his friends had many incredible adventures in the woods behind his house.

His love of pretending led him into his first career, as an actor. Will has played the guitar from when he was very young and in 2007, Will worked with composer Randy Courts to create Magic Tree House: The Musical.

This was the perfect chance for Will to combine his passions for music, theater, and great stories. With his wife, Mary

Pope Osborne, Will has written a dozen books for children, including the Magic Tree House Fact Trackers and a picture book, Sleeping Bobby. Will says that writing stories is like being a kid again, playing pretend-except that you get to be all the characters. on The Magic Tree House books for Music Theater International s Broadway Kids Collection.



Showtime for Shakespeare: A Magic Tree House Adventure

About the Play

The Collaborators - Book and Lyrics

Randy Courts has collaborated with playwright/lyricist Mark St. Germain on the musicals THE GIFTS OF THE MAGI (ten consecutive seasons at the Lambs Theater; over three hundred productions world wide, including two national tours); JOHNNY PYE AND THE FOOLKILLER (Lambs Theater; AT&T New Plays Award); JOSEPH AND MARY (Los Angeles, Dallas, Indianapolis and in concert in New York City; Pilgrims Progress Foundation Award); JACK'S HOLIDAY (Playwrights Horizons, nominated for three Outer Critics Circle Awards, including best musical); THE GINGERBREAD HOUSE (commission from Playwrights Horizons and Amblin Entertainment); THE BOOK OF THE DUN COW (New Harmony Project, Prospect Theater Company); and DOCTOR DOLITTLE (Theatreworks USA). With novelist/librettist Walter Wangerin Jr., Randy wrote the Christmas oratorio ANGELS AND ALL CHILDREN, and the operas POTTER and ELISABETH AND THE WATER TROLL (New Harmony Project). Most recently, Randy collaborated with writer/lyricist Will Osborne on MAGIC TREE HOUSE: THE MUSICAL, based on the best selling children's series by Mary Pope Osborne (national tour; c.d. on P.S. Classics). Randy is thrilled to be collaborating with his wife, playwright Jenny Laird, on a series of musicals based on The Magic Tree House books for Music Theater Internationals Broadway Kids Collection.



The Characters

Shakespeare
Annie
Jack
Morgan
Londoners
Bear Owner
Dan the Dancing Bear
Lysander
Hermia
Helena
Demetrius
Bottom
Puck
Titania
Queen Elizabeth

The Summary

To find some special magic, Jack and Annie go back to old England, ruled by Queen Elizabeth the First. There they meet William Shakespeare himself - one of the greatest writers of all time. He is having a hard time with two actors who did not show up for his play. He asks Jack and Annie to replace them. Jack has never liked being on stage as he always gets stage fright. Will he get nervous this time in front of hundreds of people? Can they find the special magic on stage?

Showtime for Shakespeare: A Magic Tree House Adventure Activities

Setting The Scene

List on the board the following words: London, London Bridge, Thames River, Globe Theater, and William Shakespeare. Brainstorm as a group what the students already know about the given places or people. As a class, use a map to locate London, England, and ask them to imagine what life might have been like in the 1600s. Discuss the concept of the monarchy in England and how it still applies today. This will come in handy later in "Design A Backdrop" activity.



Showtime for Shakespeare: A Magic Tree House Adventure

Activities

Reading Between the Lines: Shakespeare Edition

Throughout the text, several very famous Shakespearean quotes appear: from *As You Like It*, "All the world's a stage," and from *Romeo and Juliet*, "Good night, good night. Parting is such sweet sorrow."

Read each quote below in the context of the story and ask the students to ponder the phrases and infer as best as they can what Shakespeare meant in those words. Let the class know that students of all ages study the works of William Shakespeare and they, too, are learning about one of the most beloved writers of all time. Ask them to record their thoughts on the blanks below. Come together as a group and share individual writing.

"All the world's a stage"

As You Like It

"Good night, good night!

Parting is such sweet sorrow."

Romeo and Juliet

"The play's the thing"

Hamlet

"Come not near our fairy queen."

A Midsummer's Night's Dream

"If we shadows have offended,

Think but this, and all is mended"

A Midsummer's Night's Dream

"If music be the food of love, play on"

Twelfth Night.

Do this activity before AND after watching our production. How does hearing the lines out loud change your interpretation?

Showtime for Shakespeare: A Magic Tree House Adventure

Activities

Discussion Questions

Asking questions that lead students up the “thinking ladder”.

