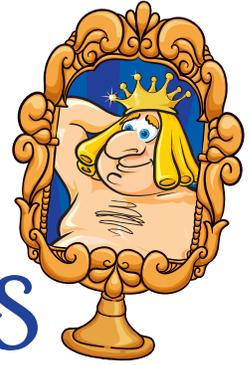


STUDY GUIDE

THE
EMPEROR'S
New Clothes



THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES

By Hans Christian Andersen
Book by Richard Giersch for Virginia Rep On Tour
New Music, Lyrics and Script Updates/Additions by Jason Marks

TEACHER RESOURCES

The Emperor's New Clothes and this study guide are produced in support of the Virginia Standards of Learning in English, History, Social Sciences, and Science.

AT THE LIBRARY

The Emperor's New Clothes (Folk Tale Classics)
by Hans Christian Andersen

The Emperor's New Clothes (Tales to Grow By): A Story About Honesty,
by Meredith Rusu

ON THE WEB

The Emperor's New Clothes
http://www.online-literature.com/hans_christian_andersen/967/

The Emperor's New Clothes Read Aloud
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KyIFXsGJgcl>

PLAY SYNOPSIS

The classic fable with new music is brought to life in this rendition of Hans Christian Andersen's story of greed and privilege. When it comes to fashion and... well, everything... this emperor knows it all, or so he thinks! A couple of con artists decide to profit from his bombast, and persuade the emperor that they have the world's most exquisite fabric. The emperor pays the "tailors" a fortune, but when he goes to inspect his dazzling new wardrobe, the con artists offer a clever trick that ultimately shows the foolishness brought on by the emperor's "sophistication." **A fun tale that reminds us we must not let fear or pride stop us from speaking up and stating the truth.**

Characters

- The Emperor
- Flannel
- Greysuede
- Mr. Broadcloth
- Mrs. Flanagan
- Cashmere
- Mr. Silk



STUDY GUIDE

The story of *The Emperor's New Clothes* is a **folktale**. A folktale is a tale or story passed on from generation to generation. From ghost stories to fairy tales to animal fables, folktales are beloved by people of all ages in all cultures.

There are many different kinds of folktales, with thousands of regional and cultural variations, but they all share a few common characteristics. At the most basic level, we can say that a folktale is a story passed down orally from generation to generation. Let's look more closely at a few defining traits!

Folktales usually:

- **Feature regular people:** The word 'folk' comes from the German word 'volk,' meaning 'people.' As you can guess, folktales are stories about everyday life and the day-to-day issues of people. Sometimes the stories involve magical elements, but they usually happen to people just like you!
- **Are simple:** Think about the word 'folk.' What image comes to mind? Maybe you think of grandmas and grandpas, farm life, and villagers. When we talk about 'folklore,' we're talking about the kind of knowledge used by everyday people. These stories were shared among generations as a way of presenting everyday life lessons and useful information in an easy-to-understand format.
- **Are passed down orally:** Folktales are meant to be told out loud! They're part of an oral tradition, coming from a time before writing. Today, we have the option to read folktales in books because of people like the Brothers Grimm. In the 19th century, they traveled around Germany to collect folktales that had never been written down, and they turned those tales into storybooks.
- **Contain a moral:** Most folktales contain a moral, or lesson, that comes at the end of the story. The moral teaches a specific value, reminding everyone that good is often rewarded, and bad is punished.

Do you know of these popular folktales?

Sleeping Beauty

Snow White

Cinderella

Rumpelstiltskin



Illustrations by Anne Anderson, Scottish illustrator, 1874-1952.
Source: Wikimedia Commons

STUDY GUIDE

1. WRITE YOUR OWN FOLKTALE

On this **folktale planning sheet**, choose a few characters, one setting, and one moral; then plan your writing below. Using your folktale planning sheet, write your folktale and send to your teacher or print out the next page to use as a template.

