

2021/22

ADAPTED FROM THE BOOK BY GAIL CARSON LEVINE

RESOURCE GUIDE ADAPTED FROM CHILDSPLAY THEATRE

ELLA ENCHANTED
DIRECTED BY ANTHONY RUNFOLA



THE BIG IDEA

PERSONAL EMPOWERMENT

TEKS

English Language Arts

ELA. 110.2 ELA. 110.3 ELA 110.4 ELA 110.5 ELA 110.6

ELA 110.7

Theatre

THEATRE 117.104.B.2.A-D THEATRE 117.110.B.2.A-D THEATRE 117.113.B2.A-D THEATRE 117.116.B.2.A-E THEATRE 117.119.B.2.A-E

Additional Resources

21ST CENTURY LEARNING: Communication and Critical Thinking



WHAT THE PLAY IS ABOUT

Not every princess needs rescuing. Based on the Newbery-honor book, this *Cinderella* twist follows Ella, a princess who is given the "gift" of obedience at birth. As she grows up, the strong-willed little girl must defeat her evil stepmother, a hungry ogre, and this troublesome curse to find her own voice and live happily ever after!

TALK ABOUT IT

Start a conversation before the show:

- Ella Enchanted is loosely based on Cinderella. What structure do you see in this fairytale?
- Ella is cursed with obedience. What is your definition of being obedient?
- To whom do you think you should be obedient and what are times when it's OK not to follow orders?

Start a conversation after the show:

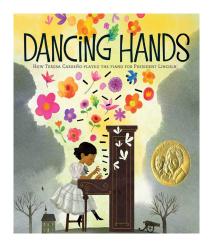
- What similiarities and differences did you see between Ella Enchanted and Cinderella?
- How does knowing many languages of creatures in the kingdom help Ella on her journey?
- Some people, like Hattie and Olive, take advantage of Ella's obedience. Talk about why this is wrong. What could you do to make sure people don't take advantage of others?
- When Ella loses her mother, her father remarries creating a new blended family that is not ideal. What is an example of a positive blended family from real life or literature?
- In musicals, characters sing when they feel an emotion so strongly that it's not enough to speak. What is a song from the show that helped us understand a character's emotion? How did the music and words help us understand how the character was feeling?

WRITE ABOUT IT

- Lucinda learns to walk in other people's shoes because they are different from her. What does it mean to you to walk in other people's shoes? Is there anyone in your life whose experiences you would like to understand better? What are some ways you could do that?
- Ella becomes empowered and is able to break the curse of obediece on her own. What are some ways you feel empowered? How can you work to empower others?

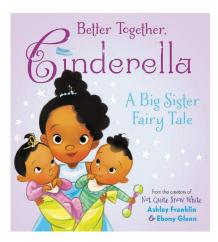
READ ABOUT IT

Magik's Education Department has put together list of books connected to the ideas and themes in *Ella Enchanted*. Check it out!



Dancing Hands: How Teresa Carreño Played the Piano for President Lincoln

by Margarita Engle and Rafael Lopez



Better Together, Cinderella by Ashley Franklin



The Princess Diaries by Meg Cabot

EXPLORE IT

Actors as Close Readers

Theatre is a collection of choices. A choice is an artistic decision that is made to highlight a component of the character's personality, the story, or the theme. An actor's job is to draw evidence from the text to make choices that bring characters to life on stage.

Activity: Reading for Emotional Context

The next page of this document contains a scene from *Ella Enchanted*. Read, or have the students read, one or more sections. Work together to decide on vocal and physical choices based on the text.

Discuss what the text is talking about and put it on its feet to help students grasp the concepts. Play around with different choices to see how the meaning changes. When making choices, think about pacing (fast or slow), pitch (high or low), emotion (what the character is feeling), and subtext (underlying meaning). Share with others!

The following scene is from *Ella Enchanted* by Karen Zacarias to be used for educational purposes only. Words in italics are stage directions.

