

PLAY GUIDE



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The Ghosts of Pineville

By Sara Turner and Jeremy Kisling. Adapted from the graphic novels by Sara Turner.

Presented on the LCT Learning Stage: October 16 - 19, 2018

Major Contributors:



Dear Educator –

Lexington Children's Theatre is proud to be producing our 80th season of plays for young people and their families. As an organization that values the arts and education, we have created this Play Guide for teachers to utilize in conjunction with seeing a play at LCT.

Our Play Guides are designed to be a valuable tool in two ways: helping you prepare your students for the enriching performance given by LCT's performers, as well as serving as an educational tool for extending the production experience back into your classroom.

We designed each activity to assist in achieving the Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS), including the National Core Arts Standards for Theatre. Teachers have important voices at LCT, and we rely heavily on your input. If you have comments or suggestions about our Play Guides, show selections, or any of our programming, your thoughts are greatly appreciated. Please email Jeremy Kisling, our Associate Artistic Director in Charge of Education, at jkisling@lctonstage.org.

Please use the Teacher Response form following a performance. We are thrilled that you rely on LCT to provide your students a quality theatrical experience, and we hope this resource helps you in your classroom.

LCT's Education Department

The mission of our education programming



The mission of Lexington Children's Theatre's Education Department is to **provide students of all ages with the means to actively explore the beauty, diversity, complexity, and challenges of the world around them through the dramatic process.** We strive for young people to develop their own creative voice, their imagination, and their understanding of drama and its role in society.

Your role in the play

You may wish to have a discussion with your class about your upcoming LCT experience and their role as audience members. Remind your students that theatre can only exist with an audience. Your students' energy and response directly affects the actors onstage. The quality of the performance depends as much on the audience as it does on each of the theatre professionals behind the scenes and on stage.

Young audiences should know that watching live theatre is not like watching more familiar forms of entertainment; they cannot pause or rewind us like a DVD, there are no commercials for bathroom breaks, nor can they turn up the volume to hear us if someone else is talking. Your students are encouraged to listen and watch the play intently, so that they may laugh and cheer for their favorite characters when it is appropriate.

At the end of the play, applause is an opportunity for your students to thank the actors, while the actors are thanking you for the role you played as an audience.



Meet the Actors - The Ghosts of Pineville

J. T. BANIAK (Chopper Sweeney) is a freshman drama student at SCAPA Lafayette. He previously performed in LCT's *Peter Pan Jr.* and *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. He has found his crew in LCT's teen companies since 2015, and he also appreciates wild socks, strange hats, and the absurd comedic style of Monty Python.

KENZIE BARHART (Candy Sweeney) is fourteen year old freshman at Lafayette High school. She has performed in other plays, but this is her first with LCT. Besides theatre, Kenzie enjoys writing and playing lacrosse. She looks forward to hopefully participating in more LCT productions in the near future.

KATIE BOWDEN (Emily Van Warren) is a sixth grader at Leestown Middle School, who enjoys singing, acting, and Girl Scouts. She spends many weekends playing Dungeons & Dragons with her friends. Her favorite musicals are *Wicked*, *Hamilton*, and *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical*. *The Ghosts of Pineville* is her first production with LCT.

JOHNATHAN HARPER (Popular #2/The Shadow) is 15 and a sophomore in high school. This is his second production with LCT. He previously played Mr. Lennox in *Afternoon of the Elves* and is excited to be a part of *The Ghosts of Pineville*. Jonathan would like to thank his fellow cast members for everything.

BRYANNA HUTCHINSON (Popular #1/Ghost) is a 7th grader that goes to Leestown Middle School. This is her first play at LCT! Bryanna loves to play her ukulele and sing. When Bryanna grows up she wants to be a Broadway actress or an electronic engineer.

RACHAEL KELLY (Assistant Director) is honored to have her first directing opportunity. She is a sophomore at SCAPA. Past roles include Shenzi in *The Lion King*, Shere Khan in *The Jungle Book*, Twin I in *Peter Pan*, Miss Hannigan in *Annie* and Chi Fu in *Mulan*. Rachael wants to thank everyone at LCT for their love and support.

AFTON SKEETERS (Glory Roberts) Afton is a 13 year old eighth grader at Woodford County Middle School. She previously acted in junior productions of *Mary Poppins*, *The Lion King*, *The Music Man*, and *Willy Wonka*. Afton is very excited to make her LCT debut in *The Ghosts of Pineville* and hopes you enjoy the show.