Characters	Setting	Moral
<input type="checkbox"/> A person <input type="checkbox"/> A talking animal <input type="checkbox"/> A magical person or animal	<input type="checkbox"/> Forest <input type="checkbox"/> Lake <input type="checkbox"/> Castle <input type="checkbox"/> Cottage <input type="checkbox"/> Under a bridge <input type="checkbox"/> Farm <input type="checkbox"/> On a spaceship <input type="checkbox"/> Under the sea	<input type="checkbox"/> Help a friend in need <input type="checkbox"/> Treat others with kindness and respect <input type="checkbox"/> Don't tell lies <input type="checkbox"/> Our actions affect others <input type="checkbox"/> Put yourself in someone's shoes <input type="checkbox"/> It's OK to make mistakes as long as you keep trying <input type="checkbox"/> Being yourself and being unique is good

What is the problem?	What is the solution?

Think about what happens in the beginning, middle, and end in your tale and write down a few ideas.

Beginning	Middle	End

How do your characters learn a moral or lesson in your story?

STUDY GUIDE

1. WRITE YOUR OWN FOLKTALE

Using your folktale planning sheet, write a folktale.



A large rectangular area with rounded corners, containing a green line drawing of a farm scene at the top. The drawing shows a house, a barn, a silo, trees, and a fence, with a cloud above. Below the drawing is a large area with horizontal lines for writing, enclosed in a dashed green border.

STUDY GUIDE

GET TO KNOW THE AUTHOR

Hans Christian Andersen wrote plays, novels, poems, travel books, and several autobiographies, but his fairy tales achieved wide renown and are the most frequently translated works in all of literary history. Hans Christian Andersen was born in Denmark in April 1805. His father was a shoemaker and his mother washed clothes. They were a poor family, and he was sent to a school for poor children where he received a basic education. By the age of 14, he moved out of the family home to find work. He wanted to be an actor or dancer, but he wasn't very talented, so he took to writing.

In 1822, his first story was published. It was called *The Ghost at Palnatoke's Grave*. His first book of fairy tales was published in 1835. He went on to write and publish stories until 1872.

His stories were popular all over Europe, and he was invited to many homes of powerful and rich people to read his stories aloud. Despite many having unhappy endings, his stories were so well-received that they have been translated into more than 125 languages around the world, and have been made into many movies, television programs, ballets, and plays.

Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tales continue to get recognition, almost 150 years after his death. Take a look at the list of some of the stories he wrote. Do you have a favorite?

The Emperor's New Clothes

The Little Mermaid

Little Ida's Flowers

The Ugly Duckling

Thumbelina

The Princess and the Pea

The Little Match Girl

The Nightingale

The Steadfast Tin Soldier

The Red Shoes



The statue of Hans Christian Andersen in Central Park in New York City. Photo by Tony Hisgett, 2010



Hans Christian Andersen, circa 1863. Source: Wisconsin Historical Society

STUDY GUIDE

3. THEMES: ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. In the play, *The Emperor's New Clothes*, Flannel knows he must be honorable and do the right thing. He can't help speaking the truth! Can you think of a time when it was important to tell the truth?

2. What do your possessions say about you? If someone looked through your backpack, what would they find? What would they think about your personality or hobbies based upon your possessions?

3. Is it a lie if you said you would do something, tried to do it, but failed? Why or why not?

4. Are lying and cheating similar? Why or why not?

5. Think about characters from books, TV, and movies who have lied. Did it work out for them? Why or why not?

6. What does it mean to be honest?

7. What does it mean to be a person of your word? Why does that matter?

8. What would the world look like if everyone told the truth? What would the world look like if everyone lied?



DID YOU KNOW

“The emperor has no clothes” is an expression used to describe a situation in which people are afraid to criticize something or someone because the perceived wisdom of the masses is that the thing or person is good or important.

STUDY GUIDE

4. MAKE A RAINBOW

Color is the aspect of things that is caused by differing qualities of light being reflected or emitted by them. To see color, you have to have light. Visible light is made up of different wavelengths, and each color has its own unique wavelength. As light hits an object, some light is absorbed and some is reflected. The color of an object is the color of the light it reflects. Objects that appear white reflect all colors of light waves, while black objects absorb all colors of light waves. Grass looks green because when light hits it, the blades of grass absorb all the colors of the light except green, which it reflects!

A rainbow is an example of both refraction and reflection. Sunlight is first refracted when it enters the surface of a raindrop (which is spherical). It is then reflected off the back of the raindrop, and once again refracted as it leaves the raindrop. A rainbow is made by light bouncing back to you from the inside of raindrops. The raindrops act like a prism. Light bends when it passes through water. Each color bends a different amount.

