

## CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

# Momix Alice



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## Know Before you Go:

- Arrive at the theater 15 to 20 minutes before show time. Allow extra time for Broward County traffic. We are unable to start a show late.
- Please stay on the bus until greeted by a SEAS usher. At that time, please give the usher your BUS document and the usher will escort you to the theater.
- Remember to watch our Know Before You Go Video:

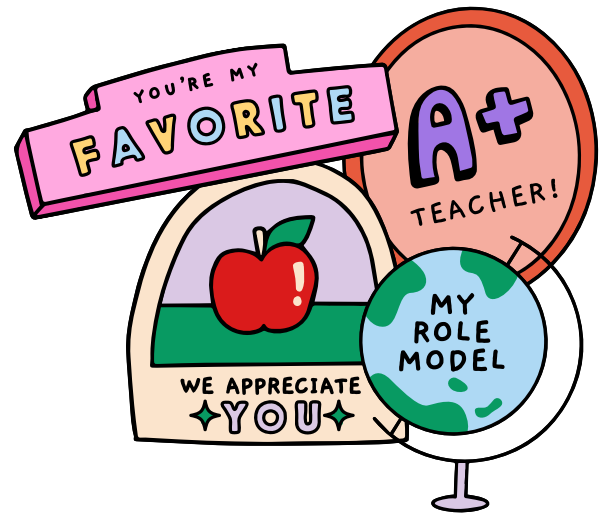
<https://tinyurl.com/ElementarySeasWelcome>

<https://tinyurl.com/SecondaryWelcomeSEAS>



Dear Teacher,

We appreciate you!



This guide can help in your classroom, whether before or after coming to see a play or musical it can be used to highlight important concepts. The curriculum connections introduced by the Broward Center for the Performing Arts are always aligned to the Florida Standards with the idea that they introduce another tool to effectively implement engaging methods to bring the page to the stage.

Curriculum Connections improve comprehension, help students organize information, and assist students' metacognition by enabling students to check for understanding. It is designed to be used before or after coming to the theater unless otherwise stated and may contain activities for certain grade levels (this will be clearly labeled).

Curriculum Connections will always contain a reminder of theater etiquette as well as a social emotional learning activity, and a Student-Family Cooperative Activity. The activities may be re-printed for individual use, used on smart boards as class activities, or in groups. It is suggested to discuss the play or musical as a class before your field trip.

Remember to follow us on Facebook and Instagram @Broward Center Education and use the QR code (below) for our Teacher's Lounge to receive insight about discounted tickets and information for you and your students!

*nothing  
but  
gratitude!*

**MUCH**  
appreciated





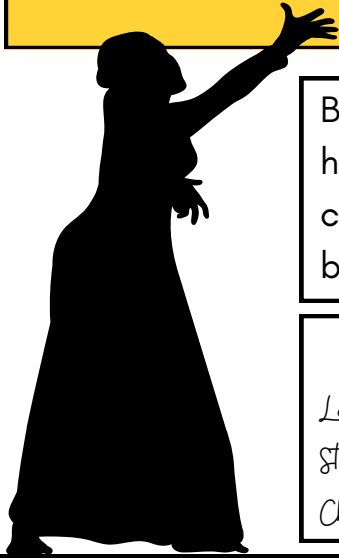
# Theater etiquette

*There is so much that goes into creating a show for the stage. Behind the scenes, there are people who control the lights and the sound, the sets and the props. There are directors, writers, producers, musicians, and choreographers. So many people work together to create the performance you and everyone in the audience watches.*

It is helpful to remind students of appropriate audience etiquette by explaining and discussing WHY these rules of behavior are important:

- Restroom visits are best made prior to the performance.
- Listen carefully to the ushers and your teachers. This gets everyone to your seats quickly and ensures a pleasant experience.
- Turn watches and cell phones to silent.
- Walk single file, hold hand rails as you use the steps for your safety.
- Listen carefully to each performer. They are working hard to entertain and inform with lots of clues about the story.
- Refrain from TALKING. This allows everyone to enjoy the show without distraction. Sometimes we think that if we whisper it is okay. But, if everyone in the audience whispers, it becomes disruptive.
- Laugh if something is funny, but not too loudly, you don't want to miss any dialogue.
- Photography and recording are not permitted.
- Pay attention to the lighting, scenery, costumes and music. All of these elements help provide more details to tell the story in an interesting way.
- Applaud (clap) and laugh at the right moments. This shows the performers that you respect and appreciate their work.

