

PLAY GUIDE



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Rapunzel by Mike Kenney

Presented on the LCT Main Stage: January 24 - 30, 2019

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 Cast - *Rapunzel*



Joey Cassella (Rafi) - Joey is thrilled to join the Lexington Children's Theatre family. Joey graduated with a B.A. in Theatre Performance from James Madison University in 2017. Joey performed in *The Lost Colony* this past summer as Chief Manteo. He also appeared as part of the original cast of their new touring children's theatre show, *The Mystery of The Lost Colony*, that performed in North Carolina schools this past fall. Previous credits also include Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Hal in *Picnic*, and Jasper in *The Aliens*. When he's not performing, Joey can be found rooting for the Philadelphia Eagles, Sixers, Phillies, and Flyers. (joeycassella.com)



Claire Hilton (Rapunzel) -) Claire is so excited to join LCT's spring tour shows, *Rapunzel* and *Apollo: to the Moon*. Claire graduated with a BFA in musical theatre from Emerson College, and has since been hopping from state to state and show to show, fulfilling her love of travel along the way. Favorites include performing as Greta the Penguin in *Mr. Popper's Penguins* and choreographing *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever: The Musical*. This is her Lexington Children's Theatre debut! Enjoy the show!



Cadence Lamb (Nan) - Cadence is thrilled to join the LCT family for the first time. She has a BFA in Acting from Illinois Wesleyan University and sixteen years of dance training. Favorite roles include: Constance (*King John*) and Princess of France (*Love's Labour's Lost*) at the Texas Shakespeare Festival, Ariel (*Tempest*) and Friar Lawrence/Benvolio (*Romeo and Juliet*) at the Flagstaff Shakespeare Festival, and Elizabeth Proctor (*The Crucible*) and Crumbs-in-Pockets (*The Girl Who Fell...*) at Illinois Wesleyan University. She loves her family, friends across the world, writing music, and coffee.

What to know – before the show!

Play Synopsis

This is a story about a girl and her Nan in a once upon time in a once upon a place. Nan is terrified Rapunzel will grow up and run away so she places her in a tall tower with only a small window to look down at the world below.

Nan loves Rapunzel and wants to keep her safe so year after year she builds the tower higher to protect them from the harsh world outside. Rapunzel is lonely in her tower with Nan and becomes worried when she discovers that the local children think Nan is a witch. Rapunzel can see past the trees, the fields, the town and past the sparkling sea into the horizon but longs to experience the world outside.

Over the years, Rapunzel has found ways to keep herself busy: she sings, she paints, she even dyes her hair purple, but her hair and her curiosity grow and grow and she begins to wish for adventure. By the time Rapunzel is 10, the tower is so tall that Nan can only enter the tower by having Rapunzel to let down her hair from the window.

Most days, Rapunzel is left alone. It isn't until she meets a local boy named Rafi that an outside friendship is forged. With Rafi's help, Rapunzel frees herself from her tower, cuts her hair, and journeys down the tower and out into the great unknown. She later returns home to help Nan and learns that just because you want to discover what the world has to offer does not mean you can't come back to your home.



What to know – before the show!

Getting what you want!

Rapunzel wants more than anything to climb down from her tower and explore the world, but Nan won't let her leave. What are the different ways Rapunzel can try to get what she wants from Nan? Several ideas that Rapunzel might try include:

- Throwing a tantrum
- Flattery
- Bribery
- Begging
- Threatening
- Pleading
- Distracting
- Sneaking

Feel free to add to these examples! Write them on your whiteboard for all the students to see.

Now, the teacher will pretend to be Nan while the students pretend to be Rapunzel. Students, one by one, will ask permission to leave the tower using one of these examples that you have listed on the board. As Nan, you must choose which of these ideas will be the one that persuades you. Have fun, embellishing the reasons you can't let them leave! Once a student has been successful in their attempt to leave, a new round begins and a new reason is chosen by Nan. After the teacher is Nan a few times, choose a student to be Nan.

