

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

The Peking Acrobats



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What's included in Curriculum Connections:

Letter to Teachers...page 2
Theater Etiquette...page 3
From Page to Stage...page 4
About Peking Acrobats...page 5
Pre and Post Show Worksheets and Activities...pages 6-11
Student to Family Cooperative Activity Ideas...page 12
Florida Standards Alignments...page 13
Student Theater Review...page 14

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:

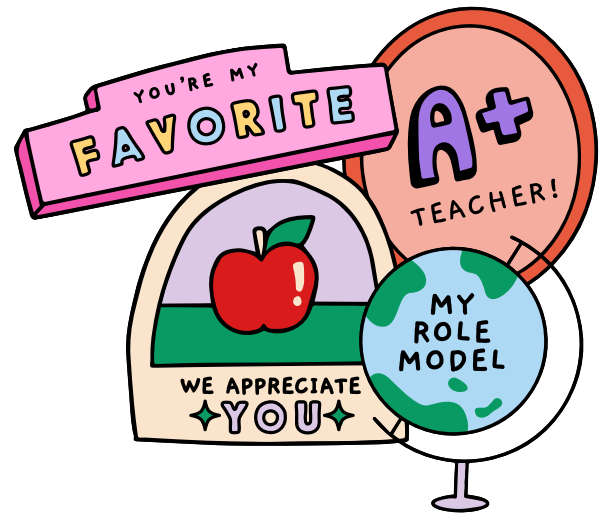
<https://tinyurl.com/ElementarySeasWelcome>

<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**





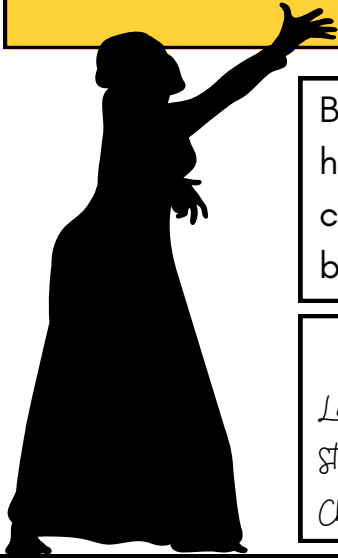
Theater etiquette

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.

