

Georgia Ensemble Theatre

Presents:

Study Guide

AESOP'S
FABLES



Aesop's Fables

Study Guide

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Georgia Standards of Excellence

TA1.CN.2 Examine the role of theatre in a societal, cultural, and historical context.

ELAGSE4RL7: Make connections between the text of a story or drama and a visual or oral presentation of the text identifying similarities and differences

ELAGSE4RI7: Interpret information presented visually, orally, or quantitatively (e.g., in charts, graphs, diagrams, time lines, animations, or interactive elements on Web pages) and explain how the information contributes to an understanding of the text in which it appears.

ELAGSE4RI5: Describe the overall structure (e.g., chronology, comparison, cause/effect, problem/solution) of events, ideas, concepts, or information in a text or part of a text.

EELAGSE5RL2: Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text

EELAGSE5RL7: Analyze how visual and multimedia elements contribute to the meaning, tone, or beauty of a text (e.g., graphic novel, multimedia presentation of fiction, folktale, myth, poem).

ELAGSE6RL3: Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves towards a resolution.

ELAGSE6RL7: Compare and contrast the experience of reading a story, drama, or poem to listening to or viewing an audio, video, or live version of the text, including contrasting what they "see" and "hear" when reading the text to what they perceive when they listen or watch.

EELAGSE6RI7: Integrate information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.

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A Special Thank You

We at Georgia Ensemble Theatre pride ourselves in providing educators and students with materials that aid in their understanding and comprehension of literature. Theatre, like literature, is a gateway to other worlds where the boundaries are limitless.

It is our goal that every child has the opportunity to experience live literacy based theatre so that we encourage a society of empathy and understanding.

Thank you for choosing Georgia Ensemble Theatre to help teach your students the magic of theatre, and the wonder of literature!

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About Georgia Ensemble Theatre

Georgia Ensemble Theatre (GET) provides award-winning theatre productions and first class educational opportunities on a year-round basis. It is the resident professional theatre at the Roswell Cultural Arts Center. GET has earned a reputation for the quality and diversity of its shows, producing 27 regular seasons of plays and musicals with 160 productions on the main stage and on tour to elementary, middle, and high schools throughout Georgia.

During the 2001-2002 season, Georgia Ensemble added a series of school matinees for our production of *The Miracle Worker*, playing to approximately 2100 students. This initiative has been replicated in seasons since then with critically acclaimed productions of the American classics *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Our Town*, and *Great Expectations*, all playing to large student matinee audiences. GET also produces four plays annually for students as part of the Theatre for Young Audiences program and plans to present *School House Rock Live!*, *Tuck Everlasting*, and *Aesop's Fables* in the coming season to students through field trips to the Cultural Arts Center, as well as tours to schools in surrounding counties.

Since 1998, GET has taken the powerful, multi-media Holocaust drama *And Then They Came for Me: Remembering the World of Anne Frank* on tour annually to many elementary and middle schools in the region. The story follows the lives of childhood friends of Anne Frank – Eva Geringer and Ed Silverberg – both Holocaust survivors. Students see Eva (now Schloss) and Ed share their stories in their later years on screen while actors portray them as children during the Holocaust. This play has played to more than 500,000 students in its 27 years of production.

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Elements of a Play

1)

Plot

Clearly defined events/problems surrounding the characters on stage.

2)

Character

The people that tell/perform the story

3)

Theme

The main idea behind the story. What the playwright was hoping to express through writing.

4)

Language

Dramatic dialogue that consists of 5 different types: monologue, dialogue, verse, stage direction, song

5)

Spectacle

All pieces of what you see and hear on stage: Lighting, costuming, language, set, etc.

6)

Rhythm

How all previous elements of the play work together to create the story.

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About the Story

Aesop's Fables is a collection of whimsical stories based on the behaviors of animals that Aesop carefully studied over the course of his life. By giving these animals human-like qualities, he was able to bring to life stories that presented moral lessons for readers of all ages.

It is important to note that Aesop did not physically write these stories- instead, he collected them and shared them by word of mouth in a form of storytelling known as oral-tradition. These stories have been passed down since as early as 600BC. Wow!

Today, you can see the adaptations of these stories just about everywhere you look. Georgia Ensemble Theatre is more than proud to present this original re-telling for our young audiences!

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About the Characters

Squeaks



A mouse detective.

The Bee



Owens the Bee's Knees.
Famous for making
Honeydogs.

The Snake



Animalympic Athlete.
Roommates with the
Porcupine.

Mayor Lion



The mayor of Fableton.

The Wasp



Claims to have made the
honey for the Animalympics.

Aesop



Descendant of the original
Aesop. His family is famous
for writing a series of Fables
that teach moral lessons.

