



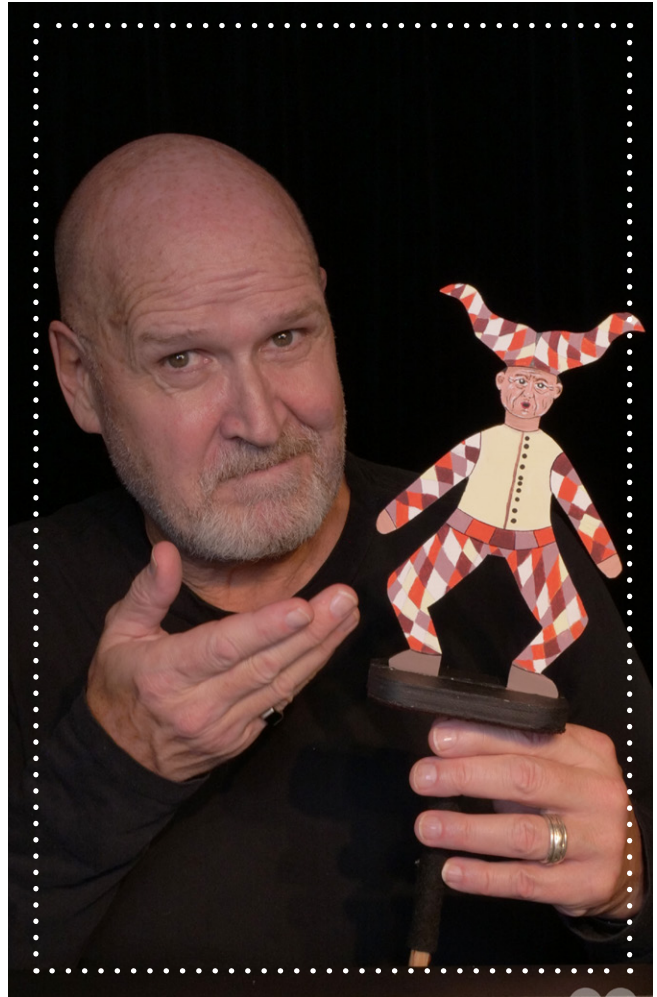
Billy Goats Gruff & Other Puppet Tales

TEACHER RESOURCE GUIDE

Billy Goats Gruff & Other Puppet Tales

TABLE OF CONTENTS

About Playhouse Square	3
About the show	4
Pre-show activities	5
Post-show activities	9
Additional activities	13
Resources	15
Curriculum standards index	16



EDUCATION



The lessons and activities in this guide are driven by the Ohio Learning Standards in English Language Arts (2017).

21st century skills of creativity, critical thinking and collaboration are embedded in the process of bringing the page to the stage. Seeing live theater encourages students to read, develop critical and creative thinking skills and to be curious about the world around them.

This Teacher Resource Guide includes background information, questions, and activities that can stand alone or work as building blocks toward the creation of a complete unit of classroom work.

The lessons and activities in this guide are created and adapted by Davida Pantuso in partnership with Playhouse Square's Education Department.



The Ohio Arts Council helps fund this organization with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans.

Playhouse Square is supported in part by the residents of Cuyahoga County through a public grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture.

ABOUT PLAYHOUSE SQUARE

Playhouse Square is an exciting destination! As the country's largest performing arts center outside of New York, the not-for-profit Playhouse Square attracts more than one million guests to 1,000+ shows and events each year. Five of Playhouse Square's 11 performance spaces are historic theaters that first opened in the early 1920s. By the late 1960s, they had been abandoned. A group of volunteers saved the theaters from being turned into parking lots. Now, all five historic theaters are fully restored.

You'll find Broadway, concerts, comedy, dance and family shows on Playhouse Square's stages, along with performances by Playhouse Square's seven resident companies: Cleveland Ballet, Cleveland International Film Festival, Cleveland Play House, Cleveland State University's Department of Theatre and Dance, DANCECleveland, Great Lakes Theater and Tri-C JazzFest.



