

Center for Puppetry Arts® Study Guide



THE STINKY CHEESE Man

Based on the book by Jon Scieszka
By Paul Mesner Puppets of Kansas City, MO

Mar 22 - Apr 10, 2011

Performances Tuesday - Sunday

Call 404.873.3391 to book your group



The Center for Puppetry Arts is supported in part by:



New Generations Program

Doris Duke Charitable Foundation
The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
Theatre Communications Group



Center for Puppetry Arts is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization and is supported in part by contributions from corporations, foundations, government agencies, and individuals.

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The Center is a Member of TCG and Atlanta Performs.

The Center also serves as headquarters of UNIMA-USA, the American branch of Union Internationale de la Marionnette, the international puppetry organization.

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A note from our Education Department

Dear Educator,

Welcome to the Center for Puppetry Arts and to the production of *The Stinky Cheese Man* by Paul Mesner Puppets. Founded in 1978, the Center is a cherished cultural and educational resource in Atlanta. We value your patronage and are delighted that you have chosen us as a teaching resource. Your students are in for a big treat!

This study guide was designed to enhance student learning before and after your visit to the Center for Puppetry Arts. *The Stinky Cheese Man* is a highly entertaining and hilarious show based on the Caldecott winning picture book of the same name written by Jon Scieszka & illustrated by Lane Smith.

All three areas of programming at the Center for Puppetry Arts (performance, puppet-making workshops, and Museum) meet Georgia Performance Standards that have been correlated to each programming area according to grade level, click the links below:

[The Stinky Cheese Man, P-K & K](#)

[The Stinky Cheese Man, Grade 1](#)

[The Stinky Cheese Man, Grade 2](#)

[The Stinky Cheese Man, Grade 3](#)

[The Stinky Cheese Man, Grade 4](#)

[The Stinky Cheese Man, Grade 5](#)

[The Stinky Cheese Man, Grade 6](#)

To access a complete list of GA Performance Standards for all grades and subjects, please visit <https://www.georgiastandards.org/Pages/default.aspx>.

Thank you for choosing the Center for Puppetry Arts for your study trip. We hope that your students' experience here will live on in their memories for many years to come.

Sincerely,

The Center's Education Department

About the Story

The Stinky Cheese Man contains zany versions of classic tales with the fabulous humor that has made this Caldecott Award winning book by Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith so popular. Students will have a great time following Jack, the narrator, through the twists and turns of this wacky tale. Learn the real story of Chicken Licken or is that Chicken Little? And then there is Cinderumpelstiltskin. Will she have to spin her own dress? Will she go to the ball? The Really Ugly Duckling will make you laugh and cry and everyone will leave with a somewhat revised view of that Little Red Hen. The story is not only entertaining but also explains how a book is constructed.

Style of Puppetry

The Stinky Cheese Man is performed with rod puppets. Rod puppets are figures supported by sticks, or rods. A main control rod supports the weight of the puppet's body and extends directly into its head; turning this rod makes its head turn. Rods attached to each hand, usually made of heavy wire, control the movement of the arms.

About the Author

Jon Scieszka was born in Flint, Michigan on September 8, 1954. "Scieszka" is a Polish word that means "path." Jon studied both Science and English at Albion College in Albion, Michigan and considered becoming a doctor. He graduated in 1976, lived in Detroit, and then moved to Brooklyn, NY to write instead. He earned his MFA in Fiction from Columbia University in New York in 1980. Jon Scieszka also wrote *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*, *The Frog Prince Continued*, and the *Time Warp Trio* series. He cannot tell a lie and says that he and the illustrator Lane Smith celebrate the Stinky Cheese Man's birthday on the second Monday of every February.

About the Performers

Gabby Baculi wears many hats at the Paul Mesner Puppets. He is the principal costume designer and has designed and constructed costumes for *Hansel and Gretel*, *Blueberries for Sal*, as well as some of the puppets in *The Nativity* and for *Martha Speaks*. When he is not designing and making costumes, he is a puppeteer in *The Long Story at Corinthian Hall*, *Anansi Returns*, *The Stinky Cheese Man*, *The Daddy Mountain*, and *Bark, George*.