TH: Pr4.1.1. TH:Pr6.1.1 TH:Re8.1.1

Story Salad

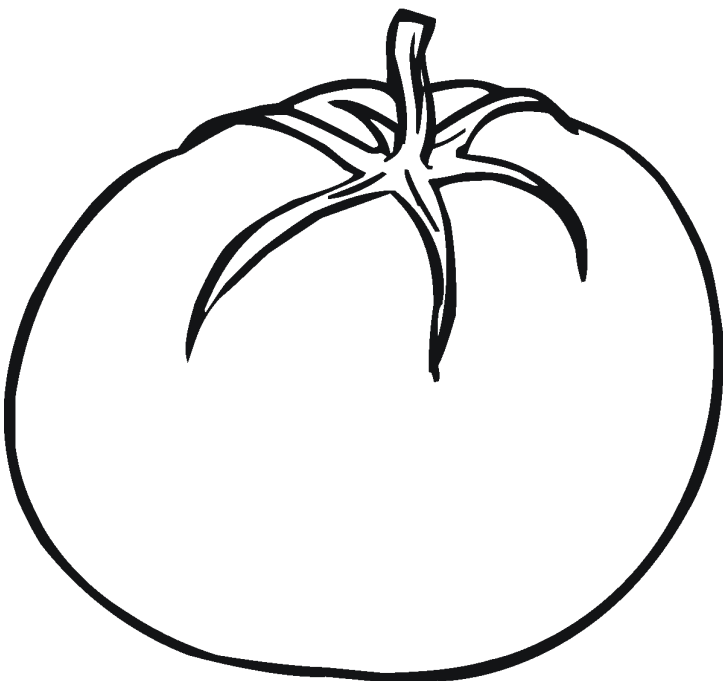
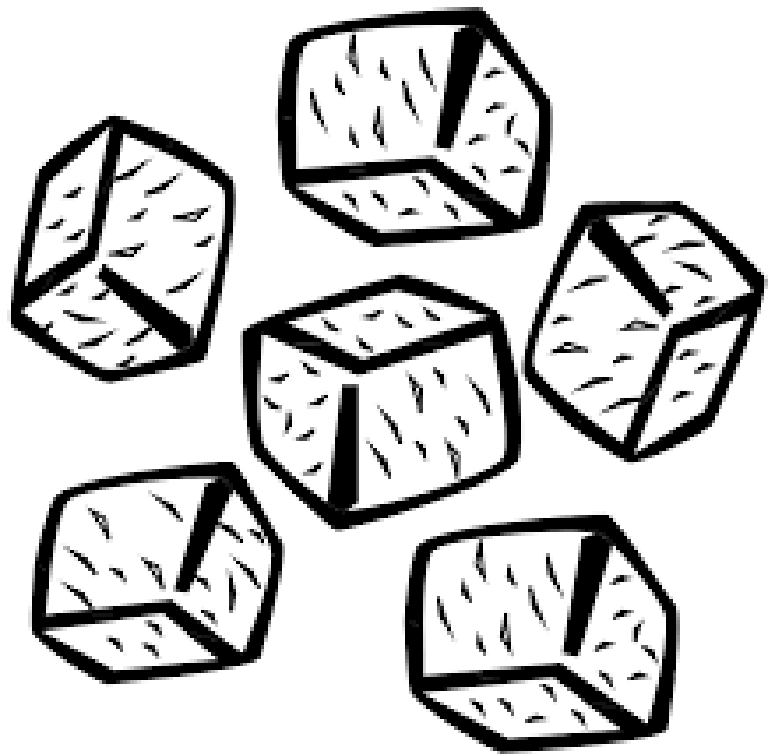
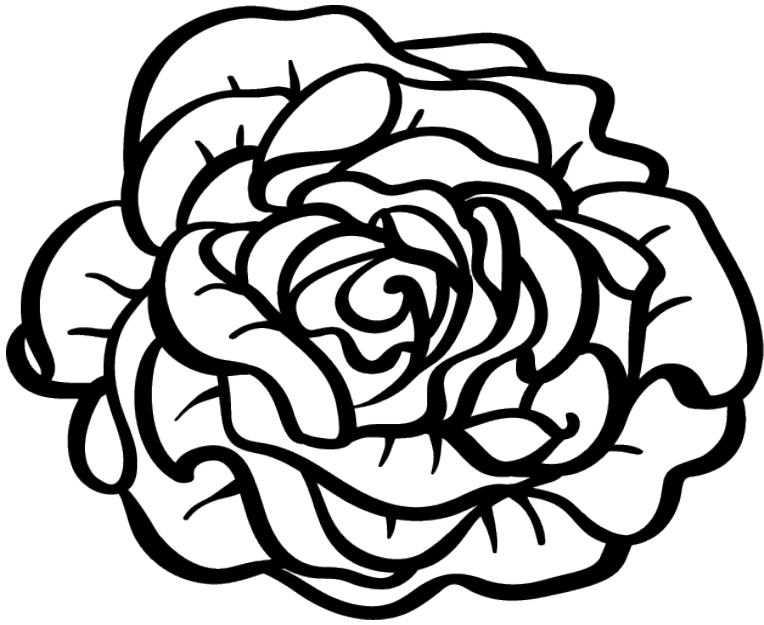


