The Emperor’s New Clothes
Adapted by Karen Sabo from the story by Hans Christian Andersen
*Especially for Grades K-6

By the Barter Players, Touring January – March 2014
Barter Stage II – April, 2014

(NOTE: Standards listed below include those for reading the story The Emperor’s New Clothes, seeing a performance of the play, and completing the study guide.)

Virginia SOLs
English – K.1, K.5, K.8, K.9, K.12, 1.1, 1.5, 1.8, 1.9, 1.13, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.12, 3.4, 3.5, 3.9, 3.11, 4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7, 4.9, 5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 5.5, 5.7, 5.9, 6.2, 6.4, 6.5, 6.7, 6.9
Theatre Arts – 6.5, 6.7, 6.8, 6.10, 6.18,

Tennessee Common Core State Standards
English/Language Arts - Reading Literacy: K.1, K.3, K.5, K.7, K.9, 1.1, 1.2, 1.7, 1.9, 1.10, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.10, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.9, 3.10, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.7, 4.9, 4.10, 5.1, 5.3, 5.4, 5.9, 5.10, 6.2, 6.4, 6.7, 6.9
English Language Arts – Writing: K.1, K.5, K.7, K.8, 1.1, 1.3, 1.5, 1.8, 2.1, 2.3, 2.5, 2.8, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.7, 3.8, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.7, 6.8, 6.9

Tennessee Fine Arts Curriculum Standards
Theatre – K.1, K.3, K.4, K.5, K.6, 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 3.1, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 4.1, 4.3, 4.6, 4.7, 5.1, 5.3, 5.6, 5.7, 6.1, 6.3, 6.6, 6.7

North Carolina Common Core State Standards
English/Language Arts - Reading Literacy: K.1, K.3, K.5, K.7, K.9, 1.1, 1.2, 1.7, 1.9, 1.10, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.10, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.9, 3.10, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.7, 4.9, 4.10, 5.1, 5.3, 5.4, 5.9, 5.10, 6.2, 6.4, 6.7, 6.9
English Language Arts – Writing: K.1, K.5, K.7, K.8, 1.1, 1.3, 1.5, 1.8, 2.1, 2.3, 2.5, 2.8, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.7, 3.8, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.7, 6.8, 6.9

North Carolina Essential Standards
Theatre Arts – K.A.1, K.AE.1, 1.A.1, 1.AE.1, 1.CU.2, 2.C.2, 2.A.1, 2.AE.1, 3.C.1, 3.C.2, 3.A.1, 3.CU.1, 3.CU.2, 4.C.1, 4.A.1, 4.AE.1, 5.C.1, 5.A.1, 5.AE.1, 5.CU.2, 6.C.1, 6.C.2, 6.A.1, 6.AE.1
A Brief History

Barter Theatre was founded during the Great Depression by Robert Porterfield, an enterprising young actor. He and his fellow actors found themselves out of work and hungry in New York City. Porterfield contrasted that to the abundance of food, but lack of live theatre, around his home region in Southwest Virginia. He returned to Washington County with an extraordinary proposition: bartering produce from the farms and gardens of the area to gain admission to see a play.

Barter Theatre opened its doors on June 10, 1933 proclaiming, “With vegetables you cannot sell, you can buy a good laugh.” The price of admission was 40 cents or the equivalent in produce, the concept of trading “ham for Hamlet” caught on quickly. At the end of the first season, the Barter Company cleared $4.35 in cash, two barrels of jelly and enjoyed a collective weight gain of over 300 pounds.

Playwrights including Noel Coward, Tennessee Williams and Thornton Wilder accepted Virginia ham as payment for royalties. An exception was George Bernard Shaw, a vegetarian, who bartered the rights to his plays for spinach.

Today, Barter Theatre has a reputation as a theatre where many actors performed before going on to achieve fame and fortune. The most recognized of these alumni include Gregory Peck, Patricia Neal, Ernest Borgnine, Hume Cronyn, Ned Beatty, Gary Collins, Larry Linville and Frances Fisher. The list also included James Burrows, creator of Cheers, Barry Corbin, and the late Jim Varney.

Robert Porterfield passed away in 1971. His successor, Rex Partington, had been at Barter in the 1950s as an actor and in the 1970s as stage manager. Rex returned as chief administrator from 1972 until his retirement in 1992. In March 2006, he passed away.

Richard Rose was named the producing artistic director in October 1992. In that time, attendance has grown from 42,000 annual patrons to more than 163,000 annual patrons. Significant capital improvements have also been made. Including maintenance to both theatres, and in 2006, the addition of The Barter Café at Stage II and dramatic improvements to Porterfield Square.