# From Page to Stage



Books make wonderful theater! When adapting a book however, changes must be made to the plot, setting and/or characters to accommodate the length of the play or to help bring the show to life on stage!

*Here are some famous adaptations you may know:*

*Legally Blonde/Les Miserables/The Wonderful Wizard of Oz/Mary Poppins/How the Grinch Stole Christmas/The Color Purple/A Christmas Carol/The Secret Garden/Charlie and the Chocolate Factory/Cinderella/Alice in Wonderland/Beauty and the Beast/Romeo and Juliet*

## Vocabulary to share with students:

**Adaptation:** Something that has changed so that it can be presented in another form.

**Playwright:** A person who writes plays.

**Lyricist:** A person who writes the words of a song.

**Composer:** A person who writes music.

**Author:** A person who writes something such as a book or an article.

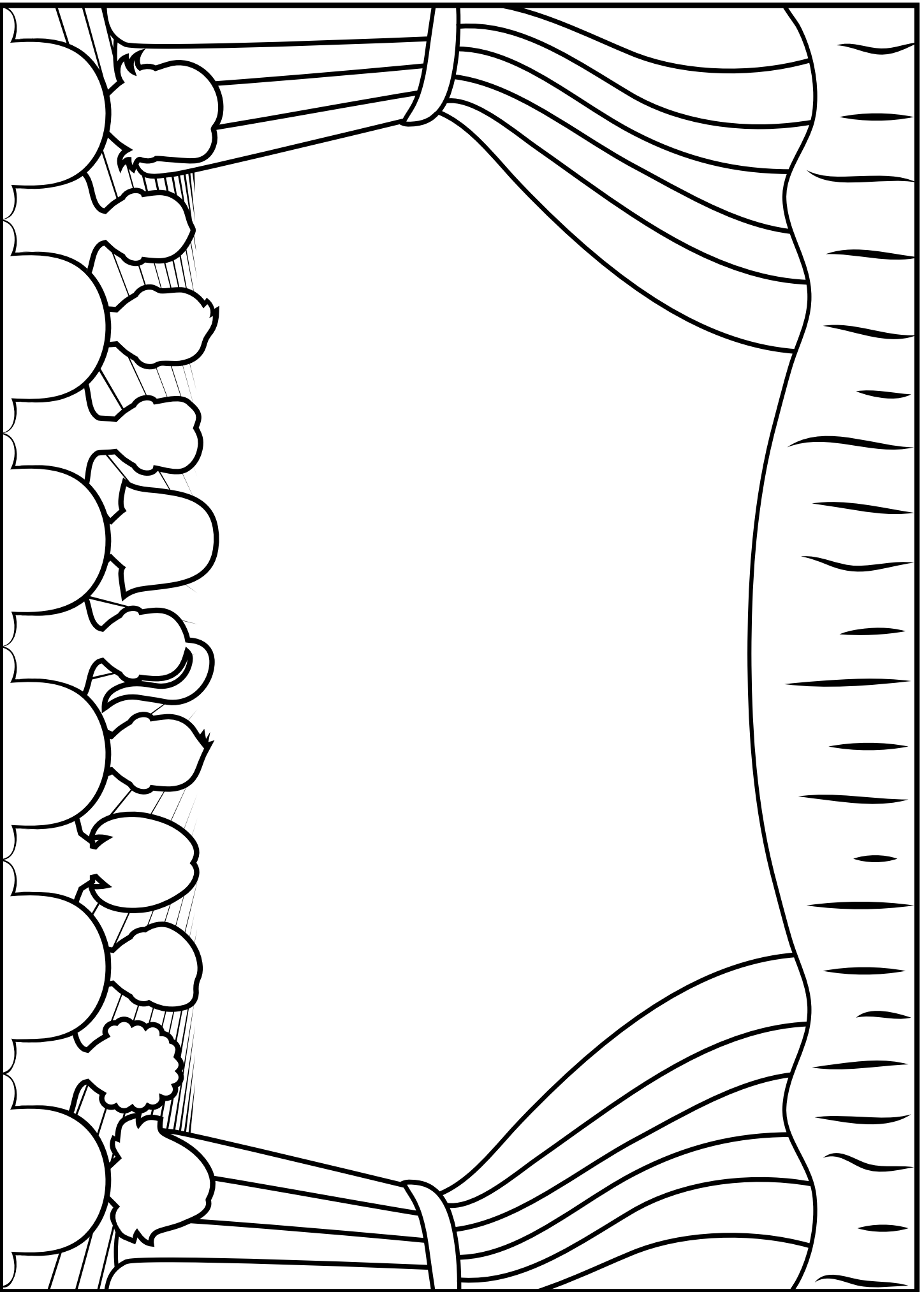
**Characters:** the individuals portrayed by actors in a play or musical.