Mike Horner was in the 2nd grade when he saw Paul Mesner perform for the first time. The puppetry bug had bitten Mike several years earlier when his parents were part of a puppet ministry, and he has been enthralled by puppetry ever since. Mike joined the Paul Mesner Puppets full time in 2006 and works as a puppeteer and puppet builder. In 2008, Mike traveled to Germany where he represented the Paul Mesner Puppets as a guest artist at the Hamburg Puppet Theater. In the fall of 2009, Mike performed at the World Puppet Festival in Charleville-Mezieres, France and in Holland, Belgium, and Germany.

About the Company

Paul Mesner Puppets, Inc., founded by Paul Mesner in 1987, is a not-for-profit company located in a rehabilitated inner-city warehouse in Kansas City, Missouri. The company presents a full season in Kansas City and travels nationally to participate in residencies, festivals and workshops, reaching more than 100,000 children and adults annually. The company has received three UNIMA-USA Citations for Excellence in Puppetry for *Sleeping Beauty*, *Wiley & the Hairy Man* and *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*.

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**Puppets from the puppet show,
*The Stinky Cheese Man***

Internet Resources

<http://www.classicfairytales.com>

Read, hear and see animated classic fairy tales at this site and also play some fun games!

<http://www.grimmfairytales.com>

A great website to watch and listen to animated Grimm's Brothers' fairy tales and play lots of wonderful games.

<http://fairytales4u.com/>

Visit this website for a collection of children's stories and fairy tales.

<http://andersenfairytales.com>

A website dedicated to the fairy tales of Hans Christian Andersen. See classic stories like "The Little Mermaid" brought to life!

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/grimm/index2.html>

An incredible website from National Geographic dedicated to the stories of the Brothers Grimm.

http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/mff/fractured_fairy.htm

Visit this site to find a great learning activity all about Jon Scieszka's other fractured fairy tale, *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*.

<http://www.readwritethink.org>

An explanation of fractured fairy tales, plus a great activity that helps you write your own.



Courtesy of Penguin Group

An illustration from the book,
The Stinky Cheese Man

Learning Activities

P-K & K: Comparing Stories Using a Venn Diagram

Georgia Bright from the Start Pre-K Content Standards covered: Language & Literacy: LDI b, d; LD5 a, b.

GA Performance Standards (GPS) covered: Kindergarten, English Language Arts, Reading (Vocabulary): ELAKR5, (Comprehension): ELARK6, (Listening/Speaking/Viewing): ELAKLSVI.

Objective: Students will compare and contrast elements from two different picture books (*The Gingerbread Boy* and *The Stinky Cheese Man*) and contribute ideas for a pictorial representation of the exercise (a Venn diagram).

Materials: Chart paper, colored markers and a copy of the following picture books (see Bibliography section): *The Gingerbread Boy* by Paul Galdone (or any other classic version) and *The Stinky Cheese Man* by Jon Scieszka.

Procedure:

1. First, read *The Gingerbread Boy* and *The Stinky Cheese Man* to your students.
2. On chart paper, make a simple Venn diagram (see illustration below). Draw each circle with a different color marker. Label each circle with the title of the corresponding book.
3. Ask students to recall elements that are the same in both versions. List these details in the space where the circles overlap. You may want to use three different color markers when filling in your chart- one for each circle and one for the overlap.
4. Display Venn diagram in classroom surrounded by student's drawings depicting scenes from each of the two versions.
5. Discuss the similarities and differences. Which one did they enjoy the most? Why?

Assessment: Check diagram for appropriate responses. Check student responses during discussion of similarities and differences.

