



THE THREE LITTLE CIRCUS PIGS STUDY GUIDE

Use this Study Guide to enhance the educational experience of this show

All About A.C.T. For Youth

A.C.T. For Youth is an acclaimed professional touring theatre company based in Orlando, FL.

Each year, the Atlantic Coast Theatre performs hundreds of shows for students across the U.S.A.

ACT For Youth's high-quality educational programming is recognized nationally by theatres, schools, art councils, libraries, and festivals— not to mention the thousands of children & families who see A.C.T. shows each year!



A.C.T. FOR YOUTH HAS BEEN AWARDED PLACEMENT ON:

- ~Florida Arts In Education, Artist Performances On Tour~
- ~United Arts Of Raleigh Wake County, NC Artist In Schools Roster~
- ~The Arts Council of Fayetteville, NC Artist Roster~
- ~SC Arts Commission Roster Of Approved Artists~
- ~Raleigh/Wake County, NC United Arts Roster~

www.atlantic-coast-theatre.com

A STRUCTURALLY SOUND FAIRY TALE



STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

**Do you have dreams
of designing strong
buildings one day?
You could become a
Structural Engineer
when you grow up!
One thing a
Structural Engineer
does is makes sure
buildings are strong
and safe!**

Many people know the famous fairy tale “The Three Little Pigs”.

Each pig chooses to build a house made of different materials. One pig makes a house out of straw. Another pig builds his house out of sticks.

The third pig wisely builds his house out of bricks.

When the Big Bad Wolf comes to each of the pig’s houses, the wolf “huffs and puffs” trying to blow each house down.

The wolf is able to destroy both the straw and stick houses!

When the wolf tries to blow down the house made out of bricks, he cannot do it because the house is **STRUCTURALLY SOUND!**

“Structurally Sound” just means that the building is strong. Because the pig built a strong house, that means he is safe.

**Although our show is different from the original fairy tale,
THE THREE LITTLE CIRCUS PIGS uses many elements from the classic story.
What was the same? What was different?**

~CIRCUS HISTORY~



Vintage Circus Posters

PT Barnum (1810-1891)

PT Barnum was a showman who founded the Barnum & Bailey Circus. He created spectacular touring shows of “amazing” things he thought audiences would like to see. His shows would travel all around the country and the world. His shows were very famous. In 1919 the Ringling Brothers Circus combined with the Barnum & Bailey Circus.

Three Ring Circus

As circus shows became bigger, more exciting, and more extravagant, Barnum decided that the audience needed MORE to look at during the show. Instead of just having one stage area, he designed three rings for the acts to perform. Performers in the Center Ring were often the most special.

In the show, THE THREE LITTLE CIRCUS PIGS, the Cracklin Brothers Boarnum & Pig-feats Circus is a traveling circus show. The star pig performers live in train cars- their homes on wheels!

The train travels from town to town, the crew sets up and runs the show, the performers perform shows for the ticket buying audience, the entire circus finishes the run, everyone involved packs up the show, AND then they all head to the next town to do it all over again!

Strongboar, in the show, says that working in “Show Business” is a lot of hard work...
but you get to make people happy.

As actors for the Atlantic Coast Theatre (ACT) For Youth, we have a similar kind of life. We travel from town to town doing performances for audiences. This show is very special to us, because it gives children and families a glimpse into the life of touring performers.

THE FAMILY OF SHOW BUSINESS

When you put on a show of any kind, you become very close to the performers and the crew. In our show, the lion tamer pig, Porker Gable Will-Hams, says that they become like your family. You work very hard creating something special with a wide variety of people. You spend a great deal of time working on cooperating as a team.

CIRCUS VOCABULARY

Big Top- The biggest tent found in a traveling circus where the main show takes place

Backstage- The behind-the-scenes area where the performers get ready

Center Ring- A ring shaped area of the circus where many exciting acts are performed for the audience to watch

Ringmaster- The performer who introduces all of the acts in the circus

Barker- The person whose job it is to try to get people to buy a ticket to see the circus

Tightrope Walker- The dangerous art of walking on a high thin rope or wire sometimes seen in circus performances

Trapeze- An act in many circus performances where acrobats fly through the air while swinging on horizontal bars

Acrobat- A skilled circus performer who can do amazing gymnastic performances

Gag- A funny scene or a funny part of a show

Schtick- A funny little part of a gag...also called a “bit”

Can you write a sentence using three of these words? Can you write a short story using all of the words?