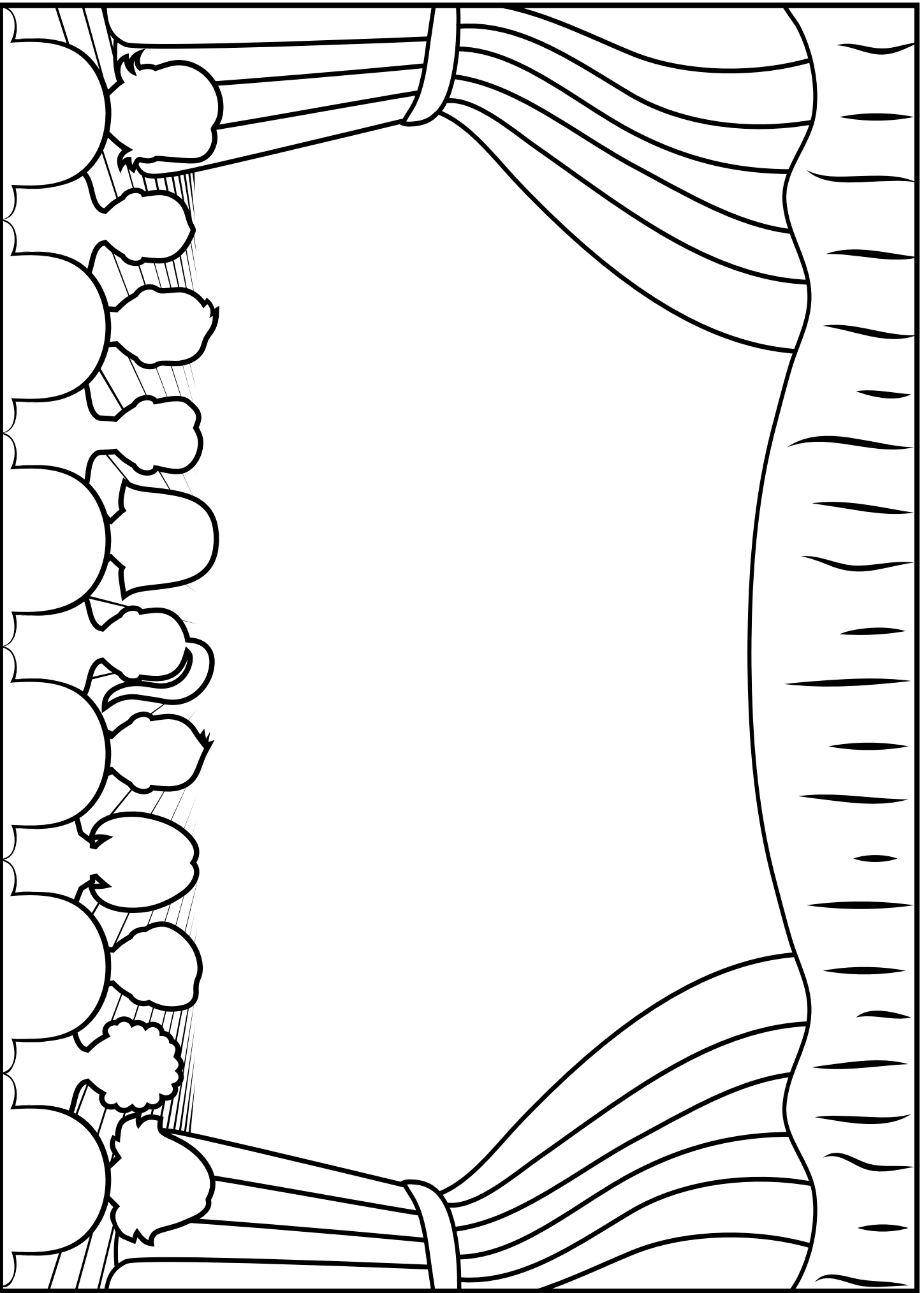
Characters: the individuals portrayed by actors in a play or musical.

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.



THE PEKING ACROBATS OVERVIEW

Peking (pron. pee king or pay king), which means “Northern Capital” in Chinese, has been a center of civilization for thousands of years. Some of the earliest known pre-historic human beings inhabited the area around Peking. Sometime between 1918 and 1939 the fossilized remains of Peking Man (also known as homo erectus pekinensis), who lived about 50,000 years ago, were found in a village around 30 miles southwest of Peking. It is also certain that nearly 3,000 years ago, Neolithic communities existed on or near the location of present day Peking. In the early part of the 20th century, the city of Peking was renamed Beijing (pron. bay jing) because, as the story goes, foreigners who visited the city kept mispronouncing the word Peking!

The ambition of most families is to provide their children with a higher education or, if this is not possible, to secure them a good job. The Chinese government still runs most schools, universities, and technical schools. School begins for children at age 6 when they start Kindergarten. After five years of Chinese language, arithmetic, physical education, music, art, natural science, and political doctrine, Chinese students enter ordinary middle schools. Here, students take classes in politics, Chinese language, mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, foreign languages, history, geography, basic agriculture, physical education, music, and art. Students attend ordinary middle school for six years. Most Chinese students do not return to their studies after middle school and work instead in a factory, on a farm, in the military, or in other forms of government service.

In China, being selected to become an acrobat is an honor, and brings with it a great deal of prestige and the possibility of international travel. Parents encourage their children to audition for acrobatic schools; however, this is also a great sacrifice for parents and students. If selected, the acrobatic school they attend will often be far away from family, friends, and the lives with which the students are familiar. Once selected to attend a special acrobatic school, students take their general education classes in the morning hours. In the afternoon, they will practice gymnastics, juggling, martial arts, and the dynamics of balance, speed, and timing to perfect their craft - the students do this every day, six days a week!

Most acrobats begin their life in art at around age 6, but most are not selected to become part of a professional performing troupe until they are around 16 years of age, which is the age of emancipation in China, whereas here in the West a young person becomes an adult at 18 years old. There are some acrobats who excel at their studies, and are selected to become professional performers when they are as young as 13 or 14 years of age. Imagine being chosen for a professional troupe and traveling the world at such a young age! While on tour, the acrobat will see many corners of the globe and will meet new and different people. **THE PEKING ACROBATS** are truly representatives of their country and art, and they take great pride in being selected to perform for audiences like you!