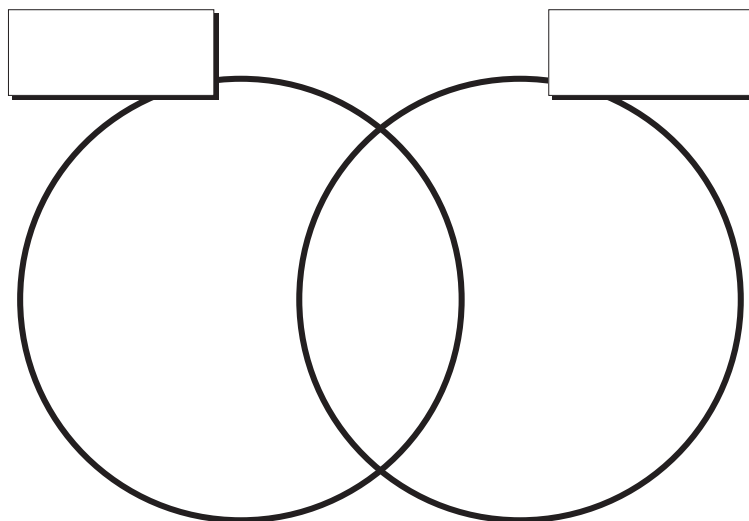


Figure 1. Venn Diagram

Learning Activities

1st & 2nd Grade: Act Out Your Favorite Fairy Tale

Georgia Performance Standards covered: **Grade 1**, English/Language Arts: ELA1R6a,d; ELA1LSV1b, e, f; Theatre Arts: TAES1.1d, TAES1.2a,b,c, TAES1.3a,b,c,d,e,f,g.; Visual Arts: VA1PR.1a,e, VA1PR.3d, VA1C.1a
Grade 2, English/Language Arts: ELA2R4a,h,m; ELA2LSV1b,d; Theatre Arts: TAES2.2b,c, TAES2.3a,b,c,d,e,f; Visual Arts: VA2MC.1a, VA2MC.3b, VA2PR.1a,c, VA2C.1a, VA2C.2c

Objective: Students will create masks and act out their favorite fairy tale in the classroom.

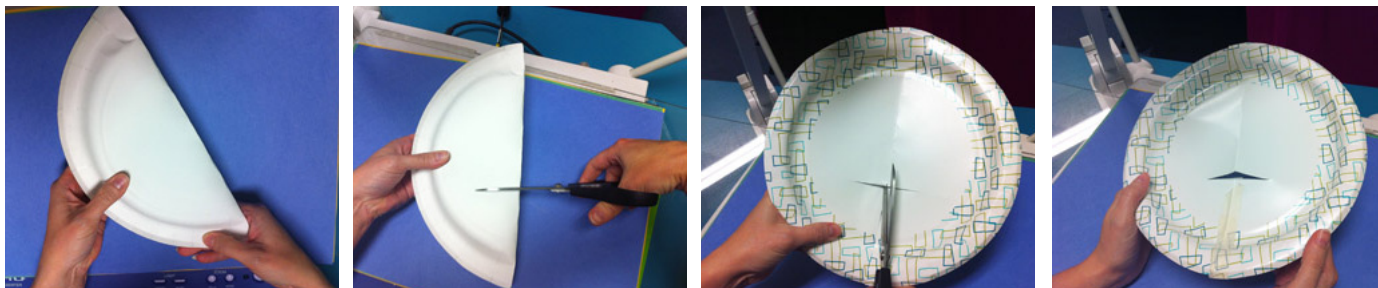
Materials: Paper plates, markers or crayons, construction paper, glue, scissors, single hole punch, rubber bands, a copy of Jon Scieszka's *The Stinky Cheese Man*, and other fairy tales (in either book or electronic form)

Procedure:

1. After a visit to the Center for Puppetry Arts to see *The Stinky Cheese Man*, (or after having read other stories from the book or other fairy tales), ask students to choose a few of their favorite stories to act out in group (please refer to the bibliography and website section of the study guide). Make a list of the stories and the characters in each story. Assign parts to students for each story.
2. Once students have their assigned parts, ask them to make masks of their characters. Give the students paper plates. Ask them to fold the paper plate in half vertically and cut a horizontal slit across the middle of the mask about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way down to make room for the student's nose. (Students must be able to breathe normally in their masks!) Open the paper plate up. Next, cut a slit along the vertical fold from the bottom of the mask up to the nose slit. Overlap the cut edges creating a three - dimensional nose in the paper plate. Next, teachers should help students cut eye holes in their plates. Eye holes should be big enough so that students will have no trouble seeing.
3. Have students punch a hole in the plate even with the eye holes on each side near the edge of the plate. Weave a rubber band through each hole and then back through itself creating a loop. The rubber bands should now be attached to the paper plate with a loop on each side. The loops will go around the students' ears to keep the mask in place while they are wearing it.
4. Have students decorate their masks.
5. Students can write scripts or the teacher can read the story from a book while the students act it out.

Assessment: Monitor student participation. Ask students if they thought their plays were successful – why or why not?

Step 2



Learning Activities

3rd & 4th Grade: Write Your Own Fractured Fairy Tale

Georgia Performance Standards covered: **Grade 3**, English/Language Arts: ELA3Ra,c,e,f,g,j,l,m,n,p, ELA3W1a,c,d,e,g,h,j,n ELA3W2 (narrative writing) a,b,c,d,e,f,g, ELA2LSV1b,d, ELA3C1a-n

Grade 4: English/Language Arts: ELA4R1b,c,d,f,h; ELA4R3a; ELA4W1a,b,c,d; ELA4W2 (narrative writing) a-h; ELA4W4a,b,c; ELALSV1a,b,c,g,h,i,j,k,l; ELALSV2a,c,d; ELA4C1a-c, e-h.