Rapunzel is named for the type of lettuce her mother loved to eat when she was pregnant with her. In this activity students will choose one item from each salad bowl - a piece of lettuce (setting), a tomato (character) and a crouton (situation) and create their own story salad!

On the next page you'll find images for the students use to create their stories. Divide the class into groups of four or five. Make a few copies of the images and place them in a bowl according to their category (Tomato, Lettuce, or Crouton). Next have each group choose one image from each bowl. The students must use each image in their story. What happened to this character? Where did the story take place and how did that affect the story? What was the story about what happened or occurred using that crouton image?

Allow a few minutes for students to collect their thoughts and generate stories.
Share your stories as

ELA: W.3.3



What to know – before the show!

Contextual Article

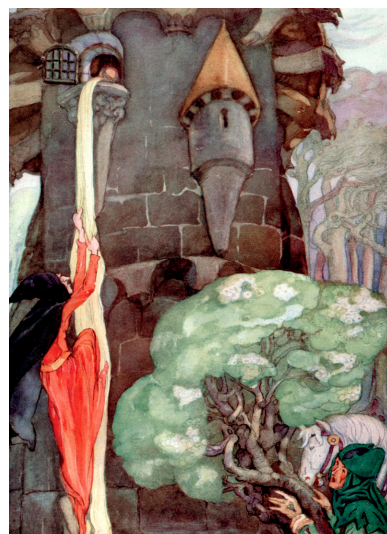
The Story of Rapunzel

Like most fairy tales, the story of *Rapunzel* has been around for a very long time. The earliest version of *Rapunzel* dates all the way back to the year 901 C.E. in which a Persian princess named Rudaba is locked in a tower and saved by her friend Zal. Another adaptation comes from France in the late 1600s, and involves a Princess named Persinette, who also gets locked away in a tall tower. Today, the most well-known version of the story is of course simply called *Rapunzel*.

The story of *Rapunzel* was made popular by German brothers Jacob Grimm and Wilhelm Grimm. Together they were the Brothers Grimm, and collected and published many folk tales and fairy tales. They first published *Rapunzel* in 1812, and we still tell the story to this day! The Brothers Grimm tell of two parents who tried to steal a certain kind of lettuce called rapunzel from a wicked witch's garden. The wicked witch was named Dame Gothel, and she became very angry with the parents. She demanded to have their baby as payment for their thievery. The witch named the baby Rapunzel after the lettuce her parents had tried to steal, and locked her away in a tall tower with no doors or stairs. This version of the story includes the famous line, "Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your hair!" that so many of us know today. Eventually a prince helps Rapunzel escape the witch's tower and the two live happily ever after.

Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm recorded many of the folk tales and fairy tales we know today. Traditionally, these stories had been passed down through a storyteller or through families, and there were no written recordings of the tales. The Brothers Grimm published a book called *Children's and Household Folktales*, which included the stories of *Cinderella*, *The Frog Prince*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *Rumpelstiltskin*, *Snow White*, and of course, *Rapunzel*. This book allowed many people to share these classic stories with their children and friends. The stories gained in popularity and other versions would continue to be made.

Disney told their own *Rapunzel* story with the movie *Tangled*. *Tangled* is about a young princess who is stolen from her kingdom and locked in a tower to protect her magical hair. This is very different from that of the Brothers Grimm. As you watch *Rapunzel* on stage at your school think about this: How is this version of the story different than the others you may know? How is it similar? How else do you feel this story could be told? Perhaps someday you will write your own version of *Rapunzel* and the tradition of storytelling will continue on through you!



How to grow – after the show!

Growing Up and Changing

In the play, Rapunzel's interests change as the years pass and she notices more of the world outside her window. How do we look to be at different stages of life? If you took a picture of Rapunzel at different moments in her life - how much do you think she'd change? Have the students spread out in the room and create frozen picture using their bodies to represent what it is like to be different ages.

