



Hampstead Stage Company
a not for profit organization

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The Hampstead Stage Company
Proudly Presents
Pinocchio
A Study Guide

For use with the Theatrical Production by The Hampstead Stage Company
Created by Amanda Pawlik, Education Director
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Pinocchio

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Education Director's Welcome

Thank you so much for bringing Hampstead Stage Company to your students!

The following study guide and workshop lesson plans are meant to supplement and enhance our performance. Please note, no formal preparation is required for seeing our shows, but we hope that these educational materials will inspire your students to continue learning about classic literature. We hope you enjoy them just as much as we enjoyed creating them for you!

Sincerely,

Amanda Pawlik

Education Director

Hampstead Stage Company

About Hampstead Stage Company

We are a nationally touring educational theatre that brings high quality, professional theatre to schools, libraries, and communities all over the 48 contiguous states (everywhere but Hawaii and Alaska!). The Hampstead Stage Company's goal is to bring great books to life through live theatre; sparking an interest in reading, and creating a new way to use your imagination.

The Hampstead Stage Company got its name from our founders, who came to America from the Hampstead area of London, England to pursue their dreams. Since its inception, our company has grown into one of the largest educational touring companies in the nation. We have performed for over twenty million audience members!

Our interactive educational tours run year-round and are performed by two professional actors, each playing multiple roles. Our scripts are original adaptations, based directly on literary classics, and include children and adults from the audience. The plays last one hour, with a



question and answer session following the performance. We travel to your space, and bring our own realistic sets and costumes; designed using extensive historical research. Our productions are flexible enough to fit into any assembly/performance space.

Theatre performance helps us learn about ourselves and the world around us. But more than that, by using our imagination we can be proud of who we are, create goals for ourselves, and even help the way we think at home and in our communities!

The Hampstead Stage Company is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All HSC study guides and supporting lesson plans are available to download for free from our website!

Contact: Anna Robbins, Company Manager: info@hampsteadstage.org
Website: www.hampsteadstage.org

All About Pantomime

The Hampstead Stage Company specializes in a special form of theatre called pantomime. Don't be fooled, we are not silent mimes with painted faces!

Pantomime, also known as "panto", goes back much farther than that. Panto is a form of theatre traditionally found in the United Kingdom, Australia, Zimbabwe, India, and Ireland; and has been performed since the time of Ancient Greece! The word "pantomime" comes from the Greek words pantos, "every, all"; and mimos, "imitator, actor". Pantomime in Ancient Greece used to mean a group of actors and musicians imitating a story. Many famous poets used to write scripts for these actors, and were paid very well!

Pantomime was first performed in England as a show between the acts of an opera, so they could change the set backstage. It became such a popular performance, that it soon became a show of its own. It is said that pantomime had its first full performance in the early 19th century.



Actors travelled from town to town performing well-known stories that taught a lesson, or encouraged the audience to think about the characters, and how they solved the problems they were presented.

Now pantomime is a very well-known form of theatre in England. Shows are based on traditional children's stories, and call for a LOT of audience participation! In England, the audience often "boos" the villain character, "awws" for the damsel in distress, and yells comments to the characters such as: "he's right behind you!", "Oh, yes, he is!", or "Oh, no he isn't!". Volunteers are often called on stage by the Hampstead Stage Company to act as the Chorus. They become extras, playing many characters in multiple scenes, and are often on stage as much as the two other actors!

HSC actors follow traditional pantomime casting: girls play boys, boys play girls, and there are many, many costume changes. Actors rely on their voices and physicality (the way they move their bodies) to portray different characters. Just like all pantomime shows before; Hampstead actors travel all over the country, performing in many different types of spaces!



About the Author

Carlo Collodi

Carlo Collodi is the pen name of Carlo Lorenzini (24 November 1826-26 October 1890). Lorenzini was born in Florence, Italy. He came from humble beginnings, but was fortunate to attend school in the Tuscan village of Collodi, his mother's hometown and the inspiration for his penname.

