



(FORMERLY MGR
YOUTH THEATRE)



THE FISHERMAN and HIS WIFE

By Vivian & Larry Snipes

Originally produced by Lexington Children's Theatre, Lexington, KY

STUDY GUIDE • GRADES K-2 ASSEMBLY

MERRY-GO-ROUND YOUTH THEATRE HAS REBRANDED TO:



Over the past decade, our organization has seen significant programmatic expansion in our education division, increased attendance in our professional musical theatre division, sophistication of our products and deliverables and bold implementation of new innovative engagement and enrichment programs. Our steady growth has resulted in an organizational transformation. As such, it became evident that our many programs and outreach efforts were not being represented cohesively by our existing brand. Our existing brand names (The Finger Lakes Musical Theatre Festival and Merry-Go-Round Youth Theatre) housed within the parent company title, Merry Go Round Playhouse, Inc., were confusing, fractured and creating great challenges to all facets of our identity. As such, it was clear that a rebranding effort was critical.

Fall of 2019, after eighteen months of intense strategic planning, we officially re-branded as **The REV Theatre Company**. **THE REV** is short for many words but for us, not one in particular. It is not a symbol or an acronym. **THE REV** references our creation and infusion of energy into Auburn and the Finger Lakes region; **THE REV** references the original carousel that once revolved in our flagship venue, and **THE REV** stands for our reverence for our 60-year legacy and our incredible community.

While we have changed our overall brand name, all of our programs have remained the same. We still provide the same professional arts education through the Sequential Dramatics Program to your school.

Thank you for being our partner in education.

SUMMARY

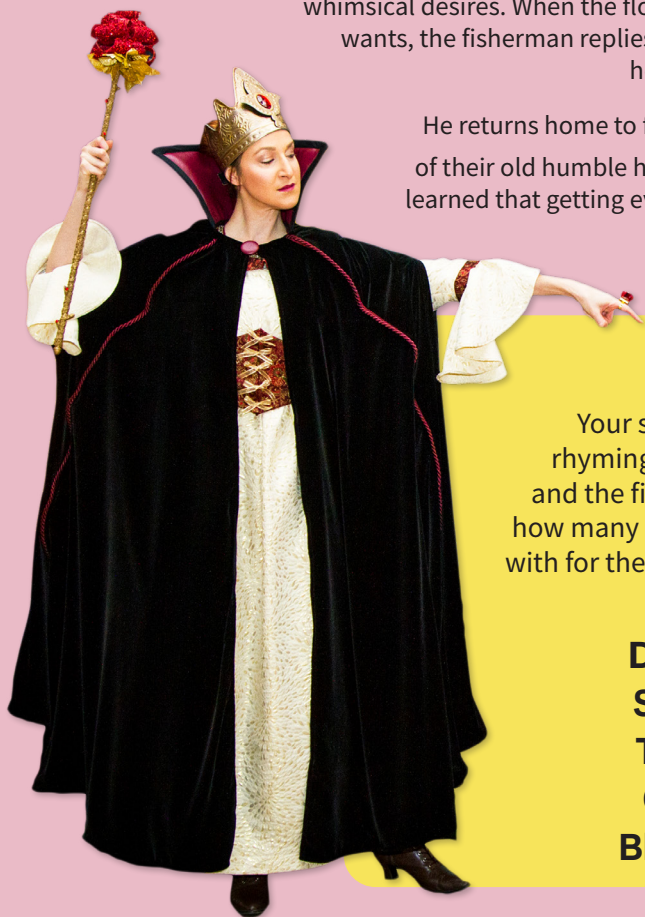
A fisherman and his wife, Isabel, live in a small hut by the sea. Each day Isabel tends the garden while her husband sets out to catch fish for their supper. They have everything they need and enjoy a simple, happy life. When a magical prince-turned-flounder turns up in his net one day, the kindly fisherman shows mercy and sets poor creature free.

Isabel is not pleased. Realizing that a magical fish must be able to grant wishes, she insists that the fisherman march down to the sea and collect on the “favor” they are owed; after all, the fisherman spared the flounder’s life! Isabel wants to upgrade their hut to a nice, clean cottage, and the flounder obliges. No sooner does Isabel get her way, however, than she starts to complain. The chickens and ducks are too loud, and the garden has too many weeds.

