



STUDY GUIDE FOR

The Gingerbread Man

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TO THE PARENT/TEACHER

This guide has been provided to help children benefit the most from experiencing a live theatrical event. The activities described herein are only suggestions. Please feel free to pick and choose the things that will most benefit your children in the time you have available. It is our hope that the performance is not only entertaining, but is a valuable educational experience as well.

You will find that some of the activities contained in this guide are geared for younger, some for older children-- but there is something for everyone. Please feel free to reproduce and distribute any of the enclosed pages and activities for your personal use.

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Theatre Etiquette

1. Attending a theatrical performance is a social event. Just as the way you act (and behave) in church or temple is different than the way you act on the playground, there is certain behavior that is appropriate in a live theatre. Discuss with your children the types of behavior that is appropriate when they are members of an audience.
2. Explain that they need to act differently when they're watching a live play than if they're watching a movie in a theatre. Live actors can hear the audience's laughter and applause as well as their talking to their neighbor or rustling papers. And their responses-- appropriate or not-- really do affect the actors' performance. The end line is: How would they want to be treated if THEY were up on the stage.
3. Write to the actors. After you see the show, have your students write a letter to their favorite character or draw a picture of their favorite character or scene and send it to the theatre. The actors would LOVE to hear from your students. The actors may even have time to send a reply of some sort to your class (because of the volume of mail they receive, individual replies are probably not possible).
4. Audience Participation. Normally, audience members should never talk during the play--and especially not talk directly to the actors (it distracts other audience member and may even make the actors forget their lines). But the plays by KMR Scripts are unique in that we offer the audience special opportunities to participate in the production. They will probably not be asked to come on stage, but there are various times throughout the production where the actors will ask them questions or ask them to use their imaginations and pretend they are animals, trees, or people. At those times we encourage the audience to participate and/or answer them wholeheartedly (but not in an overly loud yell). Over the years, this has become one of the hallmarks of KMR Scripts' productions.

Activities & Discussion

1. **STORY CIRCLE.** Have the children make up their own version of THE GINGERBREAD MAN. Have them sit in a circle. Pick one child to begin the story and go clock-wise around the circle, allowing everyone a chance to add to the story. You may have to limit each child's contribution to one story event (some children are avid storytellers!).
2. **MEASURING.** Have a child measure one cup of salt in a measuring cup then weigh it on a cooking or science scale. Do the same with flour, pepper, marbles, paper confetti, etc. Explain the difference between measurement of volume (cups, gallons, etc) and weight (lbs, oz) and that because different things are different sizes and weights, one cup of one thing rarely weighs the same as one cup of another.
3. **REVIEW.** Have the students write a review of the play. What were their favorite parts? Their least favorite? Did anything happen that they didn't understand or seemed confusing? Did they like the music or did it "get in the way of the story?" What did they think of the costumes and scenery? Help them understand that their opinions are most certainly valid and will most likely differ from that of others (and that is OK). Being able to objectively discuss their opinions and others' is a skill that will benefit them the rest of their lives.
4. **HOLIDAYS.** When someone wishes you "Happy Holidays," they may not be just talking about Christmas. At this time of the year, many different holidays are celebrated all over the world. Christians celebrate the birth of Christ as Christmas, Jews celebrate Hanukkah, people in Japan celebrate the Emperor's Birthday, and people of many faiths celebrate the Santa Claus part of Christmas. New Year's Day and Kwanza are also part of the holiday season. How do your students celebrate the Holidays?
5. **MAKE A MAP.** Have the students draw a map of the area in which the story takes place. Have it include the house the Gingerbread Man was baked in, Farmer Jones' Farm, the river where he almost got eaten by the fox, the place where he met up with the cow and the dog. They may also show other houses, forests, the ocean, etc.
6. **BAKE A GINGERBREAD MAN.**

3/4 cup margarine (softened)	1 egg (beaten)	1 tsp cinnamon	1/4 tsp salt
1 cup sugar	2 cups flour	1 tsp cloves	
1/4 cup light molasses	2 tsp baking soda	1 tsp ginger	

Mix well the margarine, sugar, molasses and egg. Sift together the rest of the ingredients and add to the sugar mixture. Mix well. Roll out onto a piece of wax paper and use gingerbread man cookie cutters to make the cookies, then place on a large cookie sheet. Bake at 350° for 12 min. or until done. Decorate.

7. **FIND THE GINGERBREAD MAN.** Tell the class that you made a large Gingerbread Man cookie and brought it to share with your students. When you ask one of your students to get it for you--it is gone! (you secretly gave it to another adult in the building to hold for you). Take the students on a search throughout the building, looking for the runaway Gingerbread Man. Introduce the people who work in the building (Nurse, Custodian, Librarian, etc.), have them tell the students what they do, and have the students ask them if they have seen the Gingerbread Man (you might give them clues to give the students). When you finally come across the Gingerbread Man, return to class and eat the cookie!