



Arts Education for Young People

THE SNOW QUEEN

Teacher Guide

Kupferberg Center Performances

The Teacher Guide provides background information, Learning Standards, and pre- and post-concert activities that coordinate with the performance and the Student Guide to encourage learning across the curriculum. For your convenience, this guide is also available as a .pdf on our website. Visit KupferbergCenter.org/revelations and click on "Teacher Guides" for direct links to suggested websites.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

The Hudson Vagabond Puppets, under the artistic direction of founder Lois Bohovesky, tours nationally and internationally, performing for children and their families in concert halls, theaters, and schools. Ms. Bohovesky has designed and built hundred of puppets. She studied puppetry with Bill Baird, dancing with Eric Hawkins, and has worked at Henson Associates, where she built puppets for *The Great Muppet Caper*. In addition to directing Hudson Vagabond Puppets, Ms. Bohovesky presents workshops on puppet manipulation, construction, character study, and improvisation.

This original production by Hudson Vagabond Puppets is based on the story by Hans Christian Andersen, and combines elements of ballet, puppetry, and theatre. The story is narrated and set to music. Costumes and scenery also play an important role in making the story come to life.

GET READY FOR THE SHOW

Read a version of "The Snow Queen" to your students, and guide them through the following activities, adapting them to suit your grade level, as class or take-home activities.

📖 On-line Text: <http://hca.gilead.org.il/>

Site includes chronological listing of stories with full texts (click to access), biography, web links, etc.

CURRICULUM FOCUS: LANGUAGE ARTS

Pre-Concert Activity 1: Read "The Snow Queen" (and other tales) by Hans Christian Andersen

NYC English Language Arts Learning Standard: 1b

Coordinate with Student Guide: "Once Upon A Time" and "Hans Christian Andersen"

"The Snow Queen" is Hans Christian Andersen's poignant tale about a young boy, Kay, whose heart is stolen by the evil Snow Queen, and the brave girl, Gerda, who wins him back with the warmth of her love. On Gerda's perilous journey through magical lands, she encounters a talking reindeer, a snow monster, some very funny "devils," and a little robber girl. It is a timeless story of love and hate, innocence and evil that delivers a simple message about loyalty between friends.

Pre-Concert Activity 2: Create a character web

NYC English Language Arts Learning Standard: 5a

Teaching Point: We can learn about characters in a story by how they act, what they say, and by what other characters say about them.

Coordinate with Student Guide: "What's in a Story?"

Here are possible responses for the character web, in addition to those listed in the Student Guide.

GERDA

Determined (Old Witch couldn't stop her search)
Trusting (followed a crow, hoping it would help her)
Innocent (befriended the Robber Girl)
Courageous (ventured through cold, unfamiliar lands)
Faithful (resisted many temptations and never gave up)

KAY

Dependent (needed Gerda to help him)
Innocent (couldn't recognize evil)
Unfaithful (love not strong enough to withstand magic)

SNOW QUEEN

Powerful (took what she wanted)
Trusting (followed a crow, hoping it would help her)
Selfish (didn't care how others felt)
Lonely (no one loved her)

Pre-Concert Activity 3: Create a Storyboard

NYC English Language Arts Learning Standard: 5a

Teaching Point: We can learn about a story by charting the plotline on a storyboard.

Coordinate with Student Guide: "Storyboard"

On a separate sheet of drawing paper, follow the outline for the storyboard as illustrated in the Student Guide. For older children, add 3 more panels, by dividing the paper in half lengthwise. Let class discussion precede activity:

1. Where does the story take place?
2. How would you illustrate the different places?
3. What event started the action?
4. What problems did Kay face and how did he solve them?
5. Why do you think the author used the word ETERNITY?
6. What problems did Gerda face, and how did she solve them?
7. How does the story end?

Post-Concert Activity: Write a critical review of "The Snow Queen" performance

NYC English Language Arts Learning Standards: 2a, 4a, 4b, 5a, 5b

Teaching Point: We can critique a performance by observing, and then writing about the things we liked and the things we didn't like about the performance.

Reviewing the show helps children analyze and articulate a critical response to the art. Use the questions below as a guide for students to follow when writing their review. Write questions on chart paper and elicit several individual and perhaps contrasting responses, writing each response underneath the question to which it refers.

1. What words best describe the show?
2. What did you like best or least about the show?
3. What characters appealed to you and why?
4. What surprised you?
5. How did the music, costumes and scenery add or detract from the story?
6. Describe your feelings during the show?
7. How did the performance differ from the written story? Is that good or bad?
8. Would you recommend the show to others? Support your recommendation.

Extension Activities:

Read other Andersen folk tales with your class. Develop character webs or storyboards for each tale. Compare the written stories with movie versions with which children are familiar. Have children write reviews comparing the two versions. How do the versions complement each other or add something different? Have children write a script based on a favorite tale. Assign roles and let children act out their show using paper bag puppets.

CURRICULUM FOCUS: VISUAL ARTS

Activity: Make simple puppets
NYC Arts Learning Standards: 1 and 2

Coordinate with Student Guide: "The Puppets" and "Make Your Own Puppets"

Teaching Point: We can retell a story by making puppets of the characters in the story. Choose materials that will visually describe your characters. Add details that show the personalities of your characters.

Scrap Puppets: Don't throw it away! Scrap puppets are fun, easy and quick to make: ε Paint and decorate an old wooden spoon. ε Cut off the fingers from an old glove to make 5 "finger" puppets, ready to decorate. ε Stuff old socks to make sock puppets. ε Collect buttons, beads and pom-poms to make eyes and noses; use leftover wool and fabric scraps for hair; save bottle caps and jar lids to make hats, eyes or ears. ε The Student Guide gives directions to make simple paper-bag puppets.