Isabel is quickly consumed by greed. No longer happy with the cottage, she demands that the fisherman march down and ask for a castle. She then wishes her way through stints as queen, empress, and finally, ruler of the universe! The fisherman, wanting only for Isabel to be happy, spends all of his wishes on her

whimsical desires. When the flounder finally asks him what he wants, the fisherman replies “...for Isabel to be happy with her life, no matter what it takes.”

He returns home to find Isabel beaming at the door of their old humble hut. Both she and the fisherman learned that getting everything we want is not nearly as important as appreciating everything we have.



Rhyme Time

Your students may notice some rhyming dialogue between Isabel and the fisherman in the show. See how many rhymes they can come up with for the following words from the script!

Day
Sea
Try
Go
Blue

Sun
Hut
Shore
Still
Net

How Folklore Becomes a Fairy Tale

Folklore is a term that encompasses the traditional stories, customs and beliefs of a particular community, which are passed down by word-of-mouth over several generations. A fairy tale is a story about imaginary characters and places that includes magical embellishments. The fantastic fairy tales we know and love are all grounded cultural lore. For example, German folklore inspired the fairy tale The Fisherman and His Wife, which was first written down by The Brothers Grimm. Your students might also know The Little Mermaid, a Dutch fairy tale rooted in Danish folklore, which was written down and popularized by Hans Christian Andersen.

KEY VOCABULARY

Toil: to work really hard for a long time.

“While all day long in the garden I toil, turning and turning this dry dusty soil.”

Content: happy and satisfied.

“The Fisherman was content with his life.”

Gristle: the tough, chewy part of meat.

“I’m too tough to eat, full of bones and gristle.”

Hut: a small shelter or shed. “Once upon a time, there was a poor Fisherman who lived with his wife in a tiny hut near the sea.”

Meager: not enough.

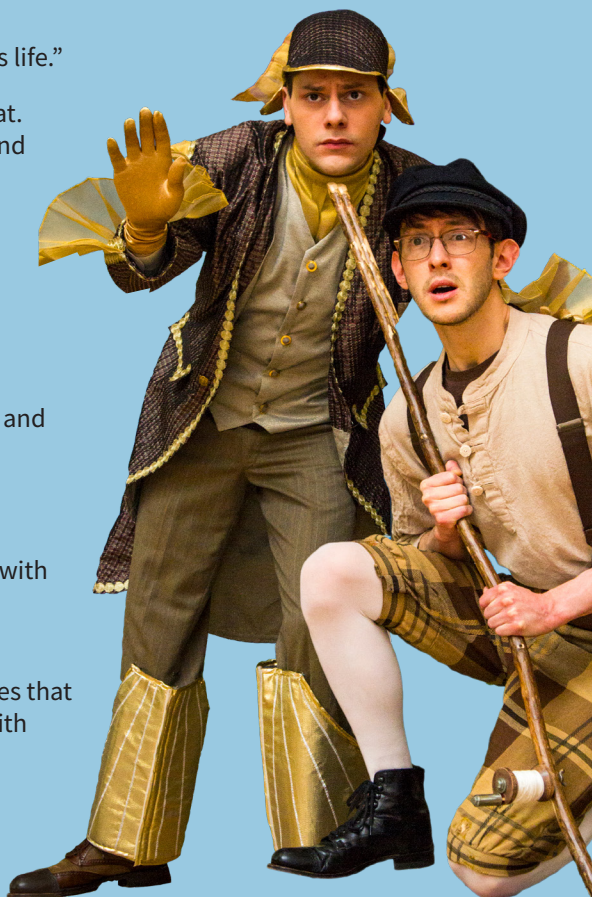
“So, after a meager meal of cabbage and water, they went to sleep.”

Parapets: the towers of a castle.

“...the nice clean cottage had been transformed into a vast stone castle with tall parapets, where flags waved in the breeze.”

Tapestries: a heavy cloth with pictures that is hung on a wall. “The walls hang with tapestries from there to here.”

Ominous: Warning of bad things to come. “Ominous clouds rolled overhead.”



Pillars of Good Character in this Performance



Trustworthiness

The fisherman is always reliable and does what he says he is going to do. He stands by Isabel and is loyal to her, even when she is not her best self.