Barter represents three distinct venues of live theatre: Barter Theatre Main Stage, Barter Theatre Stage II and The Barter Players. Barter Theatre, with over 500 seats, features traditional theatre in a luxurious setting. Barter Stage II, across the street from Barter Main Stage and beyond Porterfield Square, offers seating for 167 around a thrust stage in an intimate setting and is perfect for more adventurous productions. The Barter Players is a talented ensemble of actors, producing plays for young audiences throughout the year.

History is always in the making at Barter Theatre, building on legends of the past; Barter looks forward to the challenge of growth in the future.
Setting
Various locations in the Kingdom of Greenshrub

Characters
Emperor Shrub – the vain ruler of the Kingdom of Greenshrub
Robin – a young child
Brown – Robin’s mother; advisor to the Emperor
Nose – another advisor to the Emperor
Weaver 1 – a swindler posing as a weaver
Weaver 2 – a swindler posing as a weaver

Synopsis
Being the Emperor’s advisor is no easy task – especially now that he is putting his obsession with fashion ahead of ruling his Kingdom. Every week he parades a new suit of clothes in front of his subjects, and if his advisors Brown and Nose want to keep their jobs, they have to admire what they see, no matter how ridiculous his attire. The only one afraid of speaking the truth is Brown’s son, Robin – but Brown insists that Robin keep his opinion to himself and learn the value of the “little white lie.” Things become more complicated when two mysterious weavers show up claiming the ability to weave a magical fabric that can be seen only by those fit for their position. The Emperor is enthralled and orders a suit made from this fabric, but when Brown and Nose are sent to check on the weavers’ progress, they see nothing. Fearful of being seen as “unfit” for their positions, both advisors pretend to see the magical cloth. Once more Robin questions his mother’s veracity; once more she encourages the “little white lie.” Finally the Emperor is shown his “new suit of clothes;” he, too, sees nothing but is so afraid that he may be seen as unfit to rule that he pretends to see it as well. As he parades about his kingdom in his boxer shorts, it is once more Robin who points out to the spectators – and to the Emperor, as well – that both the clothes and the weavers who wove them are a fraud. Finally coming to his senses, the Emperor arrests the swindling weavers and makes Robin his third advisor. He also puts on some clothes – some real clothes.
Biography of the Author
Hans Christian Andersen was born in Odense, Denmark on April 2, 1805. His mother was a washerwoman and his father was a shoemaker. The family was very poor but Andersen’s father took him often to the local playhouse and nurtured his creative side by making him his own toys. After the death of his father in 1816, Andersen moved to Copenhagen where he pursued an acting career at the Royal Theatre. He soon abandoned acting and turned to writing instead, churning out poems, plays and stories. His first poem *The Dying Child* published in 1827. Andersen went on to write some of the most beloved children’s fairy tales of all. They include *The Princess and the Pea, Thumbelina, The Emperor’s New Clothes, The Little Mermaid, The Little Match Girl and The Ugly Duckling*. He died August 4, 1875 and is buried in Copenhagen.

Biography of the Playwright
Karen Sabo is an actor, director and playwright. A former member of Barter Theatre’s Resident Acting Company, she and her husband Derek Davidson now live in Boone, NC where Karen serves as Producing Artistic Director for their newly-founded theatre company In/Visible Theatre.

Vocabulary Words

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>citizen</th>
<th>puce</th>
<th>viridian</th>
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<tr>
<td>parade</td>
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<td>circumstance</td>
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<td>improbable</td>
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WORD SEARCH

Find the following words below: Emperor Shrub, parade, Brown, Nose, Robin, weavers, magic material, little white lie, dungeon, boxer shorts, advisor, puce, viridian, ochre, cerulean, crimson, trousers, doublet, gold, fairy tale, swindler, truth

N X M R W P F Y D K B H D W E
O O S A O T A P C G R T G W M
S I O A G S S R J O O U M J P
M P Z P N I I W A L W R U Y E
I G U H N A C V I D N T U B R
R B S C A E I M D N E P O T O
C P D O E O R D A A D X L B R
L I T T L E W H I T E L I E S
W M Z V U I X H C R E N E S H
E P W U R T Z L S O I R H R R
A N O S E Z O H D C F V I Z U
V A M F C N O E G N U D U A B
E L A T Y R I A F N I B O R L
R A F T T R O U S E R S C W Y
S L W S E D O U B L E T A I B
True and False

Write T if the statement is True and F if the statement is False.