**Director:** A key creative figure in theater responsible for overseeing the artistic aspects of a production.

## Pre-Show creative questions:

Ask your students, "If you could adapt any book for the stage, which book would you choose and why?" Invite them to draw a picture of the story they would adapt on stage. Define "costumes", "set" and "props" ask students to draw what the set would look like on stage as well as the characters' costumes. (Use the next page to spark creativity)

Choose a book or story to adapt to a play or musical.  
Draw a picture of the set and props and/or actors in costume here.



# MOMIX *Alice*



## About ALICE

Take a multi-media dive down the rabbit hole with ALICE, a MOMIX production that incorporates two classics Lewis Carroll's beloved book that isn't just for children, *Alice in Wonderland*, and the psychedelic rock anthem written by Grace Slick and performed by the Jefferson Airplane, *White Rabbit*.

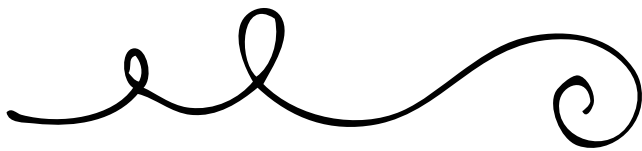
The production features multiple performers playing Alice, plus music, projections, puppets, extreme acrobatics and far out costumes.



For example, Alice reads a book while seeming to float in mid-air, dancers stand on each other's shoulders to control giant puppets, and a humungous wolf spider takes the stage...

ALICE is full of stunning, startling images; joyous, athletic movement; a shifting simmering collage of music, and the technical wizardry of the human body and holographic projections, all delivered with a whimsical sense of humor.

Even though ALICE only tells some of the stories of Alice's adventures in Wonderland, it takes audiences on a complete journey, down the rabbit hole, through the looking glass, and beyond.



## About Moses Pendleton

Moses Pendleton, the artistic director of Momix and choreographer of ALICE, has been one of America's most innovative and widely performed choreographers and directors for more than 40 years.

A co-founder of the Pilobolus Dance Theater in 1971, he formed his own company, Momix, in 1980. Pendleton has also worked in film, TV, and developed choreography for many different organizations, from the Joffrey Ballet to the Deutsch Opera Berlin to the Romanian National Gymnastics team to the opening ceremony of the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi.

# MOMIX *Alice*

## The Inspiration: Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

In 1865, Lewis Carroll - published the children's book *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* which became one of the most well-known works of Victorian literature.