Respect

The fisherman considers the feelings of others, and does his best to resolve disputes peacefully. Isabel, however, becomes less respectful as the story progresses; she whines, shouts, and demands in order to get her way.



Responsibility

In the beginning of the play, Isabel and the fisherman share equal responsibility for maintaining their home and making sure that there is food on the table. Isabel gardens and cooks, while the fisherman ventures out to catch fish.



Fairness

The fisherman has a strong sense of fairness; he does not want to ask unreasonable things of the flounder. Isabel loses sight of what is fair by being greedy and thinking only of herself.



Caring

The fisherman is caring, using all of his wishes to make Isabel happy. He is kind to her even when she is not kind to him, and forgives her after she has learned her lesson.



Citizenship

The fisherman and Isabel help the environment by catching and growing their own food.

Learning Objectives - *The Fisherman and His Wife*

60 minute performance

Students:

- Identify examples of character attributes, such as caring and trustworthiness
- Differentiate between kind behaviors and unkind behaviors
- Practice proper audience etiquette
- Evaluate traits of the characters in the play by applying principles of character education
- Create elements of the show, such as the sea, wind, and ensemble roles

NYS Learning Standards included with *The Fisherman and His Wife*

NYS Learning Standards for the Arts:

- Grade K: TH:Cr2.1.K, TH:Cr3.1.K, TH:Pr4.1.K,
TH:Pr5.1.K, TH:Pr7.1.K, TH:Re8.1.K,
TH:Cn11.1.K
- Grade 1: TH:Cr3.1.1,
TH:Pr5.1.1, TH:Pr7.1.1
- Grade 2: TH:Cr3.1.2



Additional Resources

Websites

www.grimmfairytales.com — An interactive Brothers Grimm site.

hca.gilead.org.il — A comprehensive guide to Hans Christian Anderson Fairy Tales.

Books

Grimm Brothers. *The Complete Brothers Grimm Fairy Tales*. Gramercy. 1993.

Baylor, Byrd and Parnell, Peter. *The Table Where Rich People Sit*. Aladdin 1998.

Donnelly, Jennifer and Gammell, Steven. *Humble Pie*. Atheneum/Richard Jackson Books; 1st edition. 2002.

For more information on this production, including specific grade level standards and a downloadable Activity Page, please visit our website:
www.TheRevTheatre.com

ACTIVITIES

Pre-Performance

1. The Fisherman and His Wife is a story originally written by the Brothers Grimm. Some other stories written by the Brothers Grimm are: Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, Little Red Riding Hood, and Snow White. Which is your favorite story? Draw a picture of your favorite fairy tale and share it with the class. Be sure to share with the class why it's your favorite fairy tale.
2. Many fairy tales use pictures to help tell the story. Write the following emotions on the top of separate sheets of paper: Happy, Sad, Surprised, Angry and Scared. Draw a face for each emotion. Listen to your teacher read a fairy tale aloud. Hold up an emotion card each time you feel the hero or heroine experiences that emotion. The teacher can then show the class the picture in the book. As a class, compare your drawings to the illustrations.

Post-Performance

1. In our story, Isabel does not know that having bigger, more expensive things does not make you happy. What does make you happy? Maybe it's your family, friends, a favorite food, or sleeping in a warm bed. Write a letter to Isabel telling her what makes you happy and why.
2. In our story, a magic flounder granted wishes. What three wishes would you make if you met a magic fish? Make one wish for yourself, one for someone you know, and one for the whole world. Cut out an outline of a fish on three separate pieces of construction paper. Write one wish on each fish. As a class, create an 'ocean wish wall' and post your fish around the classroom or hallway.
3. In our story, Isabel learns to be careful what she wishes for. Another story where this lesson is learned is The Table Where Rich People Sit. In this story, a girl discovers that what makes her family "rich" is not how much money they make, but their freedom to enjoy the outdoors, sing at the top of their lungs, and enjoy each other's company. What makes you "rich"? Working in small groups, create a collage of all of the things that make you "rich". Remember, these things shouldn't cost money. Share your collages with the class.

For more information on this production, including specific grade level standards and a downloadable Activity Page, please visit our website:

TheRevTheatre.com

Accessing Digital Programming

For the 2021-2022 school year, you have access to our programming digitally.

To access, contact Erin Katzker, Educational Theatre Manager, at revtour@therevtheatre.com or 315-255-1305.



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