1. ____ The Emperor’s New Clothes is a story written by the Brother’s Grimm.
2. ____ The Emperor puts fashion ahead of everything else.
3. ____ Those who don’t like the Emperor’s clothes are sent to a rat-infested dungeon.
4. ____ Nose always speaks the truth to the Emperor.
5. ____ Ochre is a shade of blue.
6. ____ The two weavers convince the Emperor that they can weave magic material.
7. ____ Robin has no problem seeing the magic material.
8. ____ The Emperor wears boxer shorts.
9. ____ Brown tries to teach Robin that it’s okay to tell a little white lie.
10. ____ Robin is Nose’s son.
11. ____ Hans Christian Anderson was born in Sweden.
12. ____ Brown and Nose pretend to see the magic material.
13. ____ The weavers have a secret formula that makes the material invisible.
14. ____ The Emperor makes the two weavers his new advisors.
15. ____ Robin is sent to the rat-infested dungeon for telling the truth.

Color Match!
Draw a line connecting the color name to the matching color:

ochre

cerulean

viridian

crimson

puce
Questions/Activities

1. Read the story *The Emperor’s New Clothes* in class. What do you think it has to tell us about vanity and truth-telling? Compare the actions of the advisors/ministers with that of the child in the crowd. Why was the child able and willing to tell the truth? **Discuss.**

2. How did the story you read compare to the production you saw? **Discuss.**

3. **Draw a picture** of the kind of clothes you would like to wear if you were Emperor. **Write a few sentences explaining your design**—why you picked those colors, a certain type of trousers, etc. Present your drawing to the class.

4. What happened to the two weavers at the end of the story? Do you think it was a fair ending? Why or why not? **Discuss.**

5. Using the internet, research the history of weaving and **make an oral presentation to your class.** Be sure to include the different types of materials that may be woven together, the products they make, and the machinery/tools needed. Is weaving prevalent in our culture today

6. Define the vocabulary words found on the bottom of Pg. 3 then write sentences using them. Remember: anyone reading your sentence should be able to understand the word from the context in which it is used.

**ACTIVITY**

Follow the link below for instructions on how to make your own paper-weaving craft!

http://kidsactivitiesblog.com/47194/paper-weaving-craft-for-kids
7. In this play, Robin’s mother tells his that it is all right to tell a “little white lie.” Is this true? Divide the class in two: assign one half of the class a paper defending “the little white lie.” These papers should persuade the intended audience that the little white lie is a necessary tool with which to navigate certain situations. Assign the other half of the class a paper defending the idiom “the truth shall set you free.” These papers should persuade the audience that nothing but the truth should ever be told. Pick one representative from each group and let them debate the topic.

8. Hans Christian Anderson was born in Denmark. Research the people of Denmark and their culture. What language do they speak? What foods do they eat? What is their climate? The population of the country? What sort of government does it have? Present your findings to the class.

9. What makes a story a fairy tale? Is using a fairy tale a good way to teach a lesson about how one should act toward others? What is your favorite fairy tale? Why is it your favorite? If you were going to write a fairy tale, what would it be about? Where would you set it? Who would be the hero?

WRITE YOUR OWN FAIRY TALE!
10. Read these other stories by Hans Christian Andersen: *The Little Mermaid, The Princess and the Pea,* and *The Ugly Duckling.* Now compare them to *The Emperor’s New Clothes.* What themes do these stories have in common? How are they different? What are these stories trying to tell us? Discuss.

![Image of a mermaid, a princess, and a duck](image)

11. This play, *The Emperor’s New Clothes,* is adapted from a well known children’s story. Pick another favorite childhood story: *Goldilocks and the Three Bears,* *Little Red Riding Hood,* etc. Divide the class into groups and assign each group a scene from the story. Have each group adapt their scene into the scene for a play. Try to avoid using a narrator. Instead, tell the story through action and dialogue (conversation between two or more people). Design the appropriate costumes, props and set needed. Now have each group present their scene in chronological order. Is the story told? How different is your play from the fairy tale? How difficult is it to take a piece of literature and turn it into a play?

12. For those students who saw this production on tour, describe how the performance space at your school differed from a show you may have seen at Barter Theatre (or another theatre in your town).

13. Write a letter to your favorite actors from this production. Tell them what you liked about the play, their performance, etc. Mail your letters to:

   The Barter Players  
c/o Barter Theatre  
P.O. Box 867  
Abingdon, VA 24212-0867  
ATTN: The Emperor’s New Clothes
Suggested Further Reading/Links

Other stories by Hans Christian Anderson:
- *The Little Match Girl*
- *The Princess and the Pea*
- *The Ugly Duckling*
- *The Little Mermaid*
- *Thumbelina*

To find out more about Hans Christian Andersen, his life and his work, go to this link:

http://www.andersenfairytales.com/en/main