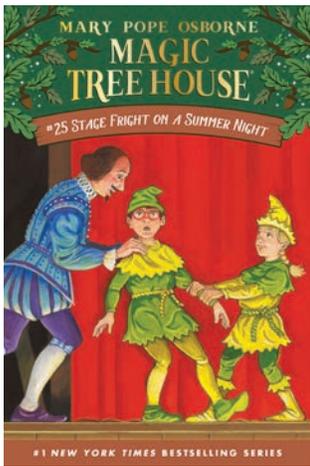




Stage Fright on a Summer Night



PB: 978-0-375-80611-7
EL: 978-0-375-89482-4
Grades: 1-4
F&P: M • Lexile: 300L

ABOUT *Stage Fright on a Summer Night*

Jack and Annie are whisked back to Elizabethan England where they meet the Bard of Avon himself, William Shakespeare, and luckily for them he is desperate for two small actors for his latest play! A wonderful adventure as well as the perfect introduction to Shakespeare for young readers.

PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

Begin by listing on the board the following words: London, London Bridge, Thames River, Globe Theater, and William Shakespeare. Brainstorm as a group what the students already know about the given places or people.

As a class, use a map to locate London, England, and ask them to imagine what life might have been like in the 1600s. Spend a little time discussing the concept of the monarchy in England. Address the fact that England still has a queen as it did during the time period that will be introduced within the text.

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

Reading Between the Lines

Throughout the text, several very famous Shakespearean quotes appear: from *As You Like It*, “All the world’s a stage,” and from *Romeo and Juliet*, “Good night, good night. Parting is such sweet sorrow.”

Read each quote in the context of the story and ask the children to ponder these two phrases and infer as best as they can what Shakespeare meant in those words. Let the class know that students of all ages study the works of William Shakespeare and they, too, are learning about one of the most beloved writers of all time. Ask them to record their thoughts on what his two famous quotations mean. Come together as a group and share individual writing.

CURRICULUM: *Language Arts • Using Context Clues*

I Am William Shakespeare

Begin by discussing biographies with your students. Make a web diagram of the information the students would find significant when researching a person. Then ask students what they want to learn about William Shakespeare. When the class has formulated a list of queries, have them break up into small groups to study closely one specific area of his life. For example, one group might research his childhood, another group might research his education, and a third his family. Have students use the library, software, books, and the Internet to help research their topic. When all the information has been gathered, each group can make a presentation addressing the given facet of Shakespeare's life. Be as creative as you can; have the children dress up as he would have and encourage them to become William Shakespeare!

CURRICULUM: *Language Arts • Biography • Drama • History • Research Skills*

Teaching ideas by Rosemary B. Stimola, Ph.D., former professor of children's literature at City University of New York.