ABOUT THE SHOW

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia presents three traditional children's stories through the magic of Story Box Theater, the company's newest digital initiative. *Billy Goats Gruff* follows three hungry goats who must cross a bridge to feast on the luscious, green grass that grows on the other side. To get there, they must cleverly outwit an evil, greedy troll who lurks underneath the bridge, looking to eat anyone who passes, and his favorite meal is goat! In another tale, *Rumpel*, the conniving Rumpelstiltskin makes deals with a miller's daughter to weave straw into gold and in *The Sky is Falling*, a well-meaning young chick runs to warn everyone in town that the sky is falling, after getting hit on the head by a falling acorn.

ABOUT THE BOOKS

The Three Billy Goats Gruff is a Norwegian Fairy Tale and was originally published in 1841 by Peter Christen Asbjørnsen. The first version of the story in English was published in 1859. The story has since had numerous adaptations in literature, film and on stage.

Rumpelstiltskin is a German Folk Tale that was collected by the Brothers Grimm in 1812. According to some researchers though, the origin of the story could be traced back as many as 4,000 years ago. The name *Rumpelstilzchen* in German translates to «little rattle stilt», a *stilt* being a post or pole that provides support for a structure. A *rumpelstilt* or *rumpelstilz* was consequently the name of a type of goblin, that makes noises by rattling posts and tapping on planks. A similar story pattern to the Brothers Grimm tale also appears in numerous other cultures and languages under different names.

The story of *Chicken Little* was part of the European oral folk tradition under the name *Henny Penny* and only began to appear in print after the Brothers Grimm created their collection of tales in the early 19th century. The story has many iterations, but the central theme remains the same. The famous phrase "The sky is falling!" has become a popular idiom in the American culture to describe a person "who warns of or predicts calamity, especially without justification." The story performed by Mermaid Theatre is based on Benjamin Thorpe's *The Little Chicken Kluk and His Companions*, published in 1853.

ABOUT MERMAID THEATRE OF NOVA SCOTIA

Mermaid Theatre is best known for their unique stage adaptations of children's beloved literary classics. Since 1972, their innovative puppetry, striking scenic effects, evocative original music and gentle storytelling has been applauded by over six million spectators in fifteen countries.

The company's choice of material is based on the belief that young people can benefit substantially both in their emotional and aesthetic development, from early exposure to literature, the arts and the power of imagination. The company's objective is to produce work which is good theatre-entertaining, informative and stimulating to all the senses. As important is the goal of

encouraging literacy and generating enthusiasm for the art of reading.



**MERMAID
THEATRE**
OF NOVA SCOTIA

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia returns in-person to Playhouse Square in March of 2022 for the farewell tour of the beloved show *The Very Hungry Caterpillar & Other Eric Carle Favorites*. Please visit our website at PlayhouseSquare.org/fieldtrips to learn more.

■ PRE-SHOW ACTIVITIES

Billy Goats Gruff: Foreshadowing (Grades K-2)

The Ohio Learning Standards listed below are addressed in the following pre-show activity:

CCR.RL.K.1, CCR.RL.1.1, CCR.RL.2.1; CCR.RL.K.2, CCR.RL.1.2, CCR.RL.2.2; CCR.RL.K.3, CCR.RL.1.3, CCR.RL.2.3; CCR.SL.K.2, CCR.SL.1.2, CCR.SL.2.2; CCR.SL.K.5, CCR.SL.1.5, CCR.SL.2.5

Explain to your students that sometimes a story can provide clues that tell you how it will end. Often, those clues repeat themselves. Have students read or listen to the read-aloud of *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* (see resources pages). Tell them that throughout the story they will hear clues as to how it will end. Their job is to find those clues and predict what will happen.

As you read (or listen to) the story, stop each time a goat tells the troll to wait for the next goat. Ask the students what they think will happen. Feel free to use the foreshadowing chart below as you read/follow along.

Foreshadowing Chart

Clue	What I think will happen...
Clue #1 (Little Billy Goat Gruff)	
Clue #2 (Middle Billy Goat Gruff)	
Clue #3 (Big Billy Goat Gruff)	
How the story really ended...	