In his early adult life, Collodi trained to become a priest, but the politics of the time quickly changed his path. Italy was struggling under the oppression of both Austrian rulers and local monarchs. Citizens were facing strict rule and were isolated from the rest of the world. Inspired to act, Collodi became a journalist to raise awareness of these issues. In 1848, he founded *Il Lampione (The Lantern)* -a journal of political satire. To further support his political beliefs, he enlisted as a soldier in the Italian Wars of Independence in 1848 and 1859.

After his time in the military, Collodi became an elected official, taking an interest in education and initiating and supporting much needed education reforms at the time. His time working in education reform led to his shift to writing for children. In his own words, "Now I shall devote myself to writing only for children. Grown-ups are too hard to satisfy; they are not for me."

In 1881, the first chapter of *Pinocchio* appears in *Giornale dei Bambini* -a children's magazine. The story was published in serial and soon had many followers. Ever politically-minded, Collodi wrote the story as entertainment for children, but also as an allegory for adults, commenting on the times through the story. The complete story, *Le Avventure di Pinocchio* ("the Adventures of Pinocchio") first appeared in book form in 1883 and quickly sold a million copies in Italy alone. In 1892 (two years after the author's death), it was published in English and met with great success. The story, ever-well loved, has been adapted countless times for stage and film, including the popular 1940 Disney animated movie -which was the second ever film by the company.



Plot Summary

Our play opens around Christmas time in the toy shop of Geppetto, a kindly toy maker. Geppetto enters his shop bringing in a toy he has been working on and we learn that this is his latest creation, the puppet Pinocchio. Geppetto begins to speak to Pinocchio as he works on him. He tells Pinocchio that both his wife, Isabella and son, Pinocchio, died during child birth. When Geppetto buried them in the forest, he found a piece of wood and kept it, for many years. Recently he had the inspiration to carve the puppet Pinocchio out of it. As he finishes his story, Geppetto puts the finishing touches on Pinocchio and promises never to sell him because Pinocchio is like family. There is a knock at the door and Geppetto exits to tend to his visitor, leaving Pinocchio alone onstage.

We hear offstage that the visitor is a beggar, asking Geppetto for food and warmth on a cold winter's night. Geppetto offers the Beggar his soup and tells him to eat up and feel free to wander his workroom while Geppetto goes back out into his garden to get more vegetables to make more soup for himself. The Beggar enters the workroom and admires the toys. He discovers Pinocchio and determines that Pinocchio must be the one who Geppetto tells his dreams to. The Beggar reveals that he is not a beggar at all, but a wizard who travels the country, looking for kind people to reward. Since Geppetto was so kind to him, the Wizard determines to bring Pinocchio to life so that Geppetto may have a son of his own. The Wizard casts his spell and exits.

As the clock strikes 12, Pinocchio comes to life. As he hears Geppetto enter, he freezes. Pinocchio starts to move closer to Geppetto, freezing every time Geppetto turns around. Pinocchio, caught up in the game, begins to laugh. Geppetto, thinking there is an intruder in his home, tells the person to come out or he will use an axe on them. Pinocchio reveals himself, scared. Geppetto is in disbelief, but quickly accepts Pinocchio as his son. Geppetto tells Pinocchio that he must go to school in the morning and gives Pinocchio five coins to buy books. Pinocchio exits, wondering how he will figure out how to sleep!



The scene changes to the next day and we meet Mr. Fox and his band of ruffians. Pinocchio enters and asks Mr. Fox if he knows the way to the bookshop. Mr. Fox asks Pinocchio a series of questions about why Pinocchio wants to find the bookshop. Pinocchio tells him he wants to buy books so he can learn a lot at school, get a good job, and earn money to buy Geppetto a new coat, since his old one is so worn. Mr. Fox tells Pinocchio that they are standing in front of a magic tree, and if Pinocchio plants his coins under that tree, the coins will grow into even more money. Hesitant at first, Pinocchio eventually plants his coins under the tree and exits, so that the magic can work. When he is gone, Mr. Fox sends his ruffians back into the forest, steals Pinocchio's five coins, and exits.

