

GRIMMS TALES 2007

NOTES FOR TEACHERS USING THEATR IOLO AS A STIMULUS FOR CREATIVITY and IMAGINATION

The Theatre experience will act as an imaginative and cultural stimulus. *Grimm Tales* raises questions and observations in children's minds that may be philosophical, emotional and intellectual. The rich story language and images offer an opportunity for creative responses, communication, collaboration, making, writing, telling and dramatic play. There is evidence that **drama** is a way of embedding things in long term memory whilst **empathy** and **emotional engagement** provides a basis for cognitive learning. Members of Theatr Iolo's Teacher Advisory Panel have observed that children are highly motivated to be creative and imaginative after our visits. We would very much value your response to the play and the resources provided.

THE GRIMMS BAG

INVITE THE CHILDREN TO TAKE OUT THE CONTENTS ONE AT A TIME THEN MAKE A DISPLAY AND ADD TO IT WITH YOUR OWN IDEAS.
INVITE THEATR IOLO TO COME TO YOUR SCHOOL TO SEE IT!

This Theatr Iolo resource pack is crafted to appeal to children's different learning styles. Children who learn best through seeing, hearing and speaking, or touching and doing will find different aspects of the bag and its contents to relate to;

- see the photos
- touch the fabric
- make a display
- listen and move to the music by Antony Lamb
- say the words
- create a **Grimms** poem
- read a scene from the play by Carol Ann Duffy
- act out the tales
- enquire into theatre-making
- recreate the texture of the set
- imagine and create.

For lesson plans and evaluation purposes this may cover:

- strategies for learning: for visual, auditory, and tactile learners
- Emotional Literacy, Thinking Skills and Philosophy
- Key Skills: communication, creativity and collaboration
- Literacy /Genre: Fairy Tale / Traditional Story from Other Cultures

THINGS TO DO AFTER THE PLAY

SHARING YOUR THOUGHTS WITH THEATR IOLO HOW TO STAY IN CONTACT WITH US

Collect the children's oral comments about the performance.

Email them to Theatr Iolo info@theatriolo.com

You are very welcome to email or post (envelope included) any follow up the children create for the actors and company to share your ideas.

Phone 029 2061 3782 and our Education Officer will come to collect them or to photograph visual displays.

We welcome opportunities to evaluate our work with teachers and children and thank you in advance for responding to this request.

THEATRE THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS.

DO YOU LIKE TO BE SCARED?

Carol Ann Duffy the writer says she likes Fairy Tales because of "the danger, the darkness and the happy endings." Do you like the danger? Why do you think children like to be scared in a story?

PLEASE TELL THEATR IOLO WHAT YOU THINK

POETRY

LESSON PLAN

CREATING A GRIMMS POEM AND PERFORMING IT

A POEM TO MAKE YOU LAUGH AND SHIVER!

Oracy/ visualisation/ gesture / creative collaboration/ writing

Pairs, small group or whole class activity: using visualisation to respond to the children's memories of the play.

Ask the children to :

- begin with your eyes closed
- let images / pictures of the play come into your mind's eye
- draw them quickly in the air using big gestures
- say ' I see' then say what you remember seeing
- take turns, for example, 'I see the white pebbles'
- then the next person speaks 'I see the house made out of sweets'
- Keep the sentences short, one line each child.
- Collaborate together to write each line down.
- Say the poem and rehearse different ways to speak it.
- When you PERFORM the poem try to help the listeners see what *you* see by the way you say the words.

Extension: begin again with other openings:

- I felt ... I thought ... I heard ...
- Record or video or illustrate the poem to share and send it to Theatr Iolo!

**INVITE THEATR IOLO TO HEAR YOU SAY YOUR
POEMS OR SEND THEM TO US**

THEATRE MAKING-DESIGN: HOW THE PLAY LOOKS

Our designer Charlotte Neville creates the set. She shares her ideas with the director Kevin Lewis to create the style of the play. They have many choices to make but are guided by the script and who the play is for.

What inspired her?

Looking at the paintings of Antoni Tapies and Francisco Goya and exploring the stories of Grimm Tales.

Why did she choose the colours?

The words in the play suggest colours if you imagine them.

DESIGN YOUR OWN PICTURE

BE INSPIRED BY THE COLOURS YOU IMAGINE AS YOU SAY THESE WORDS

lungs, liver, darkness, midnight hour, moonlight, white pebbles, white kitten, red witchy eyes, morning sun glinting, fire, flames, best white linen, white pearls.

'I wish I had a child as white as snow, as red as blood and as black as the wood on the window frame.'

'I'll cut the apple in two pieces, you eat the red cheek and I will eat the white.'

Snow White, Blood Red, Black as Coffin Wood.

'she was forced to put on the red hot shoes'

'There was bright, sparkling moonlight outside and the white pebbles on the ground shone like silver coins and precious jewels.'