Rumpelstiltskin Word Mat (Grades K-2)

The Ohio Learning Standards listed below are addressed in the following pre-show activity:

CCR.RL.K.1, CCR.RL.1.1, CCR.RL.2.1; CCR.RL.K.2, CCR.RL.1.2, CCR.RL.2.2; CCR.RL.K.3, CCR.RL.1.3, CCR.RL.2.3; CCR.SL.K.2, CCR.SL.1.2, CCR.SL.2.2; CCR.SL.K.5, CCR.SL.1.5, CCR.SL.2.5

This pre-show activity focuses on pre-reading strategies. Below is a word mat for the story of *Rumpelstiltskin*. Place students into small groups (3-4 students). Explain that you are going to give each group a list containing several words. Each of these words is in the show that they are going to watch, but before they watch the show, they are going to try to guess what the story is about, based on the words or pictures. Ask students to work together to come up with what they think the plot of the story is. Let your students know that there are no right or wrong plots. Once they have developed their plot ideas, allow students to share their ideas. Groups can either present their plot idea to the entire class, or each group can partner with another group to share their idea (this is helpful if you are limited on time). Once each group has been able to share, tell the class that you will watch the show and remind students to pay close attention for these words. After you finish

watching the show, hold a discussion with your students about each of the words on the word mat. Discuss the role that each of the words played in the story.

Modifications:

1. For emerging readers, provide them with photos to go along with each word.
2. If you think your students are familiar with the story, omit Rumpelstiltskin from the word map.
3. It might be helpful to refer to the Miller in the story as Mr. Miller, and Mr. Miller's daughter for this activity.

Rumpelstiltskin word mat



The Moral of Chicken Little (Grades K-2)

The Ohio Learning Standards listed below are addressed in the following pre-show activity:

CCR.RL.K.1, CCR.RL.1.1, CCR.RL.2.1; CCR.RL.K.2, CCR.RL.1.2, CCR.RL.2.2; CCR.RL.K.3, CCR.RL.1.3, CCR.RL.2.3; CCR.SL.K.2, CCR.SL.1.2, CCR.SL.2.2; CCR.SL.K.5, CCR.SL.1.5, CCR.SL.2.5

The third puppet tale you will see performed by Mermaid Theater of Nova Scotia is *The Sky is Falling*. Tell your students that the show they will watch is based off a folk tale usually referred to as *Chicken Little*. Explain to the students what a folk tale is and how the moral plays a part in the overall message of the story.

Have students read or listen to the read-aloud of *Chicken Little* (see resources page). Tell your students that they will need to pay attention to see if they can determine what the moral of the story is. In addition, students should be able to discuss the characters and the overall plot of the story. Feel free to use the story board on the following page to aid in your discussion as a class.

Key Terms:

Folk Tale- A folk tale is an old story that's been told again and again, often for generations. Folk tales are stories in the oral tradition, or tales that people tell each other out loud, rather than stories in written form. They're closely related to many storytelling traditions, including fables, myths, and fairy tales.

Moral- A moral is a type of message that teaches someone a life lesson, such as what is right or wrong, how to make decisions, or how to treat other people.



What is the Moral of *Chicken Little*?

Characters		
Beginning	Middle	End
Moral		

■ POST-SHOW ACTIVITIES

Billy Goats Gruff: Retelling (Grades K-2)

The Ohio Learning Standards listed below are addressed in the following post-show activity:
CCR.RL.K.1, CCR.RL.1.1, CCR.RL.2.1; CCR.RL.K.2, CCR.RL.1.2, CCR.RL.2.2; CCR.RL.K.3, CCR.RL.1.3,
CCR.RL.2.3; CCR.SL.K.2, CCR.SL.1.2, CCR.SL.2.2; CCR.SL.K.5, CCR.SL.1.5, CCR.SL.2.5

Using the graphic organizer below, have students retell the story of *Billy Goats Gruff* through pictures or written words.

Retelling *Billy Goats Gruff*

Characters		Setting	
First	Next	Then	Last

Rumpel: Elements of a Fairytale (Grades K-2)

The Ohio Learning Standards listed below are addressed in the following post-show activity:

CCR.RL.K.1, CCR.RL.1.1, CCR.RL.2.1; CCR.RL.K.2, CCR.RL.1.2, CCR.RL.2.2; CCR.RL.K.3, CCR.RL.1.3, CCR.RL.2.3; CCR.SL.K.2, CCR.SL.1.2, CCR.SL.2.2; CCR.SL.K.5, CCR.SL.1.5, CCR.SL.2.5

This post-show activity will allow students to identify elements of a fairytale that were in *Rumpel*. These elements include the use of magic, royalty, the number three, good characters and bad characters. For each element, have students write or draw how that element

was used in the show. Encourage students to refer to the word mat (see pre-show activity), and to use those words/images as they describe how the elements were used. Some words/images may fit into multiple elements.