Stage One: Baby

What/How do babies_____? 1. Move 2. Play 3. Eat 4. Want

Stage Two: Eight Years Old

What/How does an eight year old_____? 1. Move 2. Play 3. Eat 4. Want

Stage Three: Fourteen Year Old

What/How does a fourteen year old_____? 1. Move 2. Play 3. Eat 4. Want

What is different about each stage? What did the growing up experience look like for Rapunzel? How would her responsibilities, interests, etc. change?

Stage Four: Twenty Year Old

What do you think Rapunzel's life is like at the age of twenty?

TH: Cn10.1.2. TH: Pr5.1.3

Climb Rapunzel's Hair

Rapunzel befriends a boy named Rafi who must climb her hair in order to play in her tower...but they have to meet in secret when Nan is away and Rafi doesn't want to get caught! Have students experience the excitement of climbing Rapunzel's hair by creating an adventure scenario in your classroom.

Mark a line or spot on the floor as the starting line and another spot or line approximately six feet away as the finish line. The space in between these lines serves as Rapunzel's hair, which can be further illustrated by laying out two long ropes or scarves (or even two lines of chairs) to make a clear path from the starting line to the finish line. In the path of Rapunzel's hair, lay out 6-10 bows (included on the next page) to function as stepping stones.

Take on the role of Nan. The students' goal is to get their entire team from the starting line to the finish line only by stepping on Rapunzel's hair bows. But be careful! One team member must always be standing on a bow. If Nan sees a bow that isn't being used, she will swoop in and take it away!

PL-P-PS-S-7, PL-P-PS-U-1 TH: Cr3.1.3

Create Your Own Box

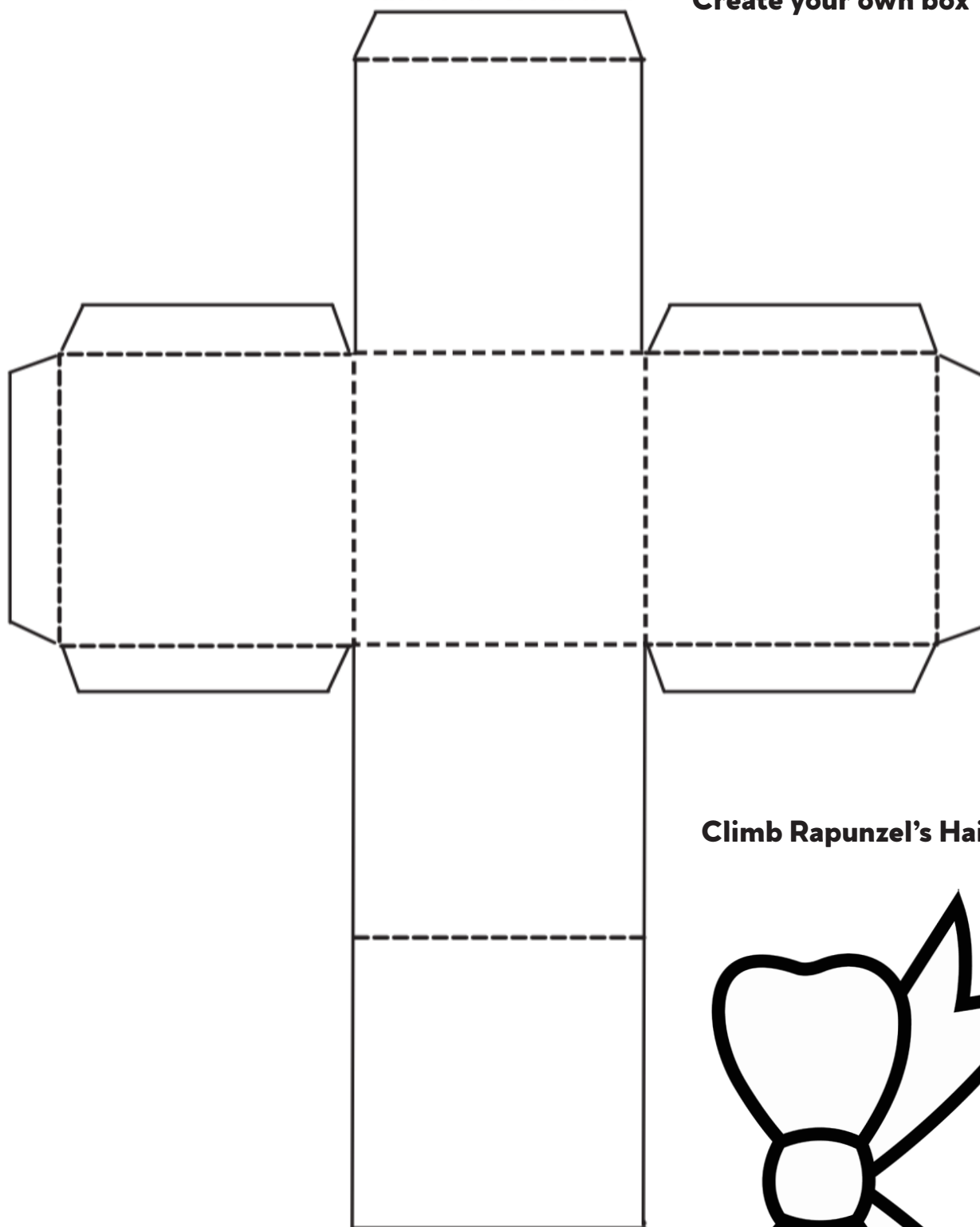
Rapunzel grows too big to sleep in her box, but she keeps it to hold special things. Sometimes, when people want to remember fun or important experiences, they make a memory box for pictures, toys, and other mementos. Do you think Rapunzel had certain events she wanted to remember? What kinds of things do you think she kept in her box? Create your very own memory box by using markers, glitter, stickers, or whatever you have in your classroom! Decorate the squares on the template with pictures or reminders of special memories from the past (maybe when you took a trip with your family or went on your first amusement park ride). Then cut along the outside line. Fold along the remaining solid lines and glue the box together using the "glue" tabs. Share with the class! What kinds of mementos will you keep in your memory box?