Short wavelengths, such as blue and violet, are bent more than longer wavelengths, like red, so the colors always separate and appear in the same order or sequence. When white light enters a raindrop, the colors get separated. The white light splits into six colors that you can see. These six colors always appear in the same order: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and violet (purple). These six colors make the visible light spectrum.



Materials

- A glass of water (about three quarters full)
- White paper
- A sunny day (or an overhead projector!)
- Assorted prisms
- Watercolors
- Paintbrushes

Directions

1. In groups of two or three, take the glass of water and paper to a part of the room with sunlight, or if it is not a sunny day, use an overhead projector or bright light. (Note: If the windows have UV film on them, this experiment will need to be conducted with an overhead projector or other bright light.)
2. Hold the glass of water (being careful not to spill it) above the paper and watch. As sunlight passes through the glass of water, it refracts (bends) and forms a rainbow of colors on your sheet of paper.
3. Try holding the glass of water at different heights and angles to see if it has a different effect. Explain what you think is happening. (Rainbows form in the sky when sunlight bends as it passes through raindrops. It acts in the same way when it passes through your glass of water. The sunlight refracts, separating it into the colors red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and violet.)

Next, on your own:

- Complete the Rainbow/Refraction Activity Worksheet.
- Experiment with the effect of prisms on the light as you try different ways to cause the light to bend and make rainbows.
- Draw at least three discoveries on your worksheet, and write at least three sentences beside each drawing explaining what you discovered about how light is bent.

STUDY GUIDE

5. EASY PIE RECIPE FOR KIDS

These tiny treats are a fun way to teach kids how to bake pies. We started with an all-natural store-bought crust to make the pie making easier for kids. We made our pies with an apple filling, but you can use any pie filling (try sliced peaches or fresh blueberries or tasty cherries).

Start-to-eat time:

35 minutes

Materials

- 1 apple, peeled, cored, and finely chopped (or other fruit choice)
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons orange juice
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 pie crust (we used a store-bought organic pie crust)
- Milk and egg (for brushing on pie tops)

Tools

- apple peeler & knife
- bowl
- rolling pin
- measuring spoons & cups
- plastic wrap or waxed paper
- mini muffin pan
- cookie cutters, round & mini

Kids' kitchen skills

- measuring
- stirring
- baking
- shaping pie crust

Step-by-step (Grown-up steps)

1. Mix the chopped apples, sugar, cinnamon, and orange juice in a bowl. Set it aside to get nice and juicy.
2. Unroll the pie crust and place it on a piece of waxed paper or plastic wrap on your countertop. Cut out twelve 2 1/2 inch circles with a round cookie cutter or rim of a glass. Press each one into a muffin cup.
3. Gather the dough scraps and roll them out. Use tiny cookie cutters to make decorative shapes or cut thin strips for lattice toppings.
4. Add 1 rounded tablespoon of filling to each cup. Dot with a tiny piece of butter. Add a top crust with slits, a pie crust star, or a lattice top. Pinch the edges with the tines of a fork to seal.
5. Brush the mini pies with a beaten egg mixed with a little milk. Bake in a preheated oven at 375° for 15 to 17 minutes or until the filling bubbles and the crusts turn golden brown. Let the pies cool for just a few minutes in the pan, then carefully remove each one by running a sharp knife around the edges and popping it out of the pan.