THE PEKING ACROBATS

MANDARIN

Mandarin is characterized by its four tones. Depending on what tone a word is given, its meaning can vary quite dramatically. Tonal languages are generally thought of by westerners as being extremely difficult to learn. While this may be true, there are some easier aspects of spoken Chinese. For example, words do not change endings in the plural, there are no tenses and there are no verb conjugations!

“Tomorrow, I will go to the store to buy some things” would be translated as “Mingtian wo qu shangdian mai dongxi” or “Tomorrow, I go store buy thing.” Such foreign-sounding syntax takes some getting used to, but once the patterns are learned, they can be applied to communicate countless ideas.

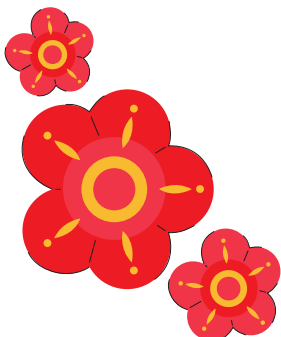
Following are some of the more common Chinese words and phrases, which are written in pinyin. If you have a classmate or a friend who speaks Chinese, ask him or her to help you out with the pronunciation. Pay special attention to the tones!

NUMBERS

One- Yi
Two - Er
Three - San
Four - Si
Five - Wu
Six - Liu
Seven - Qi
Eight - Ba
Nine - Jiu
Ten - Shi

SOME COMMON PHRASES

How are you? - Ni hao ma?
Good morning- Zaoshang hao (Morning good)
Good night - Wan an (Night peaceful)
Where are you going? - Ni dao nar qu?
What’s your name? - Ni jiao shenme mingzi?
Please help me - Qing ni bang wo de mang
Please come in! - Qing jin! (Please near!)
See you later - Zai jian
Thank you - Xiexie ni
You are welcome - Bu keji



THE PEKING ACROBATS

IT'S CHINESE NEW YEAR

We saw a lot of decorations in the mall. There were banners and red lanterns everywhere. We bought some firecrackers on the way home. Mom bought the ingredients for her pork dumplings and noodles.



Mom said I need to wear red clothes because that is the color symbol of this celebration. I was so excited to see the firecrackers later. After dinner, I got so lucky that they gave me red envelopes with money inside. At midnight, dad set off the firecrackers; it was loud but beautiful. The following day, we went to town and watched the dragon parade. I met my relatives, and we saw lanterns floating into the sky. I enjoyed it so much!

Answer the questions below.

What was the celebration in the story?

What did they see in the mall?

What did mom cook for dinner?

What was the color of their clothes?

What did they do during the celebration?

THE PEKING ACROBATS

Chinese Number Practice

Trace the numbers 1-5

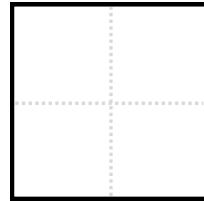
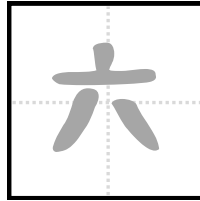
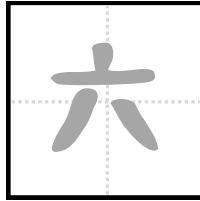
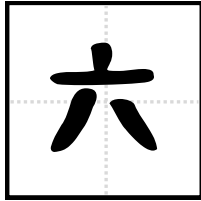
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THE PEKING ACROBATS

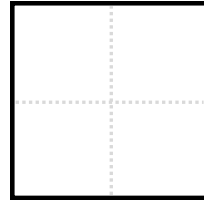
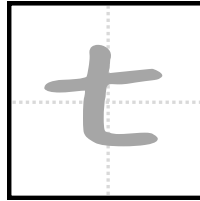
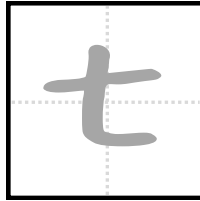
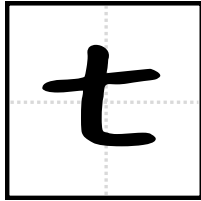
Chinese Number Practice continued