Elements of a Fairytale

Magic	Royalty
The number three (3)	
Good Characters	Bad Characters

Chicken Little with a Twist (Grades K-2)

The Ohio Learning Standards listed below are addressed in the following post-show activity:

CCR.RL.K.1, CCR.RL.1.1, CCR.RL.2.1; CCR.RL.K.2, CCR.RL.1.2, CCR.RL.2.2; CCR.RL.K.3, CCR.RL.1.3, CCR.RL.2.3; CCR.RL.K.9, CCR.RL.1.9, CCR. RL.2.9; CCR.SL.K.2, CCR.SL.1.2, CCR.SL.2.2; CCR.SL.K.5, CCR.SL.1.5, CCR.SL.2.5

Folk tales are often rewritten with a modern twist. The story of *Chicken Little* has been retold for centuries in many different countries and languages, and even has different characters depending on who is telling the story. Have your students listen to The Fable Cottage's modern take on the story of *Chicken Little* (see resources page)

and compare this version to Mermaid Theater of Nova Scotia's *The Sky is Falling*. After watching the video, hold a discussion about the similarities and differences between the characters, the setting, the plot and the moral. To help aid in this discussion, use the graphic organizer on the following page.



Chicken Little with a Twist

	Similarities between the stories
Good Characters	
Evil Characters	
Setting	
Moral	

Differences between the stories		
Mermaid TV's <i>The Sky is Falling</i>		Fable Cottage's <i>Chicken Little</i>
	Good Characters	
	Evil Characters	
	Setting	
	Moral	

■ ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Author Study

While there are several versions of the three stories used in Mermaid Theater's puppet shows, this resource guide selected author Paul Galdone's versions to discuss in this activity.

Paul Galdone has a series of 15 folk tale classics (see resources page) that would work great for an author's study. Below are some activity ideas to use if you are interested in conducting an author study. (Activity modified from The Classroom Nook)

1. Create a word cloud of different types of words used in the stories. You can focus on new words, descriptive words, alliteration, or other types of words.
2. To help develop fluency, allow students to create their own puppets for a story and have them put on a puppet play.
3. Paul Galdone was born in Budapest, Hungary. Have students research Budapest and then create a travel brochure of the city.
4. At the end of your author study, create a graph of students' favorite books or characters.
5. At the end of your author study, create a class 'quilt' by having students draw their favorite scene.
6. Create an attribute chart

Sample attribute chart:

Title	Good Characters	Evil Characters	Problem	Solution	Setting	Moral*	Use of the Number Three	Magic*	Other Things They Notice

**these may not be applicable for all stories.*

Puppet Shows

Included with this show are videos of our friends from Mermaid Theater of Nova Scotia teaching children how to create puppets. Below is a table that includes the materials needed for each of the puppets that they create.

Benefits of Building Puppets & Puppet Play:

Puppet play engages and entertains children while supporting important and key developmental phases.

Children have fun while developing:

- Stronger language and listening skills
- A greater understanding of complex relationships
- Improved memory/recall skills
- Increased fine motor skills
- Increased problem-solving skills
- Critical and creative thinking
- Creative play in a risk-free environment
- Mathematical skills

Puppet	Materials Needed
Bird	Construction or Posterboard Paper (any color) Tape Scissors (child-safe or adult can help cut) Marker Decorations (anything you want)
Bat	Construction or Posterboard Paper (any color you want) Tape Scissors (child-safe or adult can help cut) Marker Stick Yarn Straw Decorations (anything you want) Buttons
Pillowcase	Newspaper Marker Elastic (rubber) bands Tape Pillowcase Glue (hot), masking tape can be used too Decorations (anything you want) Buttons Hat Bowtie

RESOURCES



READING

Asbjørnsen, P. C., & Galdone, P. (1973). *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. New York: Houghton Mifflin/Clarion Books.

Grimm, W., Grimm, J., Zipes, J., & Dezsö, A. (2014). *The Original Folk and Fairy Tales of the Brothers Grimm: The Complete First Edition*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Benjamin Thorpe, *Yule-Tide Stories: A Collection of Scandinavian and North German Popular Tales and Traditions, from the Swedish, Danish, and German*, (London: Henry G. Bohn, 1853), pp. 421-22.