Pinocchio reenters to claim his money from the money tree and realizes that nothing has grown and his coins are gone. Afraid to tell Geppetto what happened, Pinocchio determines that he will tell a "white lie" and say that he did buy the school books. When Pinocchio returns home, Geppetto asks him how many books he bought. Pinocchio begins to lie and his nose starts to grow. Geppetto learns the truth and tells Pinocchio that he is breaking his heart by lying to him. Pinocchio feels terrible.

The Wizard appears and Pinocchio tells him everything. The Wizard reveals that he was the one who made Pinocchio's nose grow longer. Pinocchio says that he wishes he could become a real boy so Geppetto could have a real son, but says that he feels so far away from this goal. The Wizard tells him that things always seem impossible before they happen. He tells Pinocchio that his nose will return to normal in the morning, and stay that way unless he lies again. The Wizard exits. Pinocchio vows to be the best student he can be and to do the best work he can so that he can get closer to his goal.

The scene shifts to Malvolo, ring master of the traveling circus. He laments that his circus acts have left because he has not paid them and he is looking to recruit new performers for his circus. He recruits a



clown, a strongman, and a lion tamer and begins training them. During this, Pinocchio enters and watches the acts perform. After the performers leave, Pinocchio tells Malvolo that he would love to be in the circus. Not seeing Pinocchio at first, Malvolo tells Pinocchio maybe when he is older, but as Pinocchio crosses by him and Malvolo sees that he is a walking, talking puppet, Malvolo changes his mind, and invites Pinocchio to join the circus. Pinocchio tells him that he must get home to his papa. Malvolo tells Pinocchio that he was just with Geppetto and that Geppetto said that he wanted Pinocchio to join the circus. Pinocchio, believing Malvolo, goes with him.

We next see Malvolo introducing Pinocchio, but Pinocchio refuses to perform. Malvolo becomes angry with Pinocchio and Pinocchio complains that Malvolo is keeping him prisoner. Malvolo lies and says that he is doing him a favor by having him perform because Geppetto wanted him to burn Pinocchio up. Pinocchio, hurt, begs Malvolo not to burn him up and says he will perform that night. Malvolo exits and Pinocchio starts practicing, but realizes it is hopeless. He laments that all he wants is to be a real boy.

The Wizard enters and asks if that is truly what he wants. Pinocchio adds that what he really wants is to be Geppetto's son, but Geppetto does not want that, and told Malvolo to burn him up. The Wizard questions if Pinocchio knows if this is true, and Pinocchio realizes that Malvolo was lying. Pinocchio vows to go and find Geppetto, who has been heartbroken without him. The Wizard tells Pinocchio that Geppetto has set out in a small boat to try and find him. Pinocchio leaves to find Geppetto and the Wizard warns him to be careful, as more danger awaits.

As Pinocchio laments more danger in his future, Mr. Fox enters. At first, Pinocchio tells Mr. Fox that he wants nothing to do with him. But, Mr. Fox tells Pinocchio about an island where there are mountains of cakes and pies and rivers of chocolate and if Pinocchio goes to this island, he



just might turn into a real boy. Convinced, Pinocchio agrees to go with Mr. Fox and the two exit.

The Wizard enters and exclaims about Pinocchio's misfortunes, but admits that, Pinocchio does, after all, have a wooden brain. Pinocchio enters, now turned into a donkey! Pinocchio tells the Wizard that all he wants to be is a wooden boy again and to find Geppetto. The Wizard agrees to turn him back and tells Pinocchio that he must take a boat and save Geppetto, who has been swallowed by a whale. Pinocchio runs off to save his father.

In the next scene, we see Geppetto inside the whale. Pinocchio enters in his boat to save him and finds Geppetto, but now both are caught. Looking through the contents of Geppetto's boat, Pinocchio finds pepper and uses the pepper to get the whale to sneeze them out.