VA:Cr3.1.2 VA: Cr1.1.3

How to grow - after the show!

Cube Pattern

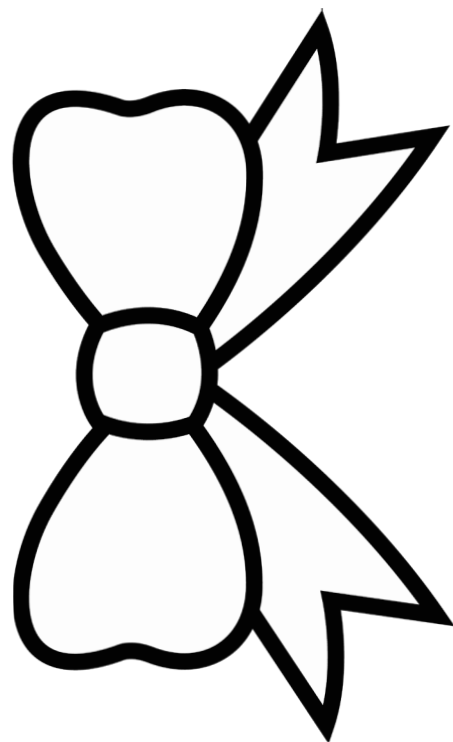
Cut on solid lines - Fold on dashed lines



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Create your own box

Climb Rapunzel's Hair



How to grow – after the show!

What to Read Next

The Princess in Black by Shannon and Dean Hale

Princess Magnolia has a secret - she's also the "Princess in Black," a crime fighting princess! Can the princess sneak away and defeat the monster before the nosy duchess discovers her secret?

Lucy and the Princess Tower by Leonie Norrington

Brigid Lucy spots a tower from the train. Upon further inspection she discovers that Princess Rapunzel is trapped inside the tower. Can Biddy save the day? This book looks at why we do the naughty things we do.

Rapunzel: The Original Story by the Brothers Grimm written and illustrated by Sarah Gibb

This retelling sticks true to the original telling of Rapunzel. The illustrations are so appealing that each page begs to be turned.

The Twelve Dancing Princess by Marianna Mayer

This is an enchanting story of twelve beautiful princesses and the handsome young gentlemen who solves the mystery of their tattered shoes.

The Paper Bag Princess by Robert Munsch

Princess Elizabeth and Prince Ronald are about to be married. Until a dragon comes and destroys the kingdom, kidnaps Ronald, and burns all of Elizabeth's clothes! Elizabeth then sets out to outsmart the dragon and rescue Ronald, who is less than excited about her appearance.

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/