ELLA: I need to find my Fairy Godmother Lucinda.

MOTHER: I wouldn't do that if I were you.

ELLA: Why? Is she evil-hearted?

MOTHER: She's unpredictable.

ELLA: I don't want to be a girl that obeys all the time.

MOTHER: Lucinda has no awareness of consequences. She has never walked in anyone else's shoes.

ELLA: But Lucinda is the only one that can reverse this spell!

MOTHER: She could make it worse. There must be a way for your to overcome it without her.

CHAR: (*He runs in.*) ELLA!

ELLA: Char? How did you know I was here?

CHAR: Villagers said escaping ogres were attacking a young maiden. But, it looks like the opposite is true!

ELLA: I told them about finishing school and they began to snore. (Char laughs.)

CHAR: I went to the school to find you. The moment I arrived, they said you had run away. Did you not want to see me?

ELLA: I-can't explain. But I am not running away. I'm looking for a fairy named Lucinda. I'm hoping I'll find her at the Giant's Wedding.

CHAR: Giants throw really big parties! May I join you? I will keep you safe. And you will keep me safer.

ELLA: I would be honored. And Giants love strangers. Let's go!!

SELF-ESTEEM

Self-esteem is what we think of ourselves. It can be influenced by how we think people see us.

7 in 10 girls believe they are not good enough in some way, including looks and relationships. Increasing self-esteem can help you feel empowered as you grow up.

Here are some things to remember.

- **Focus on your strengths**, not flaws. What are you good at and what do you enjoy doing?
- **Embrace failure**, and remember that success is not a measure of your value. Try your best!
- Learn new skills or try new activities. Help others!
- Make choices and solve problems for yourself.
- Think about what makes you **proud of yourself!**

FAIRY TALES

Fairy tales are usually recognized by a few main characteristics:

- A beginning, middle, and end with a clear moral, message, or theme at the core.
- Centered around a hero or heroine who overcomes an obstable. They include other characters that may be helpful or hurtful to the protagonist.
- Set within a fantastic setting such as a "kingdom far, far away." They often include magical elements and repetition.

Activity: Creating a Fairy Tale!

On your own or with others, come up with a new fairy tale. Write it down, speak it out, or act it out! Use the characteristics mentioned above and what you already know.

- For an extra challenge, flip the fairy tale! See if you can keep the idea of your story while changing a typical characteristic like a character, the structure, or the ending!
- 1. "Real Girls, Real Pressure: A National Report on the State of Self-Esteem." Dove Self-Esteem Fund, 2008
- 2. Lyness, D'Arcy. "Self-Esteem." KidsHealth. June, 2018. www.kidshealth.org.

ENGAGE WITH IT

Different things engage different people. Explore what empowers you!

- **Girls Inc. of San Antonio:** They focus on the whole girl: her health and well-being, education and development as a leader. https://www.girlsincsa.org/
- Activities that Empower: For all grades! https://extension.illinois.edu/ce/strat-in-dex.html
- Acts of Service: A list of service projects at home or school to empower responsibility, engage compassion, and offer the chance to affect the lives of others. https://kidworld-citizen.org/35-service-projects-for-kids/
- **Magik Programs:** Magik Theatre empowers through art and play. Learn more about drama, experience begins on stage, and more! **magiktheatre.org**

INVITE MAGIK THEATRE TO YOUR CLASS!

Have a professional Teaching Artist visit your classroom, in-person, or virutally, to deliver a TEKS based lesson in fine arts and related core subjects.

Contact us at info@magiktheatre.org to schedule a visit!

QUESTIONS? ASK US!

Education Manager: Alejandro Pesina, alejandro@magiktheatre.org

Group Sales and Tour Coordinator: Adriana Gonzales, adriana@magiktheatre.org

Box Office Hours

Monday – Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm In the event of a Friday evening performance, the box office will stay open until 8 pm.

(210) 227-2751