The Rabbit



The fastest racer in
Fableton.

The Porcupine



Animalympic Athlete.
Roommates with the Snake.

The Turtle



Beat The Rabbit in the last
race - will be running in the
Animalympics.

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About the Author

Aesop

There is not much known about the author of Aesop's Fables. Historians believe that Aesop was a slave that lived around 600BC.

Like his famous stories reveal to us, though, not all is what meets the eye. Aesop was one of the most clever men to live in Greece. He was so clever that he helped his master out of a bet and won his freedom! He became an adviser to government officials and kings, traveling all over Greece with his stories and problem-solving skills.

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Elements of a Story

An element is an essential part of something, in this case, an essential part of the story. Every story within Aesop's Fables has one of the items listed below:

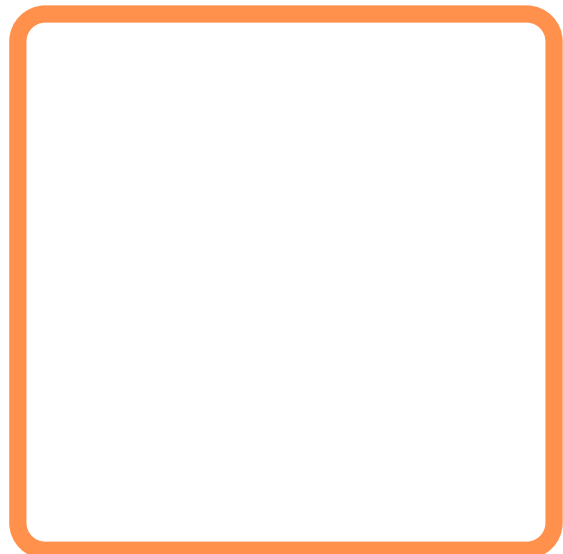
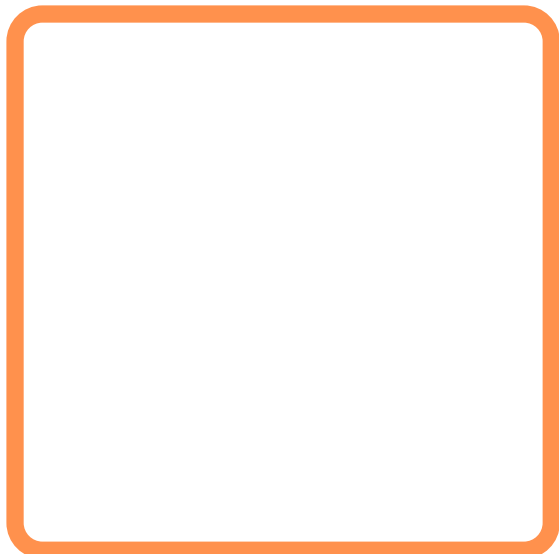
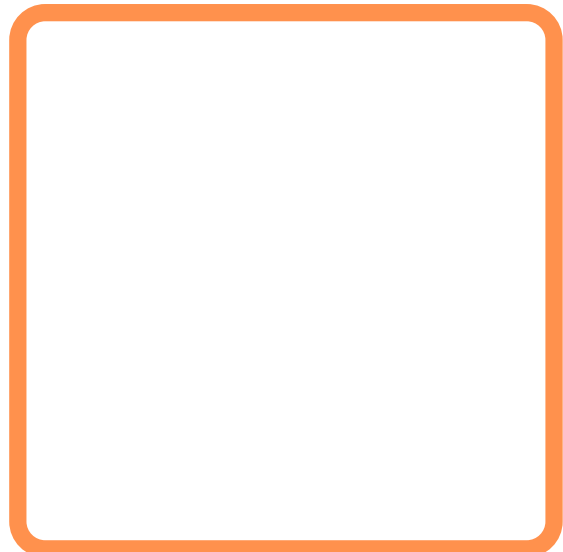
- Characters - The different people, animals, or creatures in a story.
- Setting - The places where the story takes place.
- Problem - What challenges do the characters face?
- Solution - How are these challenges solved?
- Plot- The beginning, middle, and end of a story

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Story Activity: Pre-Show

In the squares below, draw a story. Be sure to use all of the essential elements: Characters, Setting, Problem, Solution, Plot



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Story Activity Post-Show

Ask your students these questions. Have them act out the lessons they think they learned, then have them apply the lessons they have learned into an original story of their own!

1) What lessons did you learn from seeing the play?

2) What was your favorite part of the play?

3) Was Aesop in the right by creating all of the problems of Fableton?

4) How many problems and solutions did the animals face / discover during the story?

5) What was the beginning, middle, and end of this story?