Trace the numbers 6-10

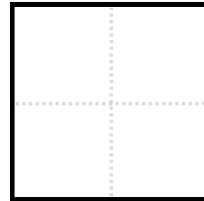
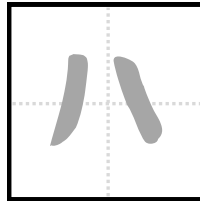
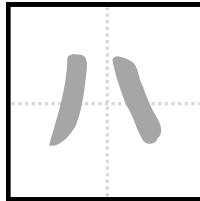
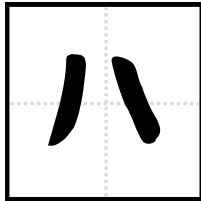
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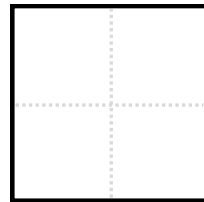
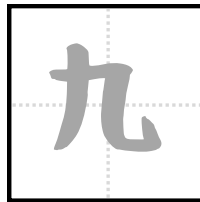
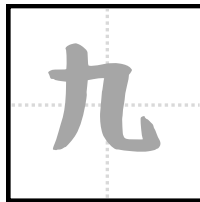
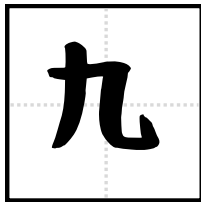
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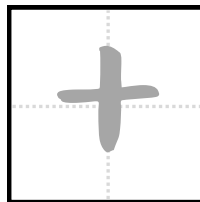
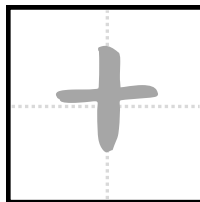
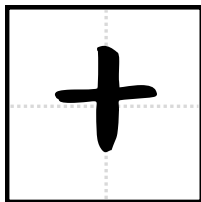
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10



THE PEKING ACROBATS SHOW VOCABULARY

acrobat--one who is skilled in feats of balance and agility in gymnastics.

audition--a trial performance by an actor, dancer or musician to demonstrate suitability or skill.

capitalism--an economic system in which the means of production/distribution are privately owned.

commute--to travel some distance regularly between one's home and work or school.

dedication--selfless devotion.

doctrine--ideas or theories that are taught; teachings of a set of ideas or theories.

dynasty--a lord or ruler; a succession of rulers who belong to the same family.

fossil--any hardened remains or traces of plant or animal life preserved in rock formations in the earth's crust.

invoke--to call upon for blessing, help, inspiration, or protection.

myth--a traditional or legendary story, usually concerning a hero, event, with or without a determinable basis of fact or a natural explanation.

pantomime--a drama played in actions and gestures to the accompaniment of words or music.

pestilence--any virulent or fatal contagious disease.

precursor--one who or that which goes before.

ponder--to think deeply; to deliberate; to meditate.

revere--to regard with deep respect, love, awe, and affection.

seers--a prophet; one who foretells; a soothsayer.

troupe--a company or group of touring actors, singers, dancers, and etc.

THE PEKING ACROBATS

LEADERSHIP *legacy: SEL*

The Peking Acrobats are leaders from their communities. What is your definition of leadership:

Qualities of a good leader:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

A leader I admire and why:

My leadership legacy (how I want to be remembered):

Student to Family Cooperative Activity Ideas:

- Share impressions and discuss Black Violin: Sit down with your family and have a conversation about the performance. Share your impressions, thoughts, and emotions. Discuss the elements that stood out, such as the performances, the set design, or the storytelling.
- Does anyone in your family play an instrument, sing, dance? Interview some family members and see if you can discover a link to music. Write it down (journal) and save it for future generations.
- 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.
- **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: Peking Acrobats

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.
Social Studies	
SS.K.A.2.3	Compare our nation's holidays with holidays of other cultures.
World Languages	
WL. K12.NH.8.1	Distinguish similarities and differences among the patterns of behavior of the target language by comparing information acquired in the target language to further knowledge of own language and culture.
WL. K12.AH.9.1	Use language skills and cultural understanding beyond immediate environment for personal growth.



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**