In the story, a young girl named Alice drifts into a daydream while sitting by a river-bank one day, and follows a talking white rabbit down a rabbit hole and into the whimsical, fantastical World of Wonderland where she meets all sorts of speaking animals, animated playing cards, and odd people who don't operate under the rules of formal, polite society with which she is familiar. MOMIX's artistic director Moses Pendleton has been fascinated with Alice and the world of Wonderland ever since he first saw the 1951 Disney animated film.



## Decoding the Show

In the MOMIX show, you'll meet many characters from the original story - including the White Rabbit, the Caterpillar, the Queen of Hearts, Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum, and the Mad Hatter - though they might not all look the way you'd expect! For example, the character of Alice is played not by one performer, but by all five of the female dancers at different points in the show. You'll always be able to spot the character based on her costume - no matter who's playing her, she'll be wearing a flowy white dress!

The show is made up of 22 dance pieces, and only eight performers create all this magic, changing characters and costumes throughout the show. You also won't hear any spoken language in the show - the story of Alice entering Wonderland, encountering different characters, and trying to find her way home, will all be communicated through movement, music, video projection, costumes, and props.



# MOMIX *Alice*

## Dance Vocabulary

**Dance** is a performing art in which the body is moved in a rhythmic way, most often to music. This action can be prescribed or improvised and is often used to express an emotion, idea or story. The category of dance is determined by its choreography, type of movement, or when and where it originated.

**Theatrical dance** is a type of performance presented to an audience. It may include a story, costumes, scenery and/or musical interpretation. Some examples of theatrical dance are ballet, modern and jazz.

### Here are some theatrical dance terms along with their definitions:

**Choreography:** The art of creating and arranging dance movements and sequences.

**Blocking:** The precise staging of performers to ensure smooth transitions and visual composition during a performance.

**Ensemble:** A group of dancers performing together in a coordinated manner.

**Rehearsal:** Practice sessions where dancers learn and refine their movements and routines.

**Stage Left/Right:** Directions given from the perspective of a performer on stage; stage left is the performer's left, and stage right is the performer's right.

**Backstage:** The area behind the stage where performers prepare, including dressing rooms and the wings.

**Locomotor:** A type of movement that travels from one place to another. Some common examples are walking, running, leaping, hopping, jumping, skipping, sliding and galloping.