DISPLAY YOUR PICTURE OR SEND IT TO Theatr Iolo

**SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT: SEEING or
IMAGINING**

Did you see it? Or did you imagine you saw it? Did you see a wood? Did you see a house made of sweets? Did you see the dwarves? Did you see a grand palace? How much did Theatr Iolo show you? How much did you have to imagine for yourself? **TELL THEATR IOLO WHAT YOU THINK .HOW ABOUT TAPE RECORDING YOUR THOUGHTS AND SENDING US A COPY?**

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT: HEARING

Listen to the CD of Grimm Tales.

Imagine the play without sounds and music. What did the music mean to you? Think about the cello and Hansel and Gretels' mother, the kazoo band, the little ukulele and the electric guitar, the fiddle, the mandolin, the accordion. Sometimes the music made you think of a place or a feeling or a characteristic of the person playing it.

PLEASE TELL THEATR IOLO WHAT YOU THINK!

CREATE IT YOURSELF: SOMETHING TO PLAY DRAMA AND SOUNDSCAPE

Drama and Soundscape-making in groups or whole class. Collect some percussion, water in a container, paper to rustle, scraps to rip, spoons to tap and so on. Agree a visual signal for STOP before the sounds get going! Recording and listening back is a big incentive and motivator for making it even better.

- **Build sounds up taking turns in the circle**
- **Gradually reduce sounds until only one is left**
- **Repeat with a place in mind; e.g a forest.**
- **Place a chair in the middle**
- **Go into the circle one at a time**
- **Make the chair become something or someone else**
For example: a stream to step over/ a witch that grabs ..
- **Make your movements and acting truthful as can be**

THE WORDS IN GRIMM TALES

These stories were collected from people long ago who spoke their tales to children. The Grimm Brothers wrote them down and then a poet and playwright called Carol Ann Duffy made Hansel and Gretel and Snow White into the play Theatr Iolo has performed for you.

SIMPLE WORDS TO TASTE

When Carol Ann Duffy writes she likes to 'savour' the words, to almost taste them, she says' "I like to use simple words in a complicated way".

'the children's eyes grew as heavy as worry'

'it was already pitch dark, darker than a nightmare'

'tomorrow first thing, we'll take them even deeper, deeper, right into the belly of the forest'

'I bet it will taste scrumptiously sweet'

'On the outside it looked pretty - crisp and white with a blood red cheek, so that everyone who saw it longed for it - but whoever ate a piece of the red cheek would die.'

'She began to run over stones as sharp as envy'

'Envy and pride crept and coiled round her heart like ugly weeds, so that she could get no peace night or day.'

A SCENE FROM SNOW WHITE WRITTEN BY CAROL ANN DUFFY

Queen

'Mirror, mirror on the wall,
Who in this land is fairest of all?'

Narrator

And the mirror answered:
'Queen, you are beautiful, day and night,
But even more lovely is little Snow White.'

Queen

Then the Queen got a shock. From that moment, whenever she looked at Snow White, her heart turned sour in her breast she hated her so much. Envy and pride crept and coiled round her heart like ugly weeds, so that she could get no peace night or day.

Narrator

One day she called a huntsman and said:

Queen

'Take the girl into the forest. I want her out of my sight. Kill her - and fetch me back her lungs and liver to prove it.'

The Huntsman does what she says and takes Snow White away. He pulls out his knife to stab her heart.

Snow White

'Please, dear Huntsman, spare my life! I will run away into the wild woods and never come back.'

As she is so beautiful, the Huntsman takes pity on her.

Huntsman

'Poor child. Run away then. The wild beasts will eat you soon enough.'

Narrator

A young boar ran by and he slaughtered it, cut out its lungs and took them to the Queen to prove the girl was dead. The cook had to salt, simmer and serve them, and the Queen ate them up and thought she'd eaten Snow White's lungs and liver.

Snow White was alone in the forest and terrified. She began to run over stones as sharp as envy, through thorns as cruel as long fingernails. Wild beasts ran past her but did her no harm. She ran as long as her feet could carry her, until it was almost evening. It was then that she saw a little cottage and went into it to rest.

THE SAME SCENE FROM SNOW WHITE IN EIGHT PARTS

Queen 'Mirror, mirror on the wall, Who in this land is fairest of all?'

Narrator 1 And the mirror answered: 'Queen, you are beautiful, day and night,

Narrator 2 But even more lovely is little Snow White,'

Narrator 3 Then the Queen got a shock.

Narrator 4 From that moment, whenever she looked at Snow White, her heart turned sour in her breast she hated her so much.

Narrator 5 Envy and pride crept and coiled round her heart like ugly weeds, so that she could get no peace night or day.

Narrator 3 One day she called a huntsman and said:

Queen 'Take the girl into the forest. I want her out of my sight. Kill her - and fetch me back her lungs and liver to prove it.'

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Narrator 3 and liver.

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Narrator 3 through thorns as cruel as long fingernails.

Narrator 4 Wild beasts ran past her but did her no harm.

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