

PINOCCHIO

Play Synopsis

Act I

As the play begins, Geppetto is making a new puppet. As he works the puppet comes to life. At first Geppetto doesn't believe what he is seeing. The puppet tries to walk, but falls on the floor. Geppetto names the puppet, Pinocchio, and teaches it how to walk. The Blue Fairy arrives and grants Geppetto's wish to have a son of his own. She tells him that when Pinocchio proves he is helpful and honest, he will become a real boy. Geppetto decides to send Pinocchio to school. As Geppetto is leaving, he accidentally drops his money purse that Pinocchio curiously picks up. As Pinocchio heads for school, he meets Fortunato Fox and Katrina T. Cat, who decide to take advantage of the wooden boy. They tell Pinocchio that going to school isn't cool and convince him to bury his purse so a tree of gold will grow in its place. Instead, the Cat steals the money and they tell Pinocchio about the fun he can have at the carnival. The pair then takes Pinocchio to Petrisi, the carnival owner. They convince Pinocchio that he will be the star of the carnival, and then sell him to Petrisi and leave. An unhappy Pinocchio escapes from the carnival and wanders to the Field of Dreams, where he had buried the purse. He decides to sleep there until morning so he can take the gold home to Geppetto. When he awakens and realizes there is no tree of gold, he is very upset. Geppetto finds him and asks what had happened. Pinocchio makes up a story and his nose starts to grow. The Blue Fairy tells him that as long as he lies, his nose will grow longer, but when he tells the truth, his nose will return to normal size. The Blue Fairy tells him it is important to listen to Geppetto. Geppetto tells Pinocchio that he needs to go to school and they leave together. The Fox, Cat and Candito enter and talk about how they have to find children, who never listen to their parents, to bring to the Land of Sweet Things.

Act II

As the Act begins, the Cat and Fox are looking for lazy children for the Land of Sweet Things. They spot Pinocchio, but he tells them that he must go to school because he got into trouble listening to them the last time. But, they convince him that the Land of Sweet Things is the place for him and they all go to meet Candita. As the Fox and Candita work out a deal for Pinocchio, the Cat realizes that maybe Pinocchio should not be left there and tells him to leave. Pinocchio says he will, but Candita tells him children never leave the Land of Sweet Things. They just turn into donkeys. Candita puts a rope around Pinocchio to lead him away. Pinocchio outsmarts him and runs away. As he escapes,

Pinocchio gets lost in the forest and realizes he was wrong in not listening to Geppetto. The Blue Fairy enters and tells him that when he didn't come home, Geppetto went looking for him. When he couldn't find him in the forest or in town, he rowed a boat out to sea. A giant whale swallowed him and now Geppetto is living in the belly of a whale. The Blue Fairy tells Pinocchio that it could be dangerous, but Pinocchio decides to rescue Geppetto. Soon Pinocchio finds Geppetto in the whale and tells him if they escape he will always listen to him, and be a good boy. They make a plan to get out of the whale. The whale sneezes and Geppetto and Pinocchio escape and try to swim to shore. Pinocchio pulls Geppetto to the shore and they both collapse exhausted. Geppetto awakens to find Pinocchio unconscious. Geppetto is sad. He thinks Pinocchio has drowned. The Blue fairy appears and tells Geppetto that Pinocchio is only sleeping. Because Pinocchio has shown that he cares for others and learned from his mistakes, she grants Geppetto's wish and Pinocchio becomes a real boy, at last.

FOR PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND COUNSELORS

The following common core aligned* activity ideas and questions may be beneficial to share with your student(s) before and after the play.

BEFORE THE PLAY:

1. Read the original story by Carlo Collodi. Discuss the events in the story and the choices that Pinocchio makes (RL 2.1). How do the characters respond to the events? What do you think they are feeling (RL 2.3, RL2.6)? Is it important to know right from wrong? How do students learn to know the difference?
2. Ask your student(s) about a time they thought they were doing the right thing, but found out later that it was not. Have they ever felt like Pinocchio? What would they have done if they were in Pinocchio's place? (SL 2.1, SL 2.2, SL 2.4)
3. Share the synopsis of the play with your student(s). How does that compare/contrast with the version(s) of *Pinocchio* you've read? (RL 2.9)
4. If you could make a puppet that would be your friend, what would it look like? Draw and write about your puppet friend. How might it become real? (W 2.2).
5. Present the elements of a fairy tale to the students(s)- kind character(s), evil character(s), magic, life-changing event, a happily ever after, a lesson. Cite specific examples from the *Pinocchio* text(s) you've read. (RL 2.1, RL 2.2, RL 2.7)
6. Help your child(ren) identify different themes in versions of *Pinocchio* (honesty, friendship, life lessons, obedience, bravery). Encourage students to work cooperatively to make text-to-text, text-to-self, and text-to-world connections. Share examples with others in class (RL 2.2, RL 2.9).

7. Talk to your child(ren) about attending a live performance and how it differs from watching TV at home. Discuss what it means when there are many people who want to see and hear the action. How should good audience members behave? (SL 2.2) Tell your student(s) that they will have the opportunity to meet the actors after the play!

**The 2nd grade common core standards used can be easily adjusted to meet the needs and levels of your individual students.*

AFTER THE PLAY:

1. Complete the retelling story map available on www.storybookmusicaltheatre.com by writing about events from the beginning, middle, and end of the play. (RL 2.1, W 2.3)
2. Imagine that a piece of wood starting talking to you! What might it say and why (SL 2.6)?
3. Geppetto loved Pinocchio and looked for him even after Pinocchio had been disobedient. Why do you think Geppetto didn't give up on Pinocchio? Do you know anyone else like this? (SL 2.1, SL 2.2, SL 2.4)
4. Gepetto is granted one wish by the Blue Fairy. If you were granted just one wish, for what would you wish and why? Draw a picture, and add a descriptive paragraph or sentence (W 2.2).
5. Divide the class into small cooperative groups that will re-create selected scenes from the play. Who are the characters? Where does the scene take place? What happens? Students can create masks or stick puppets to be the characters in classroom performances (SL 2.2, SL2.4, SL 2.5, SL 2.6).
6. Extend the themes of the play by giving the following writing prompts (W 2.2):
Narrative – Tell the story of an object that comes to life.
Expository – Pinocchio and Geppetto are coming to spend a day in your classroom. Explain what preparations you and your classmates need to make before the visit.
Persuasive – You learn that a friend is planning to tell a lie in order to avoid unpleasant consequences. Convince your friend that it is better to tell the truth than to tell a lie.
7. Carlo Collodi, the author of the original story, *Pinocchio*, began his writing career as a newspaperman. Pretend you are a newspaperman and write interview questions for a character in the play (W 2.5, W 2.7). If you're adventurous, have a partner answer the questions as that character and publish your class articles.

Other readings to extend the play's themes:

Molly Tells the Truth *Sheila Rae, the Brave* *The Wizard of Oz*



Parent/Teacher Activity & Study Guide



A Musical for Children Based On the Carlo Collodi Tale

Book by **Music & Lyrics by**
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Storybook Musical Theatre is a non-profit, professional children's theatre company operating under a Theatre for Young Audiences Contract with Actors' Equity Association, the union for professional actors and stage managers in the U.S.A.