**Cue:** A signal for dancers to begin their movement or for a change in lighting, sound, or other stage elements.

**Props:** Objects used by performers during a dance or theatrical performance to enhance storytelling.

**Costume:** The clothing and accessories worn by dancers to represent characters or themes in a performance.

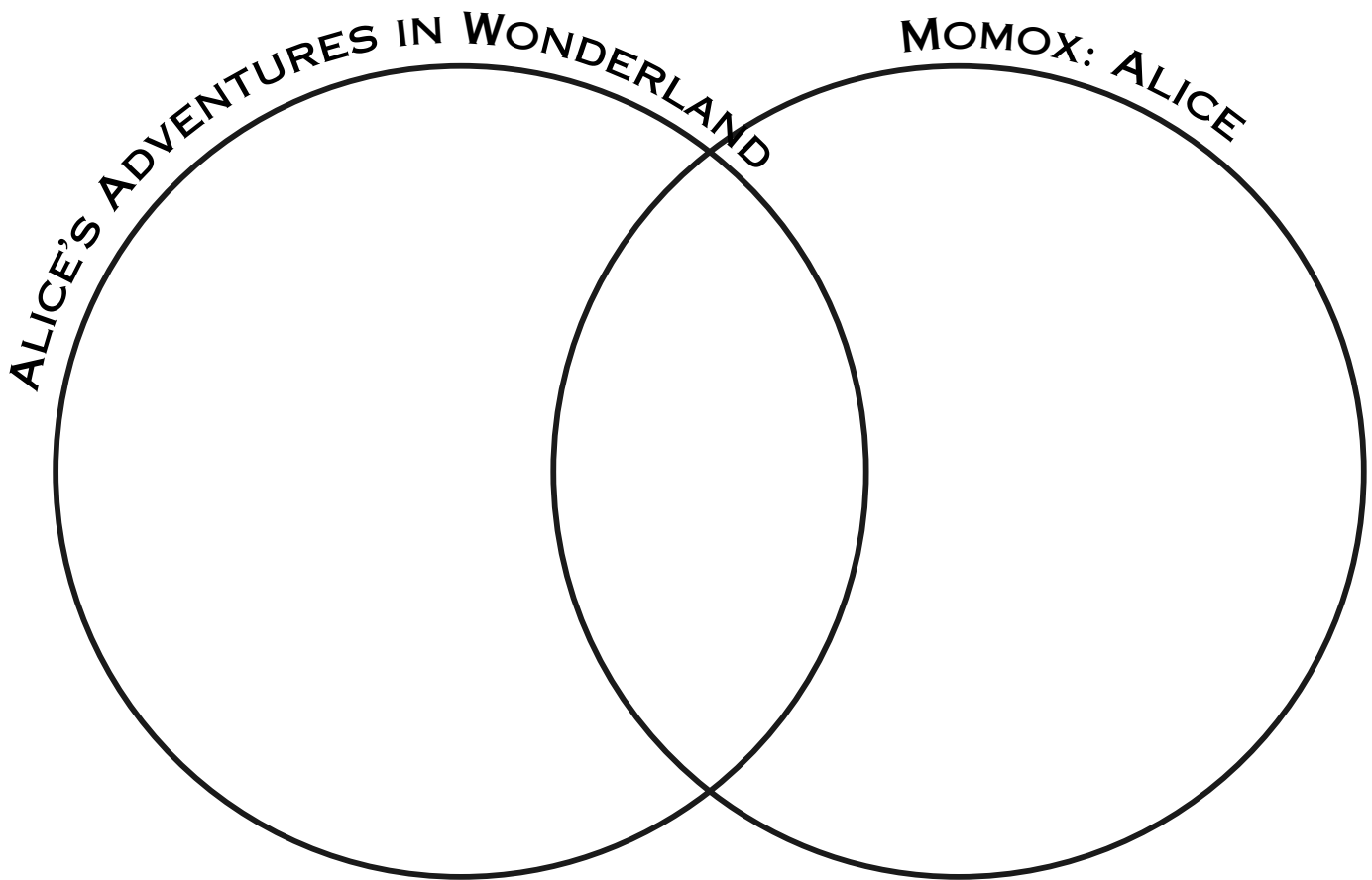
**Levels:** The height of the dancer in relation to the floor. A kneeling dancer would be low, a standing dancer would be mid-level and a leaping dancer would be high, for example.

# MOMIX *Alice*

## Compare and Contrast

### On the Page or on the Stage?

Compare and contrast the original story and the Momix adaptation.  
Map out the similarities and differences on the Venn diagram below.



# MOMIX *Alice*

## Using Context Clues in Poetry Group/Class Work

### Jabberwocky

BY LEWIS CARROLL

'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves  
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe:  
All mimsy were the borogoves,  
And the mome raths outgrabe.

"Beware the Jabberwock, my son!  
The jaws that bite, the claws that catch!  
Beware the Jubjub bird, and shun  
The frumious Bandersnatch!"

He took his vorpal sword in hand;  
Long time the manxome foe he sought—  
So rested he by the Tumtum tree  
And stood awhile in thought.

And, as in uffish thought he stood,  
The Jabberwock, with eyes of flame,  
Came whiffling through the tulgey wood,  
And burbled as it came!

One, two! One, two! And through and through  
The vorpal blade went snicker-snack!  
He left it dead, and with its head  
He went galumphing back.

"And hast thou slain the Jabberwock?  
Come to my arms, my beamish boy!  
O frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!"  
He chortled in his joy.

'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves  
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe:  
All mimsy were the borogoves,  
And the mome raths outgrabe.

Source: *The Random House Book of Poetry for Children* (1983)

### Activity:

"*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*" is a whimsical story that incorporates a lot of language created by Lewis Carroll himself. A great example of this comes from his poem "Jabberwocky."