“WRITE YOUR OWN PLAY” ADAPTATION ACTIVITY

PLAYWRITING TIPS

- Every good play has to start somewhere.
- Sometimes the idea for a play comes completely from the playwright’s imagination.
- Sometimes the idea is created from a book, a story, or even a song.
- The writer uses the original book or story as an inspiration.

AN ADAPTATION IS...

~A New Play Based On A Book Or A Story~

-1-

Pick a story with characters that will make your play interesting. You can also create new characters. Remember it is your adaptation!

-2-

Make a ‘Road Map’– outline the plan of how you want your play to be written. Don’t be afraid to change your mind. Sometimes creativity needs to take a detour!

-3-

Write your dialogue (what the characters say). Try to write dialogue that is realistic and not too formal. It will sound closer to how people really talk.

(Florida B.E.S.T. Standards Connections:
ELA.K.C.1.2, ELA.1.C.1.2, ELA.2.C.1.2, ELA.3.C.1.2, ELA.4.C.1.2, ELA.5.C.1.2)

Be a SCENIC ARTIST Activity

A SCENIC ARTIST, sometimes known as a SET DESIGNER, creates visual art for theatre performances.



Multiple Places In One Set

Often, a scenic artist has the challenge of designing the scenery for a play that happens in many different places. Sometimes the scenery can be moved, but sometimes a “UNIT SET”, or scenery that stays in place for the entire show is used. Pick a story that you like that happens in multiple locations. Design a non-moving “UNIT SET” for the stage version of the story you chose.



All About The Actors

Noel Holland & Don Gruel

You will be seeing professional actors!
That means they act for their jobs!
An interesting fact about the actors:
They started acting when they were YOUR age!



NOEL HOLLAND– I cannot remember a time when I was not singing. As a child, I would sing to anyone who would listen– if nobody was there to hear, I would sing to myself! I started acting and dancing because I loved performing on stage. My sister and I would put on plays for our parents in the living room! When I was in middle school and high school, I decided that I wanted to be a performer. After I graduated college with a degree in music, I became a professional actor- working for theatres all over the country. Now, I have my dream job– owning a theatre. I am so proud to be a part of the Atlantic Coast Theatre For Youth. It gives me all kinds of opportunities to sing, act, write songs, and use my imagination. I so enjoy creating shows that children love because I loved theatre and music so much when I was a child!



Noel & her little sister, Meredith, putting on a play for family.



Don as the Easter Bunny in his 3rd Grade School Play

DON GRUEL– I grew up in Beaufort, South Carolina. When I was little, I would make up plays using my “Star Wars” Action Figures as the actors. I started doing school plays when I was in Kindergarten, but my first play outside of school I was in the musical OKLAHOMA when I was 10 years old. I really liked the feeling of being able to pretend to become other people in other places. I kept doing plays throughout Middle School & High School and decided to study Theatre in college. I graduated from the University Of South Carolina in 1993 and have worked in professional theatre ever since. I have always loved using my imagination. As an actor, I get to be creative every single day.

You can try acting too!

Get involved in a play at school or in your community!

ACT For Youth loves to receive letters from our audience!



You will write letters all of your life!
You will write letters in school, to
correspond with friends and family,
and for your job one day!
It is very important to know
how to write a good letter.

Your teachers may want you to
write your letter in a proper
letter-writing style or format.
Here is an example of one style!

YOU CAN SEND US

~A DRAWING~

~WHAT YOU LEARNED~

~YOUR FAVORITE PART~

**Your Opinions Count!
They Help Us When
We Write
New Shows!**

Dear Audience:

The Atlantic Coast Theatre For Youth would like to thank all of you for showing us such fantastic audience manners during the show! Everyone was so respectful during the performance. You laughed when things were funny, but you were also able to quiet back down so that everyone could hear. I don't think that we heard anyone talking while the actors were on stage. That was great! You made our job so much fun.

