

Three Little Pigs

Play Synopsis

THREE LITTLE PIGS

Books, lyrics, music
by Paul Deiss

Three Little Pigs and this study guide are produced in support of the teaching of the Language Arts, Music, and Theatre

Virginia Rep on Tour's *Three Little Pigs* is a lighthearted musical with a twist on the classic tale. In this adaptation, the Wolf is not evil, but misunderstood. He loves to play, but the Pigs are very frightened of the Wolf because he can be too rough at times.

The Wolf, feeling lonely, decides to invite the Pigs to his birthday party, but he accidentally destroys their houses while delivering invitations to his birthday party.

Luckily, Mother Pig is a very understanding pig and she helps the Wolf learn how to be gentle with others. He successfully delivers the invitations and all is forgiven while the Pigs and Wolf celebrate their new friendships together.

At the Library

- *The Three Little Pigs: An Architectural Tale* by Steven Guarnaccia
- *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs* by Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith
- *The Three Little Pigs, A Folk Tale*



POETIC PRINCIPLES



Three Little Pigs is a play with music, called a musical. Music and poetry are similar (song lyrics are a type of poetry), and song writers and poets use some of the same strategies when they write songs and poems.

WORK IT OUT

Three Little Pigs opens with the song below. Read it and you will notice rhyme, rhythm, and repetition.

CHALLENGE

Write a four-line poem with at least two rhyming words and two repeating words. Think about what the poem sounds like when read or sung. Does it have rhythm?

1. Use a colored pencil to color all the rhyming words you can find.
2. Read and count how many times the following words are repeated:
 - Jumpin'
 - Human
 - Doctor
3. With a partner, read and clap the rhythm you hear in this song.

There was a little human- a human, a human
 who jumped up and down upon his bed
 Til he fell and cracked his head,
 He cracked his head and so his mama said,
 That's what you get for jumpin', for jumpin', for jumpin'
 That's what you get for jumpin' up and down upon your bed.
 She took him to the doctor, the doctor, the doctor
 Who fixed the cut upon his head with a needle and some thread
 He fixed his head and this is what he said,
 That's what you get for jumpin', for jumpin', for jumpin'
 That's what you get for jumpin' up and down upon your bed.
 That night when it was bedtime, the human could not sleep
 His pillow and his bedsheets were piled up in a heap
 Cause that's what you get for jumpin', for jumpin', for jumpin'
 That's what you get for jumpin' up and down upon your bed.

PERSPECTIVES

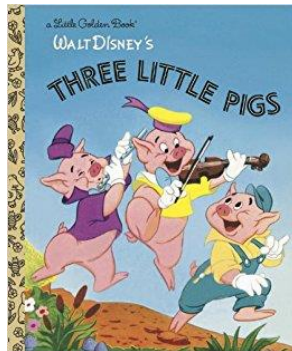


Point of view (noun): a way of thinking about or looking at something

Protagonist (noun): the chief character in a play, novel, or story. Many times the protagonist is the “hero” of the story

Antagonist (noun): the character who opposes- or goes against- the protagonist. Many times the antagonist is the villain of the story.

In the traditional story of Three Little Pigs, the story's **protagonists** are the pigs, and the **antagonist** is the wolf. Virginia Rep on Tour's version does not place the wolf in the role of the villain, although he remains a bit of a destructive character!



Comparing The True Story of the Three Little Pigs to the traditional story, it's easy to see how two different newspapers might cover the same story differently. Writers think about who their readers are, and what they already believe when they are planning an article.

Ask students to work in groups of three and write about the story of the Three Little Pigs for three different types of readers. Think about point-of-view and who is seen as the protagonist and antagonist for articles in each of the following newspapers: **The Wolf Times-Dispatch, Piggies Today, People Times**

AT THE LIBRARY

Read the traditional version as well as The True Story of The Three Little Pigs by Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith. The second story is written from the viewpoint of the wolf instead of the pigs. Think about how these versions are different.



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MORE TEACHER RESOURCES:

Additional Core Curriculum Activities

History and Social Sciences

Gr.K-1- How were the characters in the play good or bad citizens? Explain.

Gr.2-3- Illustrate and describe the setting of the story. Was it urban, suburban, or rural?

Gr. 4-5- Create a timeline of events from the play. What do you think the most important event was?

Science

Gr.K-1-Compare and contrast the physical characteristics of pigs and wolves.

Gr. 2-3- Research wolves. Create a poster with interesting wolf facts.

Gr.4-5- Create a food chain chart which includes at least three animals from a farm.

Gr.K-1-What do wolves and pigs need as part of their different habitats?

Journals / Discussion

Gr.K-1- What was the moral of the story? What other stories have morals?

Gr. 2-3- In what ways was this play a typical fairy tale? In what ways was it unique?

Gr.4-5- Have you ever felt like one of the characters from the play? Who? Explain.

Gr. K-1- Compare and contrast the play, *Three Little Pigs*, with the story.

Write a humorous adaptation of *The Three Little Pigs* story. Use different characters.

VIRGINIA REPERTORY THEATRE

Formerly Theatre IV

Virginia Rep's Children's Theatre is a nonprofit, professional theatre in Richmond, Virginia. Since 1975 we've created exciting and innovative theatrical productions for young audiences. Each year we stage six shows at our intimate Children's Theatre in Richmond, and we tour national-caliber, educational plays to schools and public venues in Virginia and across the country.

What We Provide:

- Professional productions of literary classics, holiday shows, and historical biographies connected to the school curriculum
- Meet and Greet the cast at your request
- 40 years of experience of touring professional theatre for young audiences
- Reliable and talented company of actors who load-in and load-out the entire production, including attractive sets, costumes, and sound systems
- Competitive pricing structure
- Question and Answer sessions between our cast and your audience