Use the following pattern in asking questions:

1. Ask OPEN questions to encourage and engage children.
2. Ask FOCUSED questions to elicit and organize specific information
3. Ask CONNECTING questions to help children learn to see the relationships between events, characters and ideas.
4. Ask broad questions to help children GENERALIZE/ learn to draw conclusions.
5. Accept, record and read all responses on the board, chart or overhead for all to see.



image source: classroomclipart.com

OPEN question examples:

- What did you notice at the play today....What did you see?
- What about the play was different from the book/story?
- What surprised you?
- What impressed you?

FOCUSED questions: (questions that probe children’s’ insights)

- What did you learn about the 1600's? or about Shakespeare and the people of his time?

ANALYZING/CONNECTING questions:

- Why do you think Morgan LeFay wanted Jack and Annie to discover theatre?
- Why do you think theatre is magical?
- What lesson do this story teach about theater? Is there a moral to this story? What from the story makes you think that?

Showtime for Shakespeare: A Magic Tree House Adventure

Activities

Design a Backdrop

In Showtime for Shakespeare: A Magic Tree House Adventure, Jack and Annie visit London, England. If Jack and Annie were in London, what would the buildings and decorations behind them look like?

1. Pick a place in London (Big Ben, London Bridge, Thames River, Globe Theater, etc).
2. Research some images on the place you choose.
3. Imagine Jack and Annie standing at the place you choose.
4. Draw and color what you imagine in the rectangle.
5. Compare your drawing to a friends. What is similar? What is different?



The set designer would give a drawing like this to the technical director to begin building the set.

Showtime for Shakespeare: A Magic Tree House Adventure

Activities

Write A Poem

Much of the show *Showtime for Shakespeare: A Magic Tree House Adventure* is in the form of poetry. Much of Shakespeare's works were in poetry. In class, stretch the student's imagination by challenging them to write a four line poem in the space below about a vacation or trip they have been on! Encourage the students to make the 1st and 3rd lines rhyme and the 2nd and 4th lines rhyme. This can lead to discussions of rhyme and meter if desired. This is a fun and creative way of using the writing techniques in the musical to excite children about poetry.

For example:

A Sunny Day by Anne

*I love a sunny day _
Because I love to run.
In each and every way,
I get to just have fun.*



Now have them try!

Showtime for Shakespeare: A Magic Tree House Adventure

Activities

Read students a Magic Treehouse story, stopping to clearly show any pictures or illustrations to the students. When finished, ask the students to illustrate the plot/action as it occurred throughout the story. Have students volunteer to share their illustrations with the rest of the class.

Somebody:

Who is the main Character?



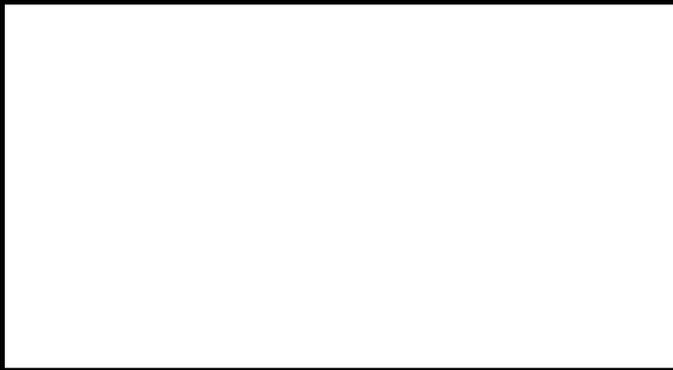
Wanted:

What did the character want?



But

What was the problem?



So:

How did the character try to solve the problem?



Then:

What was the resolution to the problem?



Showtime for Shakespeare: A Magic Tree House Adventure

Activities

Friendly Letter Writing

We love to hear from you at Orlando Shakes! So write us a letter to let us know what you thought! Introduce your topic, state your opinion, supply a reason for your opinion and close the letter. Follow to format below to include a heading, salutation, body, closing, and signature. Format an envelope according to the picture and send it our way. Teacher and parent comments are also appreciated! Thank you!

From:

Print Name

Street Address

City

State

Zip



Dear Orlando Shakespeare Theater,

Sincerely,

Sign Name

Print Name

Print Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____, State _____, Zip _____

**Orlando Shakespeare Theater
ATTN: Education Department
812 East Rollins Street
Orlando, FL 32803**