DONOVAN STONE (Simon Stillwater) is excited to return to LCT after playing Nigel in *Matilda the Musical* this summer and making many new friends! Donovan is a 6th grader at The Lexington School where he plays on the soccer, basketball, and lacrosse teams. He recently began tumbling so he can learn to do cool flips!

JOHN HENRY TRIMBLE (Roger Goode/Ghost) is 12 years old and a 7th grader at The Lexington School. He fell in love with acting when performing *Fairytales with a Twist*. John Henry has been in *The Sound of Music*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, and attended JTF. He is happy to be performing with LCT.

DELANEY NASH WILLS (Doris Sweeney) is a freshman at Anderson County High School. This is her 6th production with LCT. She loves being a part of the LCT Family and hopes you enjoy the show!

What to know - before the show!

Play Synopsis

Chopper Sweeney is an average kid. He likes horror movies, comics, and he shares a paper route with his best friend, Hank. The morning after hearing a creepy Pineville ghost story told by Hank's older brother, Roger, Hank and Chopper are confronted by the ghost of Simon Stillwater, a young boy their age who disappeared several years ago. Simon asks the two to solve his case and Chopper decides to do it, because if he can prove that ghosts are real, there is a chance he might see his dad again. According to Simon, he was taken by a ghost who haunted his house, Emily Van Warren. Hank and Chopper check out the house, but decide to bring Chopper's neighbor Glory along just in case. In the mansion, they are confronted by the ghosts, just as Chopper's older sister, Doris, and Glory's older brother, J.T., arrive. The group all agree they saw something, but they're not sure what. Doris finds a supernatural book in the attic that she takes so she can learn more.

Chopper, Hank, and Glory want to learn more, too. They start investigating, designing equipment, and are on the hunt – to find ghosts and hopefully their lost parents. But when the group has a run-in with the Pineville Populars, who tease them and rough them up, Chopper wanted to call it quits. Doris decides to help her brother by summoning the Shadow, an entity that can grant a wish, but it all goes wrong when Chopper makes a wish asking to make it easier to find ghosts. The ghosts respond by returning to the mortal world from the afterlife. Doris goes missing and the group must find her. They locate her in the cemetery, where the Shadow now has control of the book and its powers. Chopper realizes it's up to him to save Pineville, but the cost is never seeing his father again. Chopper decides his hometown and his friends are important to him and he must give up his need to see his father again for the town to survive. Chopper saves Pineville and comes to understand that his father is always with him in his heart.



What to know - before the show!

My Haunted Kentucky Home

The Ghosts of Pineville is loosely based on Kentucky's own Pikeville in Pike County. While the characters and ghosts in the story aren't real people in the city of Pikeville, there are other ghost stories that are native to the state of Kentucky. With your students, research news of spooky folklore throughout the state. Are there any haunted houses or cemeteries, alleged sightings of ghosts, or simply fun Halloween traditions in certain towns? Compile a collection of the most interesting articles about paranormal activity in Kentucky to share with the class. Need help getting started? Check out the link below:

<https://www.kentuckytourism.com/things-to-do/history-heritage/haunted-kentucky/>

KAS: SS.2.20 KAS: RH.1.2.7

Ghost Hunters

To be a ghost hunter, it's important to understand the various vocabulary used to describe supernatural phenomena. The more that Chopper, Hank, and Glory learn about ghosts, the more specific vocabulary they use to describe the events happening in their lives. Using the word bank below, match these common ghost hunting words to their definitions.

Word Bank

Afterlife	Haunt	Portal
Ectoplasm	Investigate	Possession
Electronic Voice Phenomenon (EVP)	Ouija Board	Spell
Exorcism	Paranormal	Summoning
Ghost	Poltergeist	

Definitions

1. The spirit of someone who has passed away that is believed to appear as a vague, shadowy form.
2. The act of getting rid of a spirit.
3. To call upon someone to appear or make their presence known.
4. To observe or study by close examination.
5. A state in which an individual's normal personality is replaced by another.
6. A substance or spiritual energy produced by a spirit.
7. An entrance or gateway.
8. A place or state after one passes away.
9. Words used as a magical charm or incantation.
10. Events and phenomena that are beyond the scope of normal scientific understanding.
11. To visit often or inhabit as a ghost.
12. An item with printed letters, numbers, and other signs used to communicate with spirits.
13. Recorded sounds that are believed to be the voices of spirits.
14. A ghost or other supernatural being responsible for unexplained loud noises and thrown objects.



Answer Key

KAS: LS.4.a. KAS: LS.4.c.