Safe on the shore, Geppetto realizes that Pinocchio, through his cleverness and bravery, has become a real boy. The two celebrate and father and son head home to start their new life as a family.

Main Characters

Geppetto: A kindly toy maker

Pinocchio: A wooden puppet who comes to life. His one wish is to become a real boy and Geppetto's real son.

The Beggar/Wizard: A Wizard in disguise as a beggar. He travels the country searching for kind people to reward. He brings Pinocchio to life to reward Geppetto's kindness, and keeps an eye on Pinocchio throughout our play.

Mr. Fox: A trickster who plays several tricks on Pinocchio

The Ruffians (Tiger, Lion, and Bear): Played by members of the audience! Mr. Fox's followers who help him trick Pinocchio.



Malvolo: A ring master who does not care about his performers

Circus Performers: Played by members of the audience! A clown, strongman, and lion tamer who perform in Malvolo's circus.

Places

The entire action of the story takes place in Italy, in the late 1800's.

Geppetto's Toy Shop: A busy toy shop where Geppetto sells his toys.

The Village Roads: Roads between Geppetto's toy shop and school, where Pinocchio meets many characters and often gets in trouble.

Malvolo's Circus: A traveling circus, Pinocchio is taken prisoner by Malvolo and forced to perform in this circus.

Magic Island: A place where there are mountains of cakes and pies, and rivers of chocolate, where Pinocchio is promised that he will be turned into a real boy. We never see this island in our play, but learn that Pinocchio turns into a donkey after visiting here!

Inside the Whale and on the Beach: Pinocchio travels inside a whale to save Geppetto! The whale then sneezes Pinocchio and Geppetto out onto the beach. On the beach, Geppetto discovers that Pinocchio has been turned into a real boy.



Preshow Discussion Questions

The following questions provide a guide for getting students excited about seeing the performance and to guide them in watching the show.

Today we are going to see a performance by Hampstead Stage Company called Pinocchio.

- Has anyone read the book or seen a movie version of this story? If so, what do you remember most about it?
- What are some qualities/traits we know to be true for Pinocchio?
- Does anyone know who Carlo Collodi is?

If possible, write up student ideas on the board or chart paper so the whole group can see all the answers. Let students know:

- **Qualities/Traits** -Students may guess these, but if not, remind them that Pinocchio is known for getting into trouble, and lying! Though he always means well, Pinocchio learns many lessons throughout the play. Encourage students to track how many lessons Pinocchio learns.
- **Carlo Collodi** is the author of *Pinocchio*, he wrote this story over 100 years ago. Collodi was passionate about education and loved writing stories for children.

Post Show Discussion Questions

- Have students share general reactions to the performance
- Who was your favorite character? Why?
- What lessons did Pinocchio learn in the show?
- When Pinocchio lied to Geppetto, his nose grew! Why do you think he lied to him? Do you agree with his decision? Why or why not?
- Are there any other questions you have about the play or theatre that the actors did not get to answer during their Q&A session?
 - Hampstead Stage loves to receive letters and emails! If students have questions or more comments they would like to share, students are encouraged to write to us! Our contact information may be found on our website.



Activities

We have prepared the following activities for those who wish to expand upon seeing our performance. These activities may be done either before or after seeing the performance. Activity leaders are encouraged to modify as needed for the needs of their students. A summary of the activities is provided below. The full lesson plans may be downloaded for free from our website.

Recycled Puppet Workshop (ages 5+): This interactive workshop guides students in creating their own puppets, using common recycled materials. Three different techniques are provided to adapt to students' age and interests. Workshop incorporates "Build a Better World" summer reading theme by empowering students to design and engineer their own unique puppets. Focus on using recycled materials to reduce waste supports conversations on simple actions we can take to make our world a better place.

Community Art Honesty Project (ages 5+): This workshop explores the theme of "honesty" in *Pinocchio* and guides participants in creating art for their community inspired by honesty. Workshop incorporates "Build a Better World" summer reading theme by empowering students to use artwork and positive messages to brighten a community space.