DRAGONS
LOVE
TACOS

A STUDY GUIDE FOR TEACHERS
DRAGONS LOVE TACOS

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GEORGIA STANDARD 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.
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.

The Georgia Ensemble Theatre in Roswell was founded in 1992 under the direction of Artistic Director Robert Farley. After serving as Artistic Director of the Alliance Theatre upon his arrival in GA, Bob became very interested in taking theatre to outlying communities. In addition to a full season of professional theatrical productions, the Georgia Ensemble Theatre provides theatrical education for young people through their Youth Conservatory which teaches the elements of acting, movement, and vocal technique. In addition to She Persisted the Musical, GA Ensemble Theatre offerings for student audiences this year include And Then They Came For Me: Remembering Anne Frank and Dragons Love Tacos

AUDIENCE ETIQUETTE

Before the program, discuss with your students what makes a good audience:

❖ Compare appropriate behavior for different kinds of audience situations – e.g. rock concerts, sporting events, ballets, plays.
❖ Students will get more out of the production if they come prepared. Use this guide to help students anticipate what to listen and look for.
❖ Set a good example. Catch up on paperwork after the performance.
1. Plot
Clearly defined events/problems surrounding the characters on stage.

2. Character
Clearly defined events/problems surrounding the characters on stage.

3. Theme
Clearly defined events/problems surrounding the characters on stage.

4. Language
Clearly defined events/problems surrounding the characters on stage.

5. Spectacle
Clearly defined events/problems surrounding the characters on stage.

6. Rhythm
Clearly defined events/problems surrounding the characters on stage.
DRAGONS LOVE TACOS

ABOUT THE STORY

You know what Dragons really love? Tacos of course! When boredom strikes, what is one boy and his beloved dog, Leroy, to do? Play a video game? No, not when you forget to charge it. Play outside? No, not when its raining cats and dogs!

A boy and his dog are watching a TV show about dragons when the TV show's host comes to life and dragons are knocking on his door. Boy and Leroy unexpectedly get caught up in the ‘Dos and Don’ts’ of what to serve to dragons to eat and how they like to party. Sounds like a lot of fun, but what's the lesson in all of this when the house is burned to a crisp after a bad experience with spicy salsa?

Dragons love tacos, but if they accidentally eat spicy salsa... watch out!
ABOUT THE CHARACTERS

**Mom**
You won't see much of her, but you'll never forget her voice!

**Boy**
Boy doesn't have much to say, but makes his feelings known.

**Leroy the Dog**
Boy's best friend and confidant. And the only other witness to this crazy tale

**Man in Suit**
Arguably the man that knows the most about dragons in the entire universe

**Red Dragon**
A dragon with little wings who loves tacos

**Blue Dragon**
a dragon with large horns who loves tacos

**White Dragon**
a dragon with large paws who loves tacos

**Yellow Dragon**
a dragon with a little tail but loves tacos
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ernie Nolan is the executive artistic director of Nashville Children’s Theatre and an award-winning director and playwright. He has written commissions for La Jolla Playhouse (La Jolla, Calif.), Adventure Theatre (Glen Echo, Md.), Circle Theatre (Omaha, Neb.) in partnership with the Institute for Holocaust Education, Nashville Children’s Theatre and The Milwaukee Zoological Society. In collaboration with Grammy-nominated recording artist Justin Roberts, he also wrote Hansel and Gretel: A Wickedly Delicious Musical Treat, which premiered at the Broadway Playhouse (Chicago). Dedicated to creating new work, Nolan has collaborated with such writers as Idris Goodwin, Marisela Treviño Orta, Marcy Heisler, Zina Goldrich, Dave Deveau and Anton Lipovetsky. Also a resident artist of The Coterie Theatre (Kansas City, Mo.), he has directed and choreographed world premiers by such Tony-nominated artists as Willie and Rob Reale, Stephen Schwartz, Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens, and Bill Russell and Henry Krieger. In March 2012, Nolan made his off-Broadway debut with Lucky Duck at The New Victory Theater (New York City). Nolan currently sits on the executive committee of ASSITEJ, a global theatre for young audiences service organization. In 2014, he received the Illinois Theatre Association’s Excellence in Theatre for Young Audiences award. He proudly earned his bachelor’s degree in the musical theatre program at the University of Michigan and his master’s degree in directing at The Theatre School at DePaul University.

Adam Rubin is the author of a dozen critically acclaimed picture books, which have sold more than five million copies combined. They include Dragons Love Tacos, Dragons Love Tacos 2: The Sequel, High Five, Gladys the Magic Chicken, Secret Pizza Party, Robo-Sauce, the Those Darn Squirrels trilogy, and El Chupacabras, which won the Texas Bluebonnet Award. Publishers Weekly called his #1 New York Times bestselling story collection The Ice Cream Machine a “madcap middle grade debut.”
An element is an essential part of something, in this case, an essential part of the story. Every story within Dragon's Love Tacos has one of the items listed below:

- **Character**: 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 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. What other foods do you think dragons would love? Why?

4. How many problems and solutions did the characters face/discover during the story?

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