Objective: Students will read a classic version of a fairy tale not featured in *The Stinky Cheese Man* (*Thumbelina*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *Little Red Riding Hood*, etc.). Students will write their own fractured fairy tale emulating the style of *The Stinky Cheese Man*.

Materials: Various classic fairy tales in book or electronic form (refer to bibliography and website section of study guide), a copy of *The Stinky Cheese Man* by Jon Scieszka, paper, pencils, copy of *Attachment A* for each student

Procedure:

1. Read aloud *The Stinky Cheese Man* by Jon Scieszka.
2. Discuss with students how this book represents a “fractured” fairy tale.
3. Next, allow students to choose one classic fairy tale to create a fractured version much like that of *The Stinky Cheese Man*.
4. Discuss what students can do to make a silly version of their story. Write the following on the board for students to refer to during the writing and revising process:
 - Change the main character
 - Change the point of view from which the story is told
 - Change the story’s location
 - Change the time in which the story takes place
 - Create an alternate problem or climax to the story
 - Create an alternate ending
5. Distribute a copy of *Attachment A* to each student to get them started on brainstorming their ideas. Students should use this as an outline to write their own story.
6. Have students share their original fractured fairy tale with the class through oral presentations.
7. Have students identify the changes that were made in each “fractured” fairy tale via oral discussion.

Assessment: Check students work for being complete. Facilitate the oral discussion and check that students understand the concept.

Attachment A: Write Your Own Fractured Fairy Tale

1. The title of my story is: _____

2. In _____, the main characters are _____
_____. In my story, the main characters are: ____

_____.

3. The setting is _____. In my story the setting is: _____
_____.

4. The story takes place _____. My story takes place: _____
_____.

5. The story is told from the point of view of _____. My story is told from the point of
view of: _____.

6. The problem of the story is _____
_____.
The problem in my story is: _____
_____.

7. The story ends when _____
_____.
My story ends when: _____
_____.

8. I'd also like to change: _____

_____.

Learning Activities

5th & 6th Grade: How Do Fairy Tales Change Over Time?

Georgia Performance Standards covered: **Grade 5**, English/Language Arts (ELA):

Reading: ELA5RI a,d,f,g,l,j; ELA5R3a; Writing: ELA5W1a-d; ELA5W2a-f;

Grade 6, English/Language Arts (ELA), Reading: ELA6RC2a-e; Writing: ELA6W1a-d; ELA6W2 (response to literature) a-f.

Objective: Students will compare and contrast classic and modern versions of a fairy tale -- *The Gingerbread Man* and *The Stinky Cheese Man* by Jon Scieszka. Students will report on their findings.

Materials: An electronic copy or book of the classic story *The Gingerbread Man* (see bibliography section), a copy of *The Stinky Cheese Man* by Jon Scieszka, paper, and pencils.

Procedure:

1. Students should find and read a classic picture book of *The Gingerbread Man*.
2. Next, have all students read *The Stinky Cheese Man*.
3. After reading both versions of the story, students should consider these questions:
 - What is the main difference between the two versions?
 - How is the language different? Give specific examples.
 - How are the characters in the story different?
 - How is the plot different?
 - What values are represented in each? Is the purpose of the story different?
 - Why do you think the story has changed so much?
4. Ask students to write an essay stating their observations and conclusions.

Assessment: Have students share their essays with the class. Check for comprehension of discussion questions. Save essays for Language Arts writing portfolios.



Study Guide Feedback Form

The following questions are intended for teachers and group leaders who make use of the Center for Puppetry Arts' study guides.

1. In what grade are your students?

2. Which show did you see? When?

3. Was this your first time at the Center?

4. Was this the first time you used a Center Study Guide?

5. Did you download/use the guide before or after your field trip?

6. Did you find the bibliography useful? If so, how?

7. Did you find the list of online resources useful? If so, how?

8. Did you reproduce the grade-appropriate activity sheet for your class?

9. Additional information and/or comments:

Please **fax** back to the Center for Puppetry Arts at **404.873.9907**.
Your feedback will help us to better meet *your* needs. Thank you for your help!