Chicken Little by Oakley Graham

Rumpelstiltskin by Paul O. Zelinsky

Read Alouds

The Three Billy Goats Gruff - Fairytales and Stories for Children READ ALOUD. *Little Cozy Nook*.

<https://youtu.be/Q7SxEzH1iaE>

Rumpelstiltskin read-aloud. *Mr. Alicea's Arcade of Knowledge*. <https://youtu.be/HFTIjBf1efs>

Chicken Little Read Aloud #1. *Ms. Amber's International Classroom* <https://youtu.be/6fRWRCGI44>

Chicken Little Read Aloud #2. *The Fable Cottage*. https://youtu.be/-_b_G-hAM3o

Books by Paul Galdone

Galdone, Paul (1981). *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. HMH Books for Young Readers. Ages 4-7.

Paul Galdone (2013). *Rumpelstiltskin*. *Clarion Books*.

Galdone, Paul (2013). *Henny Penny: A Folk Tale Classic*. *HMH Books for Young Readers*. *Clarion Books*.

Galdone, Paul & Galdone, Joanna (1984). *The Three Little Pigs*. *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt*.

Galdone, Paul (1985). *The Little Red Hen*. *Clarion Books*.

Galdone, Paul (2001). *Nursery Classics: A Galdone Treasury*. *Clarion Books*.

Galdone, Paul (2009). *Three Little Kittens*. *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt*.

Galdone, Paul (2009). *The Gingerbread Boy*. *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt*.

Galdone, Paul (2011). *The Three Bears*. *Clarion Books*.

Galdone, Joanna, Giblin, James, Galdone, Paul, & Lear, Edward (2013). *The Owl and the Pussycat*. *Clarion Books*.

Galdone, Paul (2013). *Jack and the Beanstalk*. *Clarion Books*.

Galdone, Paul (2015). *The Elves and the Shoemaker*. *Clarion Books*.

Galdone, Paul (2016). *The Teeny-Tiny Woman*. *Clarion Books*.

Galdone, Paul & Galdone, Joanna (2016). *Puss in Boots*. *Clarion Books*.

Galdone, Paul (2017). *Cat Goes Fiddle-i-Fee*. *Clarion Books*.

CURRICULUM STANDARDS INDEX

Standard	Description	Grade	Activity	Page
CCR.RL.K.1	With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text.	K	All activities	5-14
CCR.RL.K.2	With prompting and support, retell familiar stories, including key details.	K	All activities	5-14
CCR.RL.K.3	With prompting and support, identify characters, settings, and major events in a story.	K	All activities	5-14
CCR.RL.K.9	With prompting and support, compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in familiar stories.	K	Chicken Little with a Twist	11
CCR.SL.K.2	Confirm understanding of a text read aloud or information presented in various media and other formats.	K	All activities	5-14
CCR.SL.K.5	Add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions as desired to provide additional detail.	K	All activities	5-14
CCR.RL.1.1	Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.	1	All activities	5-14
CCR.RL.1.2	Retell stories, including key details, and demonstrate understanding of their central message or lesson.	1	All activities	5-14
CCR.RL.1.3	Describe characters, settings, and major events in a story, using key details.	1	All activities	5-14
CCR.RL.1.9	Compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in stories.	1	Chicken Little with a Twist	11
CCR.SL.1.2	Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented in various media and other formats.	1	All activities	5-14
CCR.SL.1.5	Add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions when appropriate to clarify ideas, thoughts, and feelings.	1	All activities	5-14
CCR.RL.2.1	Ask and answer such questions as <i>who</i> , <i>what</i> , <i>where</i> , <i>when</i> , <i>why</i> , and <i>how</i> to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.	2	All activities	5-14
CCR.RL.2.2	Recount stories, including fables and folktales from diverse cultures, and determine their central message, lesson, or moral.	2	All activities	5-14
CCR.RL.2.3	Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.	2	All activities	5-14
CCR.RL.2.9	Compare and contrast two or more versions of the same story by different authors or from different cultures.	2	Chicken Little with a Twist	11

CURRICULUM STANDARDS INDEX

CCR.SL.2.2	Retell or describe key ideas or details from a text read aloud or information presented in various media and other formats.	2	All activities	5-14
CCR.SL.2.5	Create audio recordings of stories or poems; add drawings or other visual displays to stories or recounts of experiences when appropriate to clarify ideas, thoughts, and feelings.	2	All activities	5-14