1) Ghost; 2) Exorcism; 3) Summoning; 4) Investigate; 5) Possession; 6) Ectoplasm; 7) Portal; 8) Afterlife; 9) Spell; 10) Paranormal; 11) Haunt; 12) Ouija Board; 13) Electronic Voice Phenomenon; 14) Poltergeist

What to know - before the show!

Mystery Multiplication

In *The Ghosts of Pineville*, Chopper and his friends use their problem-solving skills to unlock the mysteries of their town. Below is a grid of multiplication problems. The answer to each problem correlates to a different color listed in the key at the bottom of the page. Answer each problem and color in the boxes to reveal a spooky mystery image.

4x9	5x6	6x5	3x9	4x9	5x6	5x5	2x3	2x3	7x5	4x6	5x7	3x8	7x5	3x8	5x6	5x6	8x3	8x3
7x4	6x6	10x4	6x6	5x6	7x4	10x4	4x6	3x6	4x4	10x3	5x6	5x5	4x8	5x8	9x3	3x7	4x10	4x6
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6x1	1x8	2x7	2x9	6x3	2x9	6x3	2x7	3x5	3x5	4x3	1x8	6x3	2x3	2x6	2x4	6x1	2x9	1x3

Key:

1-20	Green
21-40	Black
41-60	Orange
61-100	Orange-Red

What to know - before the show!

The Writing Process:

An Interview with Playwrights Sara Turner, Author and Illustrator of *The Ghosts of Pineville* and Jeremy Kisling, Associate Artistic Director at Lexington Children's Theatre

ABOUT SARA TURNER

Sara Turner resides in Lexington, where she holds a Bachelor in Fine Arts from the University of Kentucky. She currently creates comics as *Tiny Ghost Stories*. She started work on *The Ghosts of Pineville* series in early 2009 with the mini-comic *The Cherished Collection of Emily VanWart*. Since, she's created a trilogy of the series including an array of ghostly mini-comics. Along with her comics, Sara also works as one-half of the tag-team duo, Cricket Press, which specializes in custom screen-printed posters, letterpress, illustration and design. Since forming Cricket Press with her husband Brian in 2003, they've done freelance illustration for various companies and individuals and posters for a wide range of free-jazz, punk, and indie-rock bands.

ABOUT JEREMY KISLING

Jeremy Kisling has taught, directed and performed for young people in Iowa, Texas, Washington and Kentucky and is the Associate Artistic Director in charge of Education at Lexington Children's Theatre. He received his B.A. in Theatre Arts from the University of Northern Iowa and his M.F.A. in Drama and Theatre for Youth from the University of Texas at Austin. Jeremy is a part time instructor at the University of Kentucky and loves the opportunity to challenge young artists as they work to explore and understand the power of theatre and community.

Did you think *The Ghosts of Pineville* would adapt well to the stage? Why? Why not?

SARA: Yes, I knew with the right script and the right people behind the production, *The Ghosts of Pineville* could be fantastic for the stage. The characters are fun, the messages are relatable and universal: life, death, family, friends, coming-of-age, and understanding all these things in new ways.

JEREMY: Absolutely, Sara has some wonderfully rich characters in the graphic novels and I was excited to see them come off the page. These young people are very much like the young people of today, looking for friends, and having the desire to fit in and find a common purpose.

What has been the biggest challenge of adapting the graphic novels for the stage?

SARA: The biggest challenge was condensing three books into one cohesive story while staying true to the arching themes and important character development.

JEREMY: We added to the villain's character in the books. We filled out his story and changed some of the given circumstances to really motivate his desire for the spirits to return to the land of the living.

What are you most looking forward to in the stage production of your work?

SARA: What I'm looking forward to the most is seeing these fictional characters come to life, to hear our written words spoken aloud, interpreted through our young cast!

JEREMY: It's magical when a script and a story come to life. I think the best thing will be to watch Sara's reactions to these characters she knows and loves so much become three dimensional.

What to know - before the show!

The Writing Process:

An Interview with Playwrights Sara Turner, Author and Illustrator of *The Ghosts of Pineville* and Jeremy Kisling, Associate Artistic Director at Lexington Children's Theatre

Talk about the writing process and working with Jeremy as a co-collaborator? Jeremy, what it was like to work with Sara?

SARA: Working with Jeremy to translate sequential art into a stage play was a smooth, fun, creative process. I've never written a play before, so his support and expertise were crucial. It was obvious we wanted the same things for the story and its characters, so the initial rough draft started easily. We passed it back and forth, building and editing as we went. When things weren't working we were able to recognize them and with a little discussion ultimately make them better to shape a final script we're both extremely excited about.