**Teacher's Guiding Question:** How can we use context clues to figure out what Lewis Carroll means in his poem "Jabberwocky?"

### Class Activity:

- In pairs, assign each pair a stanza from the poem (there are seven) and tell students they need to illustrate what is happening in that stanza. It can just be one picture setting the scene, but they need to use context clues to figure out what is happening.
- Give the students time to close-read their stanza and illustrate the scene.
- When it's all done, hang their explanations up along with their stanzas, so the class can get an idea of what is happening in the poem! It will be fun to see all of their interpretations.



# MOMIX *Alice*

## **After the Show-Write About It:**

1. How did the show meet or break your expectations of dance theatre?

2. How did the show make you feel? Was there a specific moment when it caused an emotional reaction in you? How did it do that? What did the show make you think about?

3. Would you like to go to Wonderland? Why or why not.?

4. What was a moment that seemed magical or impossible? What surprised you in the show? How did the show make you feel at a few different moments?

5. What costume or use of props was most surprising or exciting to you?



# MOMIX *Alice*

## Continue the Learning- Websites/Links/Resources:

- “Alice in Wonderland” Activities:

<https://www.litwitsworkshops.com/the-litwits-explorers-guide-for-alices-adventures-in-wonderland>

- Biography of Lewis Carroll:

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Lewis-Carroll>

- Do You Wanna Dance: Understanding the five elements of dance:

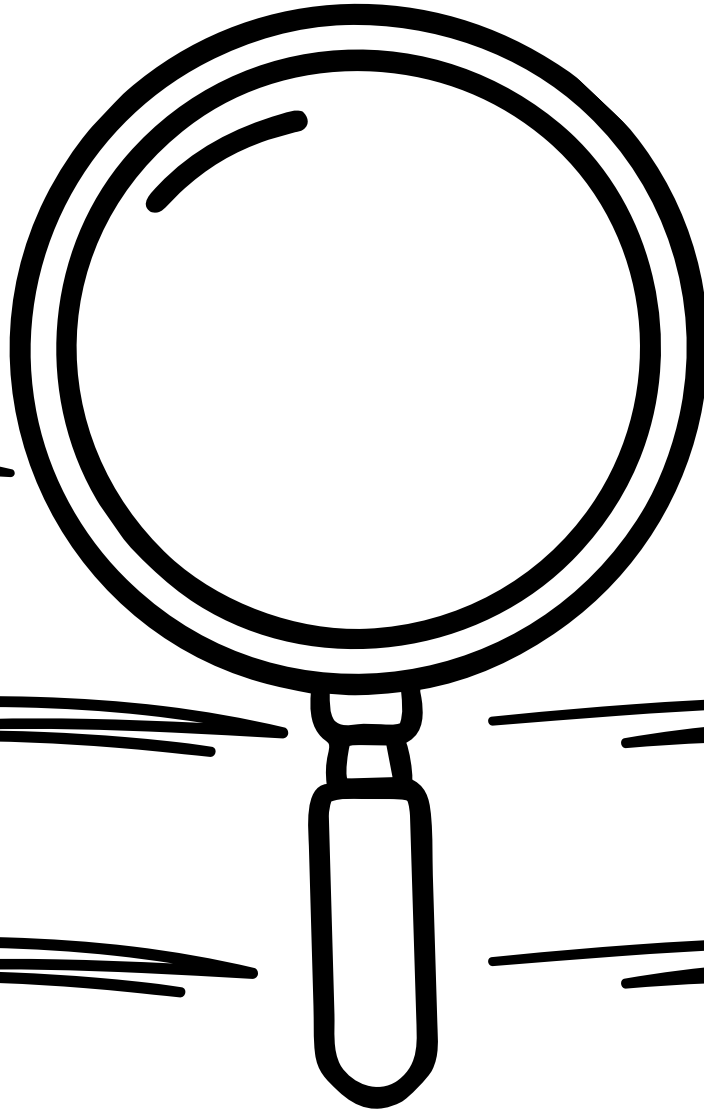
<https://www.kennedy-center.org/education/resources-for-educators/classroomresources/media-and-interactives/media/dance/do-you-wanna-dance/>

- MOMIX - ALICE Website: <https://www.momix.com/portfolio-view/alice/>



# MOMIX *Alice* S.E.L.

Use the lines provided to write the amazing things you see when you look through the looking glass into your future!



