



STUDY GUIDE FOR

The Smoke-Free Little Pigs

by Kevin M Reese

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.

A Note for the Producing Organization

How to use this Study/Activity Guide

In this age of political correctness and dwindling budgets, we have found that the more diverse a theatrical experience can be, the better. The Study/Activity Guide includes a collection of whole-curriculum activities. If the administrators feel that the play not only meets the entertainment needs of the students, but also meets educational needs as well--you will find it easier to sell your houses.

1. Use parts of it, all of it, or none of it. Feel free to personalize this guide. However, **DO NOT INFRINGE ON THE COPYRIGHT**. In other words, don't change the authorship of anything provided you by KMR Scripts.
2. Feel free to add other activities, coloring pages, or lessons to this guide. This guide was produced to be handed out to all our producing organizations in a six-state region--small communities as well as major metropolitan areas. You may find that some of the activities are more or less appropriate than others. Feel free to modify them for the benefit of your community's needs.
3. Ideally, if going to a school, the guides should be distributed to the teachers of each class **AT LEAST** a week prior to their seeing the production. This will give the teachers time to prepare the students for the performance. They can read various versions of the story, go over the vocabulary words they'll come across during the performance, and go over the audience participation guidelines. The more prepared the students are when they sit down to view the show, the better their overall experience will be.
4. If you place a notice of the web site below somewhere in your program, your audiences will find a section that has some fun things that pertain to the show they have just seen. An especially nice part of the web site is marked for kids. It's a lot of fun and it gives your young audiences another safe place to surf on the net. The KMR Scripts web site can be found at:

www.kmrscripts.com

Theatre Etiquette

1. **Audience Behavior.** 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 are appropriate when they are members of an audience.
2. **Live Theatre.** 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 (they have an email address, too!). The actors would LOVE to hear from your students, and will send a reply to your class (replies to email are not guarantee). PLEASE make sure the **teacher's name and complete mailing address** are included in the packet with the student letters. Because of the volume of mail they receive, replies to individual students may not be possible-- but they'd still love to hear from you!

Theatre Address Here

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 onstage, 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 THREE LITTLE PIGS. 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. **LOTS OF WOLVES.** One of the main characters of this play is the wolf. It seems that many fairy tales, and fables use wolves as main characters (and usually as the villain!) Why is that? Some scholars believe it is because early fairy tales and fables were actually written for adult audiences. The wolves were given human personality traits such as evil, sinister, and plotting--but in reality, we know they really act in natural "predator" ways (they're not "evil" at all). What other stories have wolves in them? What personality traits have they been given for the benefit of the story? What other stories have animals which have been given human personality traits? How do those traits differ from the real, natural animal behavior traits?
3. **DRUG ABUSE.** The Merchant was trying to sell cigarettes, chewing tobacco, alcohol, and drugs to the other characters in the play.
 - a. Discuss why tobacco and alcohol are considered drugs and can be just as dangerous as pot or cocaine.
 - b. The Merchant was pretending to be the Pigs' friend. Would a true friend try to get you hooked on drugs?
 - c. If you are approached by someone who wants to sell you drugs, what should you do?
 - d. Many people think chewing tobacco or pipe smoking is safe behavior. Are they safe?
4. **HEALTHY LIFESTYLES.** The Pigs convinced the Wolf to give up unhealthy habits and start living a healthy lifestyle. Why are some things considered "unhealthy" and others "healthy?" The pigs' mother told them that eating good foods (not a lot of junk food), getting plenty of rest and exercise, and practicing good hygiene would help them live long lives. What are other examples of healthy lifestyle choices? What are some examples of UNhealthy choices?
5. **PEER PRESSURE.** The Merchant tried to trick the pigs into buying cigarettes by suggesting that it would make them "cool." Is it "Cool" to smoke or use drugs? Why or why not? Why do kids start smoking? What should you do if your friends ask you to smoke?
6. **PIGS IN HOUSES.** The three pigs in this story live in houses just as people do. Do pigs *really* live in houses? In what kind of places do real pigs live? Name some other fairy tales where the animals live in houses (Goldilocks & the Three Bears, The Little Red Hen, The City Mouse & the Country Mouse, etc.) Where do real animals like that really live? Take a sheet of paper and on one side, draw where the animal lives in fairy tales and on the other, draw where they live in real life.
7. **MAKE A POSTER.** There were many health messages in THE SMOKE-FREE LITTLE PIGS. Have the students make a "Healthy Lifestyle" poster that points out one of the messages in the play. The poster can refer to the play, or not.

