

SPELLBOUND*THEATRE

a brooklyn-based theatre for the very young

presents:



A Resource Guide for Teachers

"Growing takes warmth and rest... and time."

Note to Teachers:

The show your class is going to see is called "Before We Grew". It is a gentle and beautiful story that explores the Brooklyn of the past in a multi-sensory experience that is designed to engage young children at a variety of developmental levels. The audience follows the boy Henrik as he explores the rich environment surrounding his house.

This guide will provide you with a social story and various classroom activities to prepare your students for the performance. It will also show you what Blueprint Theater Standards these activities meet. You can use these activities to both introduce the children to the show and to extend the learning after they have seen "Before We Grew".

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We wish you all a wonderful experience!

Spellbound Theatre

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“Before We Grew”
Social Story

Today, actors from Spellbound Theatre will put on a puppet play called “Before We Grew.”

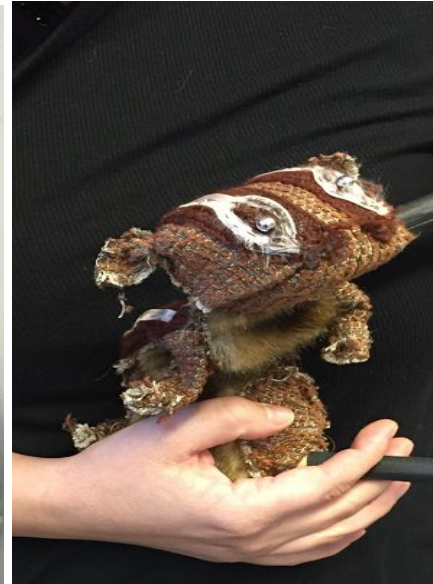


**The actors and puppets are the
characters in the play.**

This is Henrik.



The actors also use objects called props.
Props are different items the actors use during the play.



**The puppets and actors will talk to the audience and
may talk to me.**

I can respond, but I do not have to.



They will also use their bodies to communicate. The actors and puppets will visit everyone during the play. They might ask me to help them.



**I will learn about New York City
a long, long time ago.**



During the play, the puppets and actors may ask questions. People might shout out their answers.



I can answer the questions out loud if I want to.

**The play can be funny. People might laugh.
I can laugh too.**



**People will clap when they like something during the play. I can clap if I like what I see or hear.
People clap for a short time.**



**If the clapping noise is too loud
I can cover my ears.**



When the play is over, people will clap to thank the actors. I can clap too if I want to.



If the clapping is too loud, I can cover my ears.



**Thanks to Susanna, WT, Henrick and our new animal friends
we will learn what we need to grow:**

SEEDS



SOIL



WATER



LIGHT, WARMTH



AND TIME



“Before We Grew”

Classroom Activities

Exploring Storytelling: And then...

Drawing the Story:

- Give students a chance to visually express the story.
- Talk about the play and let everyone draw something they remember.
- Let the students draw freely. Create an original story from the pictures.
- Try different material! Instead of drawing maybe create a collage or a sensory image with cotton balls, newspaper, tissue paper, foam shapes etc.

A QUICK TIP!

Is glue too messy? Use different colored masking or decorative tape. Sticky contact paper is also easy to work with. Just stick material on it and seal with another layer of paper.



Storytelling Activity:

- Have your students circle up and tell a collaborative story.
- You can start by retelling the story about Henrik. What do we remember from the play? How did it start? How did it end?
- Now tell your own story! Each person in the circle can add a word or a sentence. Use puppets, toys or pictures to help tell the story.
- Sometimes it is easier to start with a character. Who is the story about? What is the character doing?
- After the story is over create three **Tableaux** of the beginning, middle and end of the story.

Teacher Note:

Tableaux: A frozen image. The students take different physical poses and together they create a still image from the story. You can take a photo for the class to look at afterwards.

Exploring Puppetry: Henrik

MAKE OUR OWN HENRIK!

Supplies:

- Newspapers
- Masking tape
- Scissor
- Things to decorate with like crayons, fabric, markers, stickers, beads etc.

Making the Puppet body:

- Create a simple newspaper puppet.
- To the right you can find a video with simple steps.

Decorating the Puppet:

- Have the children decorate their puppets. Spellbound Artists used fabric, beads, and ribbons. You can use anything to make a puppet!
- What kind of eyes will they have? Stickers, beads, or drawn with markers?
- After the students create their puppets have them move them around the classroom as "Henrik" going on an adventure.

Adventure Ideas:

- Have the students explore the classroom with their Henrik puppet.
- Maybe he is planting a seed, picking apples or going down the canal.

NEWSPAPER PUPPET

www.youtube.com/watch?v=rbhyXehruSk



Exploring Movement: The Animals

Henrik meets several animals on his adventure including a chipmunk, water bugs and birds!



Explore the space as animals:

Have students explore the classroom or movement space as animals from the show - chipmunk, water bugs, birds.

- In what way do each animal move?
- Ask students what other animals you could see in an orchard or in a forest.
- How would they move? What do they look like?
- What was their favorite animal to move as and why?

Henrik's time and Brooklyn today

This play takes place in the past when Brooklyn was not full of building and houses but of plants and trees.



A Soundscape - Now & Then

- Discuss with the children how they got school today and what they saw or heard on their way.
- Create a "soundscape" together (A "soundscape" is creating a picture using only sounds). Imagine the different things that make sound in the city.
 - First try making this different sounds all together. Then, assign each person a sound or noise and test how they all sound overlapping.
 - Can you make it louder and then quieter?
 - Now create a soundscape that might exist in a forest or a garden.
 - Is this what Henrik might have heard around his house?

Compare and Contrast the two soundscapes!



New York City Blueprint for Theater

These are some of the standards that connect back to the activities in this guide



2nd Grade Acting Benchmark: Students will activate and use their imaginations as well as the analytical and process skills associated with acting.



2nd Grade Acting Benchmark: Students participate in-group activities, including creative play, storytelling, pantomime and improvisation.



2ND Grade Performance Benchmark: Students explore the physical, vocal, characterization and staging components of acting by developing the actor's instrument: the body, voice and mind.



2nd Grade Literacy Benchmark: Students articulate responses to theater performance.

Resource:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/offices/teachlearn/arts/Blueprints/Theaterbp2007.pdf>

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