# Student to Family Cooperative Activity Ideas:

- Discuss MOMIX Alice: Sit down with your family and have a conversation about the performance. Ask your child to share impressions, thoughts, and emotions. Discuss the elements that stood out, such as the performances, dance, or the storytelling.
- Create a home theater space: Dedicate a specific area in your home as a temporary theater space. It can be anywhere with a little bit of space to "put on a show". Create a cozy ambiance with lighting and comfortable seating.
- Family jam session: Write a song with your family. You can start a family band, or simply work on a song together as a team or unit. Share some of your favorite genres with your family (jazz/funk/hip-hop...and see who you have them in common with).
- Create a Playlist: Collaborate on creating a playlist featuring songs from the concert as well as favorites from everyone in the family. This can be a fun way to learn about music through the decades.
- Create tickets and programs: Design and print them at home or even hand made. Deliver the tickets to family members, and the programs can include information about the performance, cast, and crew. This adds a touch of authenticity and excitement.
- **Remember, the goal is to create memorable and immersive experiences. Adapt these ideas based on your family's preferences and the resources available to you.**

## Additional Activity Ideas:

- Attend workshops or classes: Look for theater workshops or classes that interest you and your child. Participating in these educational opportunities can help your kids develop their skills, gain confidence, and connect with others who share their interest in the performing arts.
- Encourage your kids to create their own journals or scrapbooks to document their childhood memories. Take the opportunity to share your childhood stories as you help them with their own projects. You can even contribute by adding some of your own stories or mementos to their journals.
- What was your favorite song, band or genre growing up? Play a few songs for your child/children and let them play a few of their favorites for you!
- Volunteer or participate in theater activities: If your kids have developed a keen interest in theater, encourage them to get involved in local theater groups or school productions. Volunteer backstage, audition for roles, or assist with set design and costumes. This hands-on experience allows us to gain practical knowledge and further nurture a passion for the performing arts, and the whole family can volunteer with the show!

## Standards Alignment: MOMIX Alice

**Standards Alignment:** The activities in this guide are aligned with the standards listed below. When teachers incorporate the arts, they increase student engagement, offer multiple points for students to access the curriculum, and provide alternate means for students to demonstrate what they know.

Florida's Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.)	
Kindergarten through Grade 12/ English Language Arts	
ELA.K12.EE.1.1	Cite evidence to explain and justify reasoning.
ELA.K12.EE.2.1	Read and comprehend grade-level complex texts proficiently.
ELA.K12.EE.3.1	Make inferences to support comprehension.
ELA.K12.EE.4.1	Use appropriate collaborative techniques and active listening skills when engaging in discussions in a variety of situations.
ELA.K12.EE.5.1	Use the accepted rules governing a specific format to create quality work.
ELA.K12.EE.6.1	Use appropriate voice and tone when speaking or writing.
ELA.6. R.3.3	Compare and contrast how authors from different time periods address the same or related topics.
ELA.Z. V.1.3	Apply knowledge of context clues, figurative language, word relationships, reference materials, and/or background knowledge to determine the connotative and denotative meaning of words and phrases, <u>appropriate to grade level</u> .
Dance	
DA.68. O.3.5	Use accurate dance, theatre, and anatomical terminology to communicate with others in and related to the field of dance.





# My Theater Review

I saw: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_

This play/musical was about...

Here's a drawing of  
my favorite character:

It made me feel:

I learned:

I gave this play/musical .... stars.



**We'd love to hear from you! If you'd like to submit this review,  
please send to [jenriquez@browardcenter.org](mailto:jenriquez@browardcenter.org)**