

ON STAGE AT THE CENTER

Teacher's Guide *GRIMMZ Fairy Tales*



ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

Jay and Will Grimmz, the hip-hop fable story dance-pop sensation, have come back home to the city where they grew up to give a concert. They're known not just for their sounds, but for their powerful storytelling, an inventive remix of familiar classics. The brothers put a modern spin on valuable life lessons in *Snow White and the Seven Shawties*, *Down with Rapunzel*, *Hanzel & Gretel: Lost in the Hood*, and their featured first Grammy-winning song, *Break, Cinderella, Break! Pay your bling*, hear them sing, and get ready to drop the mic in this unforgettable theatrical experience.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Beginning in 1948, the Children's Theatre of Charlotte has grown to become one of the most respected arts and education organizations in the country. Children's Theatre of Charlotte is committed to their mission of creating exceptional theater experiences and inspiring generations to explore the wonder of their world. They provide more than 250,000 experiences for children and families a year. The Experiential Theater Company is dedicated to creating high quality theater opportunities for young audiences. The content of their productions is intended to be both entertaining and educational, featuring evocative and thought-provoking storytelling. Student and family audiences typically come to the theater expecting to see a play, but what they find out very quickly is that they are there to *be in* a play. It is a safe environment, so whatever an audience's interest in participating, everyone feels just as welcome to watch as those who come up and play.

BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE

Questions to Ask:

- Hip-hop is used to tell the story in this show. Do you have a favorite type of music? What do you like about it?
- The stories in this show are based on classic fairytales such as *Cinderella* and *Hansel and Gretel*. What is your favorite fairytale and why?
- Have you ever written a story? What were some of the traits of your main character? What were the traits of the villain?

THEATER ETIQUETTE

Please share these tips on how to be a respectful audience member.

1. Be an engaged and polite listener. The show requires your full attention!
2. Refrain from talking to your neighbor. Students enjoy the performance more if they can hear and pay attention uninterrupted.
3. Applaud if you like something. Normally, the audience applauds at the end of an act or scene. However, great audiences applaud when they are impressed with a scene or laugh when something is funny.
4. Entering and exiting the performance space in an organized and calm manner is important for your safety and the safety of the performing artists.



AFTER THE PERFORMANCE

1. Have you ever read a classic Brothers Grimm Fairy Tale? How was this show different than those stories?
2. Name three things you noticed about their set and props. How did they help tell the story? What kind of set would you design?
3. In this show, the actors have to play a lot of different characters. What types of things did they do to make sure the audience knew they were playing a different role?
4. At the end of each story, the main character learns a lesson. Has there ever been a time that you have learned from something that has happened in your life?

FOLLOW UP ACTIVITIES

Mirror Mirror on the Wall

In the show, Snow White gets made fun of online. In the end she learns that it is important to stay true to yourself and be kind. Have your students practice being kind to themselves and have everyone write down five things they love about themselves on a piece of paper. Do they love their hair or smile? How fast they can run? Split your students into small groups of two or three and have them share what they wrote. You can even let others share what they love about their classmates!

Once Upon a Time

Have your students build their own fairytale. Split into groups of four or five and have the students come up with a setting, main character, and a villain. Have the groups come to the front of the classroom so everyone can see how their story unfolds. Let one student start the first sentence beginning with "Once upon a time." The next student will add another sentence to keep the story going. The students will have to flow with the speaker ahead of them to make a happy ending. Once everyone gets two turns the story is over! For older students have a timer and only let them have 30 seconds to speak their sentence or let them tell the story one word at a time!

Fairytale Scavenger Hunt

Fairytales are known for having magical items that can help tell the story such as a glass slipper or a poisoned apple. Have your students walk around the classroom and look for their own magical items that can be used for their fairytale. Can a pencil turn into a magical wand? A piece of paper an invisible map to a treasure island? Let the students be creative and encourage everyone to come up with a unique idea. For older students, have them create a short story about the magical item they discovered. They can write about how their item was created and who used it before. Encourage creativity!

Hip-Hop Dance Battle

Put on some fun music and have your students stand up and participate in a hip-hop dance battle! The crazier they dance the better. Shout out different emotions and have them express that emotion as they dance. How would you dance excited? Angry? Scared? Start turning the music on and off and have the students stop dancing with the beat, see who can be the best listener and stay in the game the longest! For older students, add in more challenging moves such as dancing on one foot or spinning in a circle.

Make a Rhyme, All the Time

This show is told through hip-hop and rap music, which usually have rhyming words at the end of the phrase. Have your students practice their own rhyming words. Show your class a picture of an item and let them raise their hand and share a rhyming word. When no one else can think of any more rhymes, you can vote for who had the most creative word. Some examples could be a ball, goat, map, etc. You can increase the hardness of the game and try to rhyme items around your classroom! Older students can try to write their own rhyming rap with some of the words you discovered!