☞ <http://familycreafts.about.com/od/pupets>

Visit for more ideas about puppet crafts

Finger Puppets: Characters or animals can become easy finger puppets with this simple pattern below. Copy the pattern onto heavyweight paper to create a template. Using the template, create a master sheet of patterns and make enough copies for your class. As illustrated by the sample, each student draws in a character from the Snow Queen story in the center of the pattern. Or, students can draw a snowman, reindeer, snowflake, menorah, Kwanza candlestick, tree, or other character or object associated with the winter season. Once illustrated, cut out the template, form a tube with the side tabs that fit around the finger. Tape in place.

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (LZW) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

CURRICULUM FOCUS: MUSIC

Pre-Concert Activity: Learn about string instruments by listening to music used in the performance.

NYC Arts Learning Standard: 3

Teaching Point: Listen carefully for the sounds the stringed instruments make.

Listen for the high sounds and the low sounds.

"The Snow Queen" is performed to *Concerto Grosso, Opus 6, No. 8 (also known as the "Christmas Concerto")*, by the Italian composer Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713). He was born near Bologna 33 years after the Pilgrims set sail on the Mayflower for America. Corelli was a prominent violinist and composer of instrumental music in the 1700s, and developed techniques for playing violin that are still used today. The *Concerto Grosso*, which has been adapted for an all-strings ensemble for this performance, is a good example of the Baroque musical style. (Available on "Concerti Grossi Op.6, Nos. 7-12" Naxos Cat. # 8.550403.)

Invite a student, parent or teacher who plays the violin to demonstrate their instrument in class. Identify parts of the instrument. Discuss the science of sound and how vibrating strings create sound. How does size of the instrument change the sound? Arrange a display of books in class.

☞ www.centrum.is/hansi Click on "Sounds" and scroll down to find audio samples for violin and cello.

CURRICULUM FOCUS: SCIENCE

Activity 1: Research snow, ice, glaciers, etc. using web-based resources and books

NYC Science Learning Standards: 1a, 3a, 5a, b, 6a,c, 8d.

NYC Arts Learning Standard: 1

NYC Technology Learning Standard: 2

Teaching Point: What would life be like in a land where it always seems to be winter? How would it change the way people, animals and plants would live?

As the winter season advances, tie in a science lesson with this performance, and discuss the phenomenon of snow with your students. Here are some good websites to investigate for ideas and additional activities.

☞ <http://nsidc.org/links/index.html>


Explore "Cold Links," the National Snow & Ice Data Center site -- lots of photos, info, and links.

☞ www.its.caltech.edu/~atomic/snowcrystals/

Explore this site for lots of information and activities on snow crystals and snowflakes.

☞ www.picadome.fcps.net/lab/currl/weather/winter.htm

Great educational and activity links

 www.papersnowflakes.com/index.html

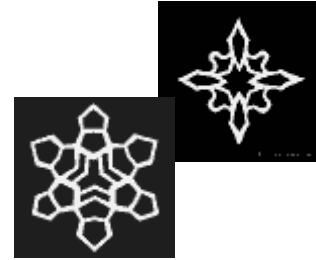
Good source for snowflake patterns.

Activity 2: Self-Sticking Snowflake

You will need:

- ε a snowflake pattern (get ideas from a book or website such as
- ε dimensional fabric paint that squeezes out of a bottle
- ε glitter

- ε zip-lock plastic baggie

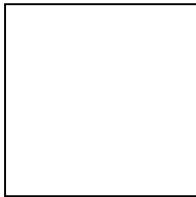


Put the snowflake pattern in the plastic baggie and zip shut. On the outside of the baggie, trace the snowflake pattern with the fabric paint. While it is still wet, sprinkle with glitter, and then carefully shake off excess. Let dry. When completely dry, peel the snowflake off the baggie and stick it onto a shiny surface like a refrigerator or glass window, where everyone can see it!

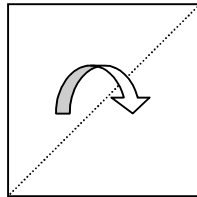
Activity 3: Six-Sided Snowflake

Key: Fold on dotted lines..... Cut on dashed lines.-----

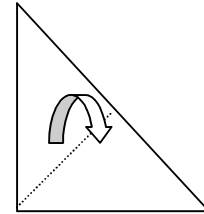
1) Start with square piece of paper.



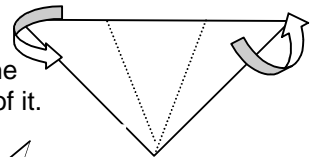
2) Fold in half.



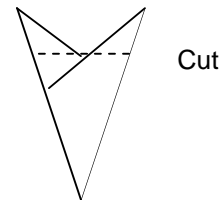
3) Fold in half again.



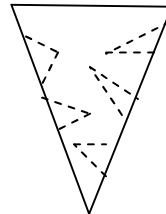
4) Starting 1/3 of the way in from the left side of the top of the triangle, draw a line that extends down to the point at the bottom. Do the same thing, starting 1/3 of the way in from the right side of the triangle. Your big triangle should now have 3 smaller triangles drawn inside of it.



5) Now, fold the left triangle in back of the right triangle, so that its left edge touches the right edge of the right triangle. You now have three triangles on top of each other, with two points on the top. Now, cut off the points at the top



7) Cut any design you want into the long sides of the triangle.



8) Open it up and there's your snowflake!

Bookshelf

Coordinate the snowflake activities with a read-aloud of books such as:

Grandmother Winter by Phyllis Root. Houghton Mifflin, 2004

When it Starts to Snow by Phyllis Gershator. Amazon, 1998

Snowflake Bentley by Jacqueline Briggs Martin. Houghton Mifflin, 1998

Snowflakes in Photographs by W.A. Bentley. Dover, 2000