JEREMY: This has been one of the best collaboration experiences of my life. I think there was a mutual understanding and trust from the beginning. We were both here to work on the play and share the stories of these characters. I don't think we have ever had any major disagreements, because we like to share our ideas and points and talk through them.

How have your characters or the story changed through the play adaptation process?

SARA: The story, of course, had to be condensed and through that process it did change a bit from the comics. The heart of the story and the voices of the characters are still there which are the most important parts.

JEREMY: There is so much material in the three graphic novels, it's all good, but we just did not have enough time to put it all into an hour-long show.



How to grow - after the show!

Create Your Own Graphic Novel!

The Ghosts of Pineville is based on the graphic novels of the same title by Sara Turner. A graphic novel is a type of text that combines words and images to tell a story, similar to a comic! Now it is your turn to brainstorm an original ghost story and draw it in the boxes below.

How to grow - after the show!

Taking It a Step Further!

After creating your original mini-graphic novel, you can take things a step further by using *tableaux* and drama techniques. Break students off into small groups of around four people, give them a chance to share their story with the group. After each member has shared their story, have students choose one story to bring to life!

They need to start by identifying the beginning, middle, and end of the piece. Then, members will create three or four frozen pictures (*tableaux*), involving the entire group, to share with the class to tell the original story. Encourage students to use their bodies at different levels to provide visual interest and detail to each frozen scene. Once all groups have created their *tableaux*, rejoin as an entire class and have each group share.

Students can try to guess what each story is about after observing the *tableaux* presentations and then the group will have a chance to share their original graphic novel.



TH:Cr1.1.6, TH:Cr2.1.6

Build Your Own Haunted House

One of the things that really can make the difference in a scary show is the sound design. Encourage your students to imagine scary sounds - ghosts, beasts, and other things that go bump in the night!

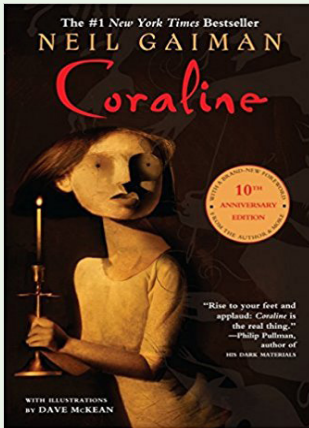
Then, divide the class in half and have them create two lines facing each other. You are going to build your own scary hallway for a haunted house - for added effect you can turn the lights down or out. One at a time, students will have the chance to go down the "haunted hallway" while the class creates a spooky soundscape using their voices. Once a student has gone through the hallway they will rejoin the line and continue adding to the soundscape until everyone has had a turn. As the activity goes on students may change their scary sounds in order to make the most ominous haunted house, however, they are not allowed to touch one another.

After completing the activity, come back together as a class to discuss what sounds were most effective in setting a spooky scene. What sounds could provoke other emotions in actors and audience members? If you would like, you can create other soundscapes to set different moods with your class, for example, a happy hallway or a mysterious hallway, to see what new sounds students generate.

TH:Cr1.1.6

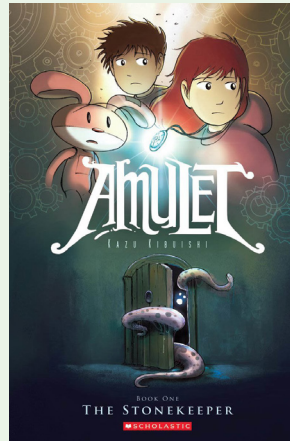
How to grow - after the show!

What to Read Next



Coraline by Neil Gaiman

When Coraline steps through a door to find another house strangely like her own (only better), things seem marvelous - at least at first.



The Stonekeeper by Kazu Kibuishi

Emily and Navin move with their mother to the home of her deceased great-grandfather, but the strange house proves to be dangerous when several creatures reveal themselves to the young siblings.

Bone by Jeff Smith

The Bone cousins are run out of Boneville and find themselves lost in an uncharted desert. They find their way into a forested valley filled with wonderful and terrifying creatures.

LCT teaches in YOUR school!

Would you like to see some of these play guide activities modeled in your classroom?

Book a workshop for your class with one of LCT's teaching artists! In our pre-show workshops, our teaching artists will engage students in acting skills and themes from the play through drama activities. In our post-show workshops, students will extend their play-going experience by strengthening their personal connection to the play and deepening their understanding of the themes and characters.



Call us at 859-254-4546 x 226 to book a pre or post-show workshop for your class!

To learn more about Lexington Children's Theatre and our programming for your school visit:
www.lctonstage.org/for-educators/in-school-experiences/