Photo by Didi Miam on Unsplash

Cues at the Theatre

STUDY GUIDE

VIRGINIA REPERTORY THEATRE

Phil Whiteway
Managing Director

Todd D. Norris
Artistic Director of Education

VIRGINIA REP ON TOUR

Amber Martinez
Arts in Education Manager
amartinez@virginiarep.org

Gordon Bass
Tour Manager

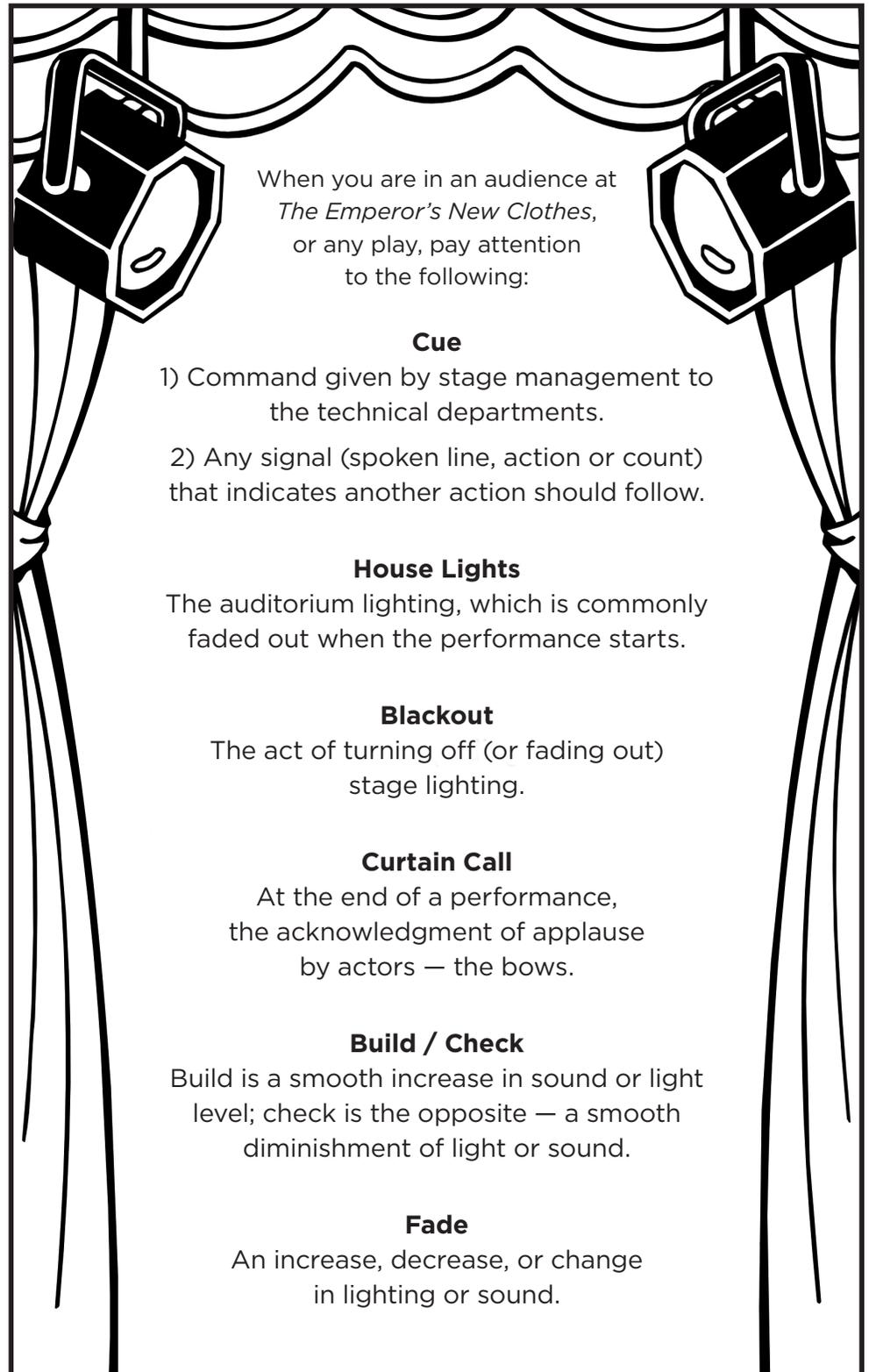
Donna Warfield
Company Manager

Virginia Repertory Theatre
114 W. Broad St.
Richmond, Virginia 23220

800.235.8687

VIRGINIAREP.ORG

This study guide is the property of Virginia Rep. Photocopying of the study guide is permitted. Any other use of the contents must be accompanied by the phrase, "Text used with permission from Virginia Repertory Theatre, Richmond, VA."



When you are in an audience at *The Emperor's New Clothes*, or any play, pay attention to the following:

Cue

- 1) Command given by stage management to the technical departments.
- 2) Any signal (spoken line, action or count) that indicates another action should follow.

House Lights

The auditorium lighting, which is commonly faded out when the performance starts.

Blackout

The act of turning off (or fading out) stage lighting.

Curtain Call

At the end of a performance, the acknowledgment of applause by actors — the bows.

Build / Check

Build is a smooth increase in sound or light level; check is the opposite — a smooth diminishment of light or sound.

Fade

An increase, decrease, or change in lighting or sound.