Thanks so much! You were wonderful!

Sincerely,

Don Gruel & Noel Holland

Get your letters to your teacher or the school
office so they can mail them to ACT For Youth
(or the sponsor of the show).

Before The Show Activities

- **WATCHING A PLAY-** You will be seeing a live theatre production. What are the differences between a play and a movie or television? How is it different to view each type? What kinds of theatre manners should be used when watching a play?

(Florida Standards Connections: TH.K.S.1.1, TH.1.O.3.1, TH.1.S.1.1, TH.2.C.2.2, TH.2.S.1.1, TH.3.O.3.1, TH.3.S.1.1, TH.4.S.1.1, TH.5.H.3.2, TH.5.S.1.1)

- **OTHER VERSIONS OF THE SAME STORY-** Learn the original fairy tale of THE THREE LITTLE PIGS. Read different books and/or watch other versions of the three pigs story. This show, THE THREE LITTLE CIRCUS PIGS, is adapted from that original fairy tale. Predict what you think the show will be like since it has a circus theme!

(Florida B.E.S.T. Standards Connections: ELA.K.R.1.1, ELA.K.R.1.3, ELA.1.R.1.1, ELA.1.R.1.2, ELA.2.R.1.1, ELA.2.R.1.2, ELA.3.R.1.1, ELA.3.R.1.2, ELA.4.R.1.1, ELA.4.R.1.2, ELA.5.R.1.1, ELA.5.R.1.2)

- **MUSIC IN A PLAY-** In the play, you will hear songs with a Circus Theme. They have been composed by Noel Holland to make the Circus Acts more fun. Try making up your own Circus Theme. Have a classmate create their own Circus Act while you sing, hum, or play your Circus Songs.

(Florida B.E.S.T. Standards Connections: ELA.K.C.1.2, ELA.1.C.1.2, ELA.2.C.1.2, ELA.3.C.1.2, ELA.4.C.1.2, ELA.5.C.1.2)

After The Show Activities

- **COMPARE & CONTRAST**- Think of other versions you have read or seen of The Three Little Pigs. How was the play you saw different? How was it the same? Discuss this as a group.

(Florida B.E.S.T. Standards Connections: ELA.K.R.3.3, ELA.1.R.3.3, ELA.2.R.3.3, ELA.3.R.3.3, ELA.4.R.3.3, ELA.5.R.3.3)

- **WRITE A STORY**- What happens next in the story? It is up to you. Choose one of the characters from the show. Write a short story about what happens to the characters after the play ends.

(Florida B.E.S.T. Standards Connections: ELA.K.C.1.2, ELA.1.C.1.2, ELA.2.C.1.2, ELA.3.C.1.2, ELA.4.C.1.2, ELA.5.C.1.2)

- **ACT OUT A CHARACTER**- Choose a favorite character from the play and act it out. Use your own imagination to choose how to play the part. You can even choose characters who are mentioned and never shown on stage. Choose how the character sounds and moves?

(Florida Standards Connections: TH.K.S.2.1, TH.1.S.3.1, TH.2.S.3.1, TH.3.S.3.1, , TH.4.S.3.1, TH.5.S.3.1)

- **BE A SCENIC DESIGNER**- The scenery for the show you watched was designed specifically to help tell the story on stage. The Atlantic Coast Theatre is a touring theatre company, so at the end of the show, everything must be packed up and taken to the next performance location. Choose one of your favorite stories and design the scenery. Think about how it will go together for travel, and how easy or difficult it will be to pack up.

(Florida Standards Connections: VA.K.S.1.2, VA.1.S.1.3, VA.2.S.3.1, VA.3.S.3.1, VA.4.S.3.1, VA.5.S.3.1)

- **YOUR REVIEW**- Discuss your thoughts on the show. What were your favorite parts? What elements of the performance helped to tell the story.