8. Tobacco Advertising and Kids

There is no doubt that the reason there are so many smokers under the age of 18 is due to the advertising campaigns of the tobacco companies. Between Joe Camel, the attractive lifestyles depicted by sexy models used in cigarette ads, the quality merchandise given away by the tobacco companies— kids are inundated with the temptation of tobacco every day. The following activities may help kids see through the fog of deceptive tobacco advertising by allowing them to analyze the advertisements and see the truth behind the ads.

1. So Many Brands

Make a list of all the tobacco products and their brand names. Cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco— what brands are produced by which companies? It's amazing how many brands are out there, and they're made by so few tobacco companies. Doesn't it seem strange that a tobacco company sells more than one brand of cigarettes when they're all basically the same? Why do you think a company would need more than one brand? Who are they trying to reach and how do they reach them?

2. Truth-in-Advertising

Have children bring in tobacco magazine ads and other promotional items. What do the ads want them to do? What is their message and what particular methods do they use to communicate that message? Encourage children to bring in ads for alcoholic products and invite a doctor to come in to talk about how all these tobacco and alcohol ads in these magazines affect kids. Compare the ads for cigarettes with the tobacco ads (just for fun, also compare them to other products such as breakfast cereal, cars, and toys!). Does each brand seem to target a particular demographic (social group)? What's the most attractive/inviting part of the advertising campaign of each brand? Many big businesses are profiting from tobacco-related illnesses. What are the political and economic ramifications?

3. Create Your Own "Honest" Tobacco Ads

The act of creation allows children to synthesize and integrate what they have gained through projects such as the ones mentioned above. Ask the children to think of a product that is ecologically sound and makes a positive contribution to the world. How would one communicate the merits of this product to the people who might have a use for it? Invite the children to make an ad for this product. Now, using the skills they have developed in truthful advertising, have them come up with tobacco ads that are 100% truthful. Display their ads next to some "real" tobacco ads. Discuss the differences and similarities. Work with the art department. Have children bring in magazines and medical journals. Teach them to use collage techniques to make tobacco ads honest. Work with the computer department. Have children team up with the computer wizards in the school, and use computer graphics to doctor-up tobacco ads. Exhibit the children's "honest" ads out in the community; make billboards, t-shirts, and bumper stickers.

9. **Safe Surfing on the Internet.** In order for today's students to compete with each other, computer knowledge and skills are a MUST! Computers have inundated virtually every profession and industry, and the job applicant who lacks computer skills is at a fatal disadvantage. An invaluable computer research tool for schools and homes is the Internet (a.k.a.: World Wide Web). Just as important as knowing how to maneuver around the Internet, is knowing how to maneuver SAFELY. You should use even more safeguards when using the Internet than you use when using the telephone.

This Study Guide contains a list of Internet resources that will further your research in the areas of tobacco use and particularly child/teen smoking. Each link has been checked personally by Kevin Reese, the writer of the Smoke-Free Little Pigs, and are deemed to be safe areas for kids to "surf." There are more safe sites and links located on his company web site: www.kmrscripts.com Just follow the links marked for kids.

Here are some general rules for Internet Safety:

1. Encourage your young students to use the Internet as a great place for learning.
2. Make Internet surfing a family affair. Parents should know where their children are on the Internet. Children should know and abide by the rules set down by parents as to what areas are appropriate.
3. Chatting is fun, make sure it is SAFE. Use the same rules for Internet chat that you use for talking to strangers on the sidewalk or on the telephone. Be friendly but cautious. Guard your anonymity.
4. NEVER give out your screen name and password to anyone on your computer, even if the person is claiming to work for your Internet provider. Once they have that information they can use your account without your knowing it. Your Internet provider would NEVER ask for that information online.
5. NEVER give your address, phone number or other information that would allow someone to track you down in person. Guard your anonymity.
6. Take the time to teach your children how to use at least one of the various search engines available online (Yahoo, Infoseek, etc.). Knowing how to conduct a search will result in productive online experiences.
7. Parents should not be afraid to buy software that blocks objectionable material and sites on the Net. And by all means, use it. One wrong turn or misspelled word in a search engine can end a child up in an inappropriate area.
8. Teach your kids "netiquette": the proper language and decorum of the Internet community.
9. Teach your kids to come to you with any questions or problems they encounter on the Internet.
10. Parents should screen all email written and/or received by their children.
11. Just because the person with whom you are chatting online claims to be a thirteen year-old female, don't take it for granted that they really are who they claim to be. People can claim to be ANYONE within the anonymous world of the Internet. NEVER agree to meet someone you met in a chat room.
12. If anyone ever behaves in a manner that disturbs or frightens your child while online, don't hesitate to contact your service provider and explain what happened. Most service providers also have a way to place a block on the objectionable person so that they cannot make contact with your child again.

Internet Resources

- The Master Anti-Smoking Page - <http://www.autonomy.com/smoke.htm>
“Stop Smoking” Software, Lots of helpful links
- American Cancer Society’s Great American Smokeout - <http://www.cancer.org/smokeout/faq.html>
- American Heart Association - <http://www.amhrt.org/> 1-800-LUNG-USA (1-800-586-4872).
LOTS of Info! National Center for Tobacco-Free Kids
- Americans for Nonsmoker’s Rights - <http://www.no-smoke.org/>
Anti-tobacco Lobby
- Action on Smoking and Health - <http://www.setinc.com/ash>
National organization devoted to the problems of smoking and Non-smokers’ health
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms - <http://www.atf.treas.gov/>
- Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids - <http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/>
Help for kids to see through the smoke of tobacco advertising. Has a club you can join!
- Captain Bio Games - <http://www.biocomics.com/>
Non-Smoking games and comic books. (Works best with Netscape)
- “Fight or Switch - big Tobacco and the Kids” - <http://epn.org/reich/rr980415.html>
Paper by Robert Reich, former US Secty of Labor.
- Florida Kids Campaign Against Tobacco - <http://team.state.fl.us/>
What they’ve done in Florida— you can too!
- From the First to the Last Ash -
<http://www2.wgbh.org/MBCWEIS/LTC/CLC/tobaccohomepage.html#orderinfo>
A FREE Educational Resource/Curriculum
- Joe Chemo (What REALLY happened to that camel guy) - <http://www.wesleyan.edu/spn/joechemo.htm>
Satire on the Joe Camel cartoon.
- KMR Scripts - <http://www.kmrscripts.com>
Web site of the writer of Smoke-Free Little Pigs. Lots of interesting stuff!
- Lung Cancer Information - <http://www.erinet.com/fnadoc/lung.htm>
A pathologist explains the connection between smoking and lung cancer.
- McSpotlight on the Tobacco Industry - <http://www.mcspotlight.org/beyond/tobacco.html>
Lots of info about the top tobacco companies.
- The Mining Company - <http://quitsmoking.miningco.com/>
Lots of info from an experienced Guide who gives you new resources and features every week.
- Photos of Lung Cancer - <http://wwwnmob.nci.nih.gov/lungpics/lungpics.html>
Graphic photos of the effects of smoking on the lungs.
- SMOKE ALARM: THE UNFILTERED TRUTH ABOUT CIGARETTES -
<http://www.pathfinder.com/corp/hbo/hbopr/smokeout.html>
HBO special about teen smoking
- Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) - <http://www.wholetruth.com/>
Great ammunition for kids’ war on smoking.
- “Teen Smoking Campaign Flops” - <http://www.junkscience.com/news/jacoby.htm>
Paper by Jeff Jacoby, Boston Globe Columnist
- Tobacco Education Tools - <http://world.std.com/~batteryb/>
Lots of ammunition to get the message out.
- Tobacco Free - <http://www.tobaccofree.com>
Lots of info for youth anti-smoking
- Tobacco Industry Info Page - <http://www.gate.net/~jcannon/tobacco.html>
Info, litigation, legislation news.
- Youth Media Network - <http://www.ymn.org/>
Peer-to-Peer Tobacco Information Network for youth

This Little Piggy

