

CONNECTIONS

For Teachers

Welcome to CONNECTIONS, a performance guide brought to you by the Kennedy Center Imagination Celebration (KCIC), Colorado Springs. This CONNECTIONS issue is to help teachers prepare their students to see the production of *Peter and the Wolf*.



This symbol marks activities you may want to do with your students.



“For Your Information” comments provide background

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The Kennedy Center Imagination Celebration Presents

Peter and the Wolf *And Other Favorites*



Who is performing?

- ◆ Colorado Springs Youth Symphony
- ◆ Pikes Peak Performance Company
- ◆ Colorado Springs Children's Chorale



What Will You See?

◆ **Mice Narration:** The show will be narrated by three mice, just like the movie *Babe*.

◆ **River Deep:** Pikes Peak Performance Company performs to the Celine Dion song.

◆ **Mouse Madrigal:** performed by the Colorado Springs Children's Chorale.

◆ **Experiment With Mice:** A spoof on the nursery rhyme *Three Blind Mice*, this piece uses humor in a charming retelling of this beloved rhyme.

Performed by the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony & Pikes Peak Performance Company

◆ **Cat Chorus:** Performed by the Colorado Springs Children's Chorale

◆ **Peter and the Wolf:** The tale of a young boy who fails to listen to his grandfather's warnings and comes face to face with a dreaded wolf. It is up to Peter to save the small bird, duck and cat whom the wolf preys on. Peter develops a plan and captures the wolf, sparing the lives of his new friends.

Performed by the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony & Pikes Peak Performance Company.

Some Activities

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Drama Activity Story Slide Show

Purpose: This activity is a great way to work on sequencing and key plot elements.

- **Step 1:**
 - Have your students get into groups of 3 or 4.
 - Assign each group a familiar story (Three blind Mice, The three little pigs, Little Red Riding Hood).
- **Step 2:**
 - Have each group discuss their assigned story. After reviewing the story, each group needs to decide on 3 key moments that will show the audience beginning, middle and end.
- **Step 3:**
 - Each group of students will position themselves in 3 different frozen images using their bodies and facial expression to create “slides” that show the beginning, middle and end of the story.
- **Step 4:** Once each group has developed their slides, share each “slide show.” Each group can share their 3 “slides” as the other groups guess which story they are presenting.

Expanding this idea: after you enjoy the presentations you can discuss plot elements and characters after the groups are finished.



Music Activity Animal Parade

- Play different types of music and have your class discuss different animals that fit each piece.
- Ask your class to use their body to show movements each animal might have. How would they walk? What might they quietly sound like?
- As you play the different music pieces again, have your class become the animals they selected for each piece.
- In the end you will have a parade of animals.



Art Activity Create Animal Puppets

- **What you will need:**
 - paper plates -felt, pipe cleaners, etc.
 - scissors
 - tongue depressors or popsicle sticks
 - markers or crayons
 - tape
- **How they work:**
 - Have students create animals using paper plates with markers, crayons, pipe cleaners, felt or other materials.
 - Use scissors to cut out the shape if necessary.
 - Connect the stick to the back of the plate with the tape.

Your students can create their own puppet shows using their mouse puppets or retell the stories they have seen.



Writing Activity Fairy Tale Spoofs

There are many fun examples of fairy tales that have been altered to make them more modern or just plain fun.

Many times these fairy tales are told by different characters from the story or these tales are presented with different animals in place of the more traditional characters. Some great examples can be found in these books:

- John Sciezca's The True Story of the Three Little Pigs, or The Frog Prince Continued.
- Jason Stanford's Rumplestiltskin, Private Eye.
- Jack Zipes The Outspoken Princess and the Gentle Knight, A Treasury of Modern Fairy Tales.

Read a traditional fairy tale to your class and have your students write their own version. Here are some ideas for alteration:

- Change the time period of the story. Make it modern or even set in a specific decade.
- Change the location of the story. What would happen if the three little pigs lived in New York City?
- Change the ending. Many fairy tales have idealistic and happy endings. What new amazing world might be at the top of the beanstalk?
- Change the narrator. Imagine "Little Red Riding Hood" told by the wolf or grandmother, or Peter and the Wolf told by the bird.



Create Your own Homemade Orchestra

- **Maracas:** dry kidney beans in paper plates stapled at the edges can add wonderful percussion.
- **Glass Bells:** we have all used this instrument at some point or another. Fill 4 glasses with water, each to a different level. Listen to the different sounds.
- **Flute:** Use a paper towel roll and punch holes 1 inch apart down the tube. Place wax paper on one end, secured by a rubber band. Blow on the holes and new sounds appear
- **Snaps & Claps:** Each student can use their hands to create a different rhythm. When you add the sounds together you can create a rhythm orchestra.
- **Cymbals:** Jar lids make a great addition to your homemade orchestra. Use jar lids as the base and punch a hole in the middle by hammering a nail through the metal. A long rubber band makes the perfect hand hold. Fold the rubber band in half, length wise and push an end through the hole. Tie a knot at the end of the rubber band to secure the hand hold. Slip your wrist through the hand hold and clank the jar tops together.



More About The Groups Performing

Colorado Springs Youth Symphony Association

In its 24th season, this association is comprised of six auditioned groups, *Amadeus Strings* (for string players with some experience), *Vivace String Orchestra* (intermediate strings), the *Pikes Peak Concert Band* (a concert band for middle school students), *Encore! Youth Orchestra* (a full orchestra for intermediate players), *Pikes Peak Wind Symphony* (intermediate to advanced concert band), and the *Colorado Springs Youth Symphony* (a full orchestra for advanced players). Approximately 300 young musicians are accepted by audition every year to take part in one of these programs.

In 2000 The Youth Symphony was awarded first prize at the prestigious International Youth & Music Festival. In 2001, they performed at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington D.C.

Colorado Springs Youth Chorale

Now in its 27th season, beautiful harmonies, lively choreography and purity of tone remain a hallmark of the Colorado Springs Children's Chorale. Founded in 1977 as a civic Children's choir, the Chorale currently trains over 200 children in five choirs to achieve musical excellence. Young people ages 7-18 come from more than 50 schools in eight school districts throughout the Pikes Peak region to audition for this award winning children's chorale.

Pikes Peak Performance Company (PPPC)

Established in 2001, this non-profit Organization is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors and it is not a member of any umbrella fundraising agency. The PPPC dancers are directed by Robin Moore, a choreographer and dance teacher with 20 years experience.

The PPPC is dedicated to providing Opportunities for area youngsters to perform their art through community outreach.

In addition to volunteer performances throughout the year; the PPPC dancers perform an annual Holiday Show to raise funds for local children's charities. Since its inception, PPPC has raised over \$20,000.00 for local children's charities.



Other Fun Activities

- **Poems:** Create poetry about animals and recite the poems as the animals adding movement and sounds.
- **Instrument Book Marks:** Students can draw or paint their favorite instrument on a bookmark as a fun reminder of the concert.
- **Musical Reading:** Use the handmade instruments to create sound effects for other favorite stories.

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