(Florida Standards Connections: TH.K.C.2.1. / TH.K.C.3.1 / TH.1.C.2.2 / TH.1.C.3.1 / TH.2.C.1.1 / TH.2.C.1.2 / TH.2.C.3.1 / TH.3.C.1.2 / TH.3.C.3.1 / TH.4.C.3.1 / TH.4.C.3.3 / TH.5.C.2.3 / TH.5.C.3.1 / TH.68.C.1.3 TH.68.C.2.4)

BONUS Show Activities

- In our show, THE THREE LITTLE CIRCUS PIGS, the Wolf character is clearly one of the heroes of the story. She disagrees with being called “The Big Bad Wolf” and considers it an unfair label. Have you ever had a time where you were misunderstood and someone labeled you? Discuss how this made you feel. Discuss as a class how we all can look beyond labels to see the real personalities of the people around us.
- The Wolf does not realize that her allergic sneezing could be a talent that she could capitalize on. What are things in your life that you consider to be shortcomings? Do you think you could change the way you view those things? How can you change your viewpoint to make your negatives to become positives?
- Which character was your favorite in the show? Why?
- Create your own circus. Show off your talents and invite other students to come see your circus.

FL STANDARDS CONNECTIONS:

ELA.K12.EE.4.1, ELA.K12.EE.3.1

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.3.1: Make inferences to support comprehension.

ACTIVITIES:

-Watching the performance and engaging in follow-up discussion

ELA.K.V.1.2, ELA.1.V.1.2, ELA.2.V.1.2, ELA.3.V.1.3, ELA.4.V.1.3, ELA.5.V.1.3

ELA.K.V.1.2: Ask and answer questions about unfamiliar words in grade-level content.

ELA.1.V.1.2: Identify and use frequently occurring base words and their common inflections in grade-level content.

ELA.2.V.1.2: Identify and use base words and affixes to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words in grade-level content.

ELA.3.V.1.3: Use context clues, figurative language, word relationships, reference materials, and/or background knowledge to determine the meaning of multiple-meaning and unknown words and phrases, appropriate to grade level.

ELA.4.V.1.3: Use context clues, figurative language, word relationships, reference materials, and/or background knowledge to determine the meaning of multiple-meaning and unknown words and phrases, appropriate to grade level.

ACTIVITIES:

-Vocabulary

ELA.K.V.1.1, ELA.1.V.1.1, ELA.2.V.1.1, ELA.3.V.1.1, ELA.4.V.1.1, ELA.5.V.1.1

ELA.K.V.1.1: Use grade-level academic vocabulary appropriately in speaking and writing.

ELA.1.V.1.1: Use grade-level academic vocabulary appropriately in speaking and writing.

ELA.2.V.1.1: Use grade-level academic vocabulary appropriately in speaking and writing.

ELA.3.V.1.1: Use grade-level academic vocabulary appropriately in speaking and writing.

ELA.4.V.1.1: Use grade-level academic vocabulary appropriately in speaking and writing.

ELA.5.V.1.1: Use grade-level academic vocabulary appropriately in speaking and writing.

ACTIVITIES:

-Using vocabulary words in writing

ELA.K.R.3.3, ELA.1.R.3.3, ELA.2.R.3.3, ELA.3.R.3.3, ELA.4.R.3.3, ELA.5.R.3.3

ELA.K.R.3.3: Compare and contrast characters experiences in stories.

ELA.1.R.3.3: Compare and contrast two texts on the same topic.

ELA.2.R.3.3: Compare and contrast important details presented by two texts on the same topic or theme.

ELA.3.R.3.3: Compare and contrast how two authors present information on the same topic or theme.

ELA.4.R.3.3: Compare and contrast accounts of the same event using primary and/or secondary sources.

ELA.5.R.3.3: Compare and contrast primary and secondary sources related to the same topic.

ACTIVITIES:

-After The Show Activities, Compare & Contrast

ELA.K.R.1.1, ELA.K.R.1.3, ELA.1.R.1.1, ELA.1.R.1.2, ELA.2.R.1.1, ELA.2.R.1.2, ELA.3.R.1.1, ELA.3.R.1.2, ELA.4.R.1.1, ELA.4.R.1.2, ELA.5.R.1.1, ELA.5.R.1.2

ELA.K.R.1.1: Describe the main character(s), setting, and important events in a story.

