

Center
FOR Puppetry
Arts

Don
Quixote

*adapted by
Bobby Box*

Activities

Grades 6-8

1. Windmills

Developed in Europe in the 12th century, the windmill was designed to replace animal power in the grinding of grain. By the 19th century, windmills were also used to drain marshlands and pump irrigation water. Steam power, electricity and the internal combustion engine led to the windmill's ultimate decline.



Many windmills around the world were destroyed by the elements, war or neglect. Perhaps those that remain will become appealing again with wind as an alternate energy source.

List the ways that a windmill could help or hinder your community. Be sure to consider aspects of practicality, tourism, and aesthetics.

2. Renaissance Literature

Read the 'About the Author' section of this study guide. Isn't it fascinating that Miguel de Cervantes and William Shakespeare were born in the same year and died in the same year? Both of these individuals are recognized as famous writers of the

late Renaissance period. Read selected works by both of these writers as homework assignments. In class, compare and contrast the writing style and content of Cervantes and Shakespeare.

Grades 9-12

1. Political Expression Through Literature

Quite often, creative works can be linked to political rebellion. Cervantes certainly found himself at odds with the society in which he lived. It was out of his personal conflict with Spanish officialdom that he created Don Quixote.

In 1571 Cervantes enlisted as a soldier in a naval expedition for the king of Spain. He fought with courage at the battle of Lepanto. One of the two wounds he received left his arm and hand crippled. He finally decided to return to Spain, with the hopes that he might be rewarded for his services

and be appointed captain. Unfortunately, he was captured by Turkish pirates and held in captivity for five years. After all this, when Cervantes returned to Spain, the government took no notice of his existence.

Read the 'About the Author' section of this study guide for more details. Can you find actual parallels from Cervantes' life to the Don Quixote story? Form groups and list as many as you can find. List all parallels on the board at the end of class.

2. Spanish Art History

Refer to your Modern Foreign Language & Fine Art Standards for QCC links.

The first battlefields of World War II were in Spain. The Spanish Civil War (1936-39) had a profound impact on artists, writers, and others who strived for democracy's survival. Here is a matching activity that can educate students about Spanish artists and their political works. Consult the Art History section of your local library to view these works of art.

1. Still Life With Old Shoe
2. Echo of a Scream
3. Soft Construction with Boiled Beans: Premonition of Civil War
4. Guernica



- A. PABLO PICASSO
- B. SALVADOR DALI
- C. JOAN MIRO
- D. DAVID ALFONO SIQUEIROS

Did you know?

Two famous artists, Gustave Dore and Pablo Picasso, created works of art about Don Quixote. Check the art history section of your local library to explore these works.

A Quote to Ponder

“We all know that art is not truth. Art is a lie that makes us realize the truth, at least the truth that is given to us to understand.”

Pablo Picasso, Spanish Cubist Painter & Sculptor, 1881-1973.

What is your interpretation of this quote? Do you agree or disagree? How does its attitude compare to Don Quixote's take on life & truth?

Web sites to Visit

<http://milton.mse.jhu.edu:8003/quixote/index.html>

The Don Quixote Exhibit with many links.

<http://discoveryschool.com/spring98/programs/greatbooks-donquixote/answers.html>

Don Quixote - Study questions and answers.

<http://www.studyspanish.com/culture.htm>

Learning Spanish with Don Quixote.

http://www.techserver.com/newsroom/ntn/enter/042298/enter32_26674_body.html

Marathos reading of *Don Quixote* begins in Madrid.

<http://www.sirbacon.org/links/carrquixote.html>

Cervantes, England and Don Quixote by Francis Carr.

<http://www.ctbw.com/quix.htm>

Don Quixote: The Hilarious Madman by Al Prescott-Couch.

<http://wso.williams.edu/~agonzale/quijote/>
Don Quixote de la Mancha.

<http://spanishculture.miningco.com/msub9.htm>
Spanish literature - Spanish culture net links.

<http://dune.srhs.k12.nj.us/www/teachers/quixote.html>

Don Quixote study page.

http://www.dc.peachnet.edu/~shale/humanities/literature/world_literature/cervantes.html

The Cervantes homepage.

<http://www.bemorecreative.com/one/489.htm>

Creative quotations from Miguel de Cervantes.

<http://www.bluepete.com/Literature/Biographies/Literary/Cervantes.htm>

Biography of Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra.

Selected Bibliography

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G.K.K. Chesterton, Marlin, George. The Man who Knew Too Much, Tales of the Long Bow, the Return of Don Quixote, Vol.8 Ignatius Press. 1999.

Selz, Peter Howard. Art In Our Times. Harry N. Abrams, Inc. New York, New York, 1981.

Don Quixote – Study Guide

Synopsis

This production of Don Quixote is adapted by Bobby Box and is based on the 1604 Cervantes classic Don Quixote de la Mancha. This light-hearted comedy presents an alternate reality that unfolds into a hysterical tale of enchantment and madness. Don Quixote de la Mancha, a mad knight, and Sancho Panza, his obedient servant, embark on an adventure that will likely drive them out of their minds. With the slightest humor, Don Quixote exhibits courage and compassion even in his state of instability.

About this performance

The show will be presented in a modified Czech Black style. The puppeteers speak with the puppets, with each other and with the audience in the course of the show. Sicilian rod marionettes are used along with a transforming puppet booth. Box's adaptation will feature a mixture of modern and old English.

About the Author

Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra is considered to be one of the greatest figures in both Spanish and world literature. He was born in Alcala, a Spanish province of Madrid, in 1547 - the same year as William Shakespeare. He received little formal education, but distinguished himself as a soldier in the Battle of Lepanto where he was wounded, leaving his left hand permanently crippled. In 1575, he sailed for Spain, was captured by Turkish pirates, sold into slavery and then ransomed in 1580. It was during this difficult time that he began to write his first verses. Upon returning to Madrid, Cervantes married and worked a variety of odd jobs. He often got into trouble over illegal seizures of property and such and was sent to jail. It was during this period that he developed his ideas for Don Quixote. Cervantes died in Madrid in 1616. William Shakespeare also died that year.

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