She Persisted
THE MUSICAL

A Study Guide for Teachers
She Persisted THE MUSICAL
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 the World of 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.
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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

Grade: Elementary-Middle
Audience Limit: 300
Time Estimate: 60 minutes
including 15 mount Q&A

*She Persisted, The Musical* is the trailblazing, Theatre for Young Audiences new musical, based on the best-selling children's book written by Chelsea Clinton and beautifully illustrated by Alexandra Boiger.

Fourth-grader Naomi’s field trip to a Women’s History Museum turns into a time travel adventure where she encounters inspirational women who have overcome barriers and made waves throughout U.S. history. Naomi learns that she will have to write a paper on how the women in the museum inspire her to follow her dreams. She asks why there needs to be a women’s history museum when women’s history should just be "history history." Ms. Chan and the Museum Tour Guide explain that women often get left out.

Naomi is overwhelmed and wonders how she can accomplish so much. Time takes Naomi on a time traveling journey, in which she meets many infamous women such as Harriet Tubman, Virginia Apgar, Ruby Bridges, Sally Ride, Florence Griffith Joyner, and Sonia Sotomayor.

Naomi finally understands she doesn't have to be perfect to make a difference and that her personal best is more than enough. She returns to her field trip and asks Ms. Chan for help with her essay and explains how all the women in the museum have inspired her. Ms. Chan tells Naomi that she clearly doesn't need help with the essay. Naomi takes in all that she has learned and embraces what the future has instore for her.
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About the Characters

**Naomi**
Our fourth grade protagonist

**Ms. Chan/Time**
Naomi’s fourth grade teacher and the concept of time embodied

**Sonia Sotomayer**
The first woman and Latina to serve on the Supreme Court

**Harriet Tubman**
An American abolitionist and social activist

**Florence Griffith Joyner**
an American track/field athlete and record setting Olympian

**Dr. Virginia Apgar**
an American physician, medical researcher, and inventor of the Apgar Score

**Sally Ride**
the first American women to fly in space

**Ruby Bridges**
one of the first African Americans to desegregate the American school system
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About the Author

**Adam Tobin** is the writer and lyricist of She Persisted: The Musical, adapted from Chelsea Clinton’s children’s book for Bay Area Children's Theatre. A Senior Lecturer teaching screenwriting and television at Stanford University, Tobin created the television series About a Girl and Best Friend’s Date for Viacom’s The-N network (now TeenNick), won an Emmy for writing on Discovery Channel's Cash Cab, and worked in script development for Jim Henson Pictures and The National Basketball Association. He has taught story seminars to Dreamworks Animation, Aardman Animation, and Blue Sky Studios. Tobin also performed with Los Angeles Theatresports and the comedy group The But Franklies, and was a founding member of the Stanford Improvisors. He holds a bachelor's degree from Stanford in English and an MFA from USC School of Cinematic Arts in Screenwriting.

**Deborah Wicks La Puma** is a composer, music director, and orchestrator. She is one of most produced Theatre for Young Audiences artists working today, with her work being seen across the globe and enjoying both popular and critical success. Her works include "She Persisted: The Musical" (Based on the book by Chelsea Clinton, at Bay Area Children’s Theatre) with Adam Tobin; "Elephant and Piggie’s: We are in a Play!" (New Victory Theatre), "Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience" (Seattle Children’s Theatre) and "Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus" (Kennedy Center) with bestselling author Mo Willems. With playwright Karen Zacarias she created "Ella Enchanted" (First Stage Milwaukee, based on the book by Gail Carson Levine), "OLIVÉRio: A Brazilian Twist" (Kennedy Center), "Frida Libre" (La Jolla Playhouse), and "Einstein Is a Dummy" (Alliance Theatre). Other favorite projects include "Nobody’s Perfect", a bilingual musical in English and American Sign Language, with creators Marlee Matlin and Doug Cooney, and "Perdida", a Mexican folk musical based on Shakespeare’s "Winters Tale", with Salt Lake Acting Company’s playwright-in-residence Kathleen Cahill.

**Chelsea Clinton** is a writer and global health advocate. The daughter of former President Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton, Chelsea now works with the Clinton Foundation and Clinton Global Initiative, including taking a prominent role at the foundation with a seat on its board. Clinton has authored many children’s books in addition to book for adults on global health policy.
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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 She's Persisted has one of the items listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elements</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Characters</td>
<td>The different people, animals, or creatures in a story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Setting</td>
<td>The places where the story takes place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem</td>
<td>What challenges do the characters face?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solution</td>
<td>How are these challenges solved?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plot</td>
<td>The beginning, middle, and end of a story</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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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: Pre-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. Who was your favorite historical figure? 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?