ELA.K.R.1.3: Explain the roles of author and illustrator of a story.

ELA.1.R.1.1: Identify and describe the main story elements in a story.

ELA.1.R.1.2: Identify and explain the moral of a story.

ELA.2.R.1.1: Identify plot structure and describe main story elements in a literary text.

ELA.2.R.1.2: Identify and explain a theme of a literary text.

ELA.3.R.1.1: Explain how one or more characters develop throughout the plot in a literary text.

ELA.3.R.1.2: Explain a theme and how it develops, using details, in a literary text.

ELA.4.R.1.1: Explain how setting, events, conflict, and character development contribute to the plot in a literary text.

ELA.4.R.1.2: Explain a stated or implied theme and how it develops, using details, in a literary text.

ELA.5.R.1.1: Analyze how setting, events, conflict, and characterization contribute to the plot in a literary text.

ELA.5.R.1.2: Explain the development of stated or implied theme(s) throughout a literary text.

ACTIVITIES:

-Before The Show Activities, Other Versions Of The Same Story

ELA.K.C.1.3, ELA.1.C.1.3, ELA.2.C.1.3, ELA.3.C.1.3, ELA.4.C.1.3, ELA.5.C.1.3

ELA.K.C.1.3: Using a combination of drawing, dictating, and/or writing, express opinions about a topic or text with at least one supporting reason.

ELA.1.C.1.3: Write opinions about a topic or text with at least one supporting reason from a source and a sense of closure.

ELA.2.C.1.3: Write opinions about a topic or text with reasons supported by details from a source, use transitions, and provide a conclusion.

ELA.3.C.1.3: Write opinions about a topic or text, include reasons supported by details from one or more sources, use transitions, and provide a conclusion.

ELA.4.C.1.3: Write to make a claim supporting a perspective with logical reasons, using evidence from multiple sources, elaboration, and an organizational structure with transitions.

ELA.5.C.1.3: Write to make a claim supporting a perspective with logical reasons, relevant evidence from sources, elaboration, and an organizational structure with varied transitions.

ACTIVITIES:

-Write a letter to the actors

ELA.K.C.1.2, ELA.1.C.1.2, ELA.2.C.1.2, ELA.3.C.1.2, ELA.4.C.1.2, ELA.5.C.1.2

ELA.K.C.1.2: Using a combination of drawing, dictating, and/or writing, create narratives with the events in chronological order.

ELA.1.C.1.2: Write narratives that retell two or more appropriately sequenced events, including relevant details and a sense of closure.

ELA.2.C.1.2: Write personal or fictional narratives using a logical sequence of events, transitions, and an ending.

ELA.3.C.1.2: Write personal or fictional narratives using a logical sequence of events, appropriate descriptions, dialogue, a variety of transitional words or phrases, and an ending.

ELA.4.C.1.2: Write personal or fictional narratives using a logical sequence of events and demonstrating an effective use of techniques such as descriptions and transitional words and phrases.

ELA.5.C.1.2: Write personal or fictional narratives using a logical sequence of events and demonstrating an effective use of techniques such as dialogue, description, and transitional words and phrases.

ACTIVITIES:

-Write Your Own Play

-Before The Show Activities, Music In A Play

-After The Show Activities, Write A Story

TH.K.C.2.1 / TH.K.C.3.1 / TH.1.C.2.2 / TH.1.C.3.1 / TH.2.C.1.1 / TH.2.C.1.2 / TH.2.C.3.1 / TH.3.C.1.2 / TH.3.C.3.1 / TH.4.C.3.1 / TH.4.C.3.3 / TH.5.C.2.3 / TH.5.C.3.1 / TH.68.C.1.3 TH.68.C.2.4)

- TH.K.C.2.1.** Respond to a performance and share personal preferences about parts of the performance
- TH.K.C.3.1** Recognize that individuals may like different things about a selected story or play
- TH.1.C.2.2** Identify elements of an effective performance
- TH.1.C.3.1** Share opinions about selected plays
- TH.2.C.1.1** Describe a character in a story and tell why the character is important to the story
- TH.2.C.1.2** Respond to a play by drawing and/or writing about a favorite aspect of it
- TH.2.C.3.1** Identify important characteristics to discuss when sharing opinions about theatre
- TH.3.C.1.2** Watch a play and describe how the elements of light, costumes, props, and sound influence the mood of the production
- TH.3.C.3.1** Discuss the techniques that help create an effective theatre work
- TH.4.C.3.1** Identify the characteristics of an effective acting performance
- TH.4.C.3.3** Define the elements of a selected scene that create an effective presentation of an event or person
- TH.5.C.2.3** Defend an artistic choice for a theatrical work
- TH.5.C.3.1** Discuss alternate performance possibilities of the same character in the same play
- TH.68.C.1.3** Determine the purpose(s), elements, meaning, and value of a theatrical work based on personal, cultural, or historical standards
- TH.68.C.2.4** Defend personal responses to a theatre production

ACTIVITIES:

-After The Show Activities, Your Review

TH.K.S.1.1 / TH.1.O.3.1 / TH.1.S.1.1 / TH.2.C.2.2 / TH.2.S.1.1 / TH.3.O.3.1 / TH.3.S.1.1 / TH.4.S.1.1 / TH.5.H.3.2 / TH.5.S.1.1

- TH.K.S.1.1** Demonstrate appropriate audience behavior at a live performance.
- TH.1.O.3.1** Compare a play to an animated movie that tells the same story.
- TH.1.S.1.1** Exhibit appropriate audience etiquette and response.
- TH.2.C.2.2** Describe how an actor in a play, musical, or film creates a character.
- TH.2.S.1.1** Exhibit the behavior necessary to establish audience etiquette, response, and constructive criticism.
- TH.3.O.3.1** Compare the characteristics of theatre to television and movies.
- TH.3.S.1.1** Demonstrate effective audience etiquette and constructive criticism for a live performance.
- TH.4.S.1.1** Exhibit proper audience etiquette, give constructive criticism, and defend personal responses.
- TH.5.H.3.2** Compare theatre to other modes of communication.
- TH.5.S.1.1** Describe the difference in responsibilities between being an audience member at live or recorded performances.

ACTIVITIES:

-Before The Show Activity, Theatre Manners

TH.K.S.2.1, TH.1.S.3.1, TH.2.S.3.1, TH.3.S.3.1, , TH.4.S.3.1, TH.5.S.3.1

- TH.K.S.2.1** Pretend to be a character from a given story.
- TH.1.S.3.1** Use simple acting techniques to portray a person, place, action, or thing.
- TH.2.S.3.1** Create imagined characters, relationships, and environments using basic acting skills.
- TH.3.S.3.1** Create and sustain imagined characters and relationships, using basic acting skills, to tell a simple story.
- TH.4.S.3.1** Create and sustain imagined characters and relationships, using basic acting skills, to re-tell a well-known fairy tale, fable, or story.
- TH.5.S.3.1** Create and sustain imagined characters and relationships, using basic acting skills, to tell an original story based on historical, literary, or everyday situations.

ACTIVITIES:

- After The Show Activities, Act Out A Character

VA.K.S.1.2, VA.1.S.1.3, VA.2.S.3.1, VA.3.S.3.1, VA.4.S.3.1, VA.5.S.3.1

- VA.K.S.1.2** Produce artwork influenced by personal decisions and ideas.
- VA.1.S.1.3** Create works of art to tell a personal story.
- VA.2.S.3.1** Manipulate art materials and refine techniques to create two- and/or three-dimensional personal works.
- VA.3.S.3.1** Use materials, tools, and processes to achieve an intended result in two- and/or three-dimensional artworks.
- VA.4.S.3.1** Experiment with various materials, tools, techniques, and processes to achieve a variety of results in two- and/or three-dimensional artworks.
- VA.5.S.3.1** Use materials, tools, techniques, and processes to achieve expected results in two- and/or three-dimensional artworks.

ACTIVITIES:

- After The Show Activities, Be A Set Designer
- Be A Scenic Artist Activity Sheet