

# DREAMCATCHERS



POPEJOY SCHOOLTIME SERIES TEACHING GUIDE GRADES: 1-3

## The Magic Treehouse:

Showtime with Shakespeare

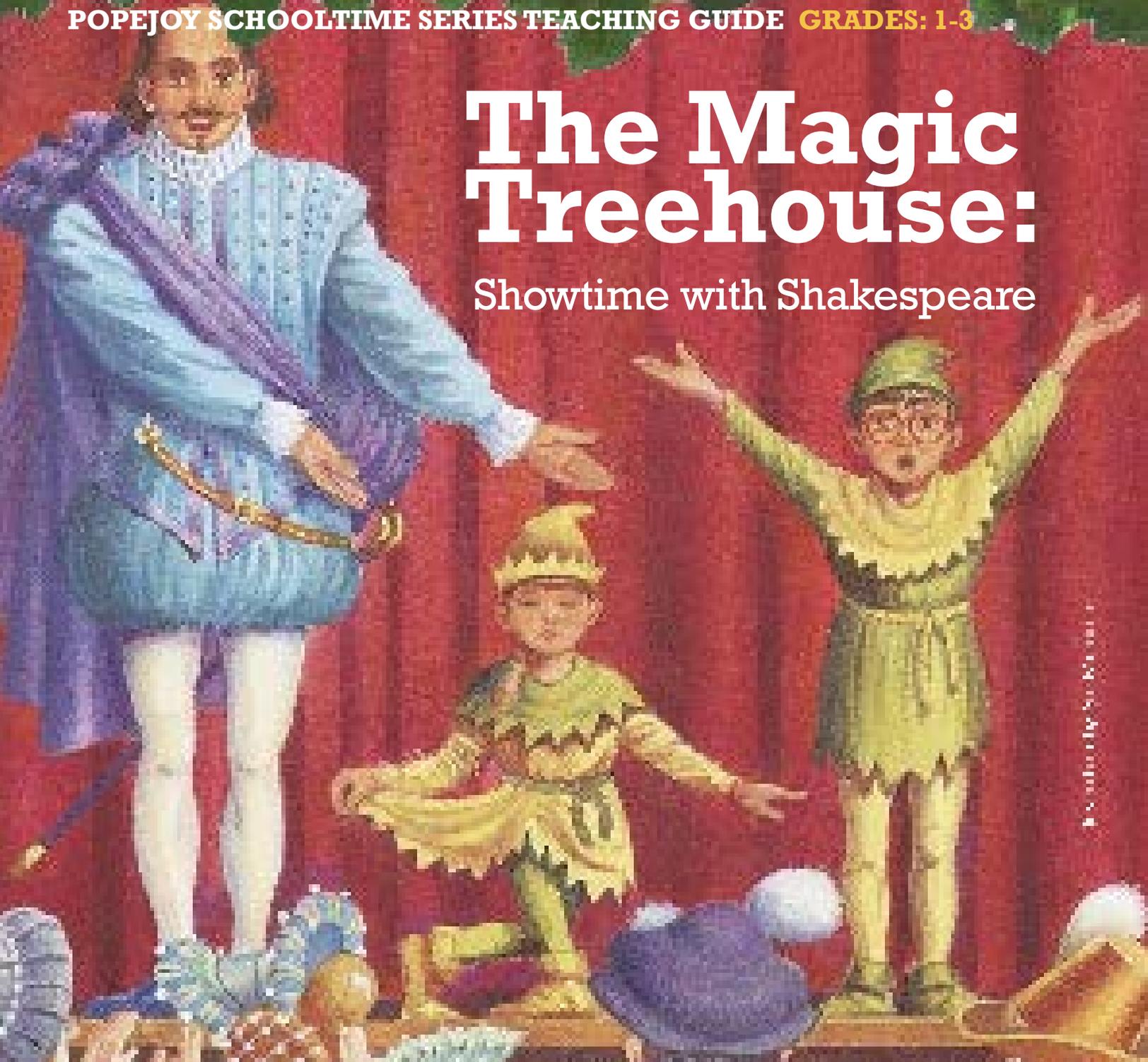


Illustration by Susan K. Green

Dreamcatchers Teaching Guides align with the Common Core Standards.

## Standards Addressed By Attending the Performance

**NMCCSS**  
ELA-Literacy.SL.2

**NCAS**  
TH:Re9.1



“The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.”

--NELSON MANDELA

## Synopsis

Magic Tree House: Showtime with Shakespeare is a new theatrical production based on the *Magic Tree House Adventure Stage Fright on a Summer Night*, performed as a hip-hop style musical.

Climb into a musical time machine with Jack and Annie, as they travel back to Shakespearean England! There, the daring duo meet William Shakespeare himself, one of the greatest writers of all time. Shakespeare is having a hard time with two actors who did not show up for his play, so he asks Jack and Annie to replace them. Jack has never liked being on stage as he always gets stage fright. Will he get nervous this time in front of hundreds of people? Can they find the special magic on stage?

Based on the critically-acclaimed book series by Mary Pope Osborne, discover how history is shaped by those who learn to overcome their fears. Full of freestyle beats to move your feet, this tuneful tale is a hip-hop hit with kids and grown-ups alike. The Magic Tree House series has been translated into 33 languages, sold more than 135 million copies worldwide, and is the #1 bestselling chapter book series of all time.





## Vocabulary

**actor** — a person who performs stories, especially in a play, movie, or on television

**audience** — a group that listens or watches (as at a play or concert)

**costume** — a set of clothes in a style typical of a particular country or historical period

**director** — a person who supervises actors, camera crew, and other staff for a movie, play, or television program

**disguise** — to change the dress or looks of a person to conceal his or her identity

**perform** — present (a form of entertainment) to an audience

**poetry** — writing usually with a rhythm that repeats

**script** — the written text of a stage play, screenplay, or broadcast

**stage fright** — nervousness before or during an appearance in front of an audience

**theater** — building or area for dramatic performances or for showing movies

**vision** — a vivid picture created by the imagination

## Fun Facts for Students

Tuesday, October 14, is **Face Your Fears Day**.

Millions of people suffer from performance anxiety or “**stage fright**.” In fact, most people would rather get the flu than perform or have to talk in front of a lot of people (or their class)!

During Shakespeare’s time:

There were **no female actors** (because they weren’t allowed) so men would have to play the roles of women and boys acted the parts of girls.

**A different color flag** would be flown from the top of the theatre so people would know which type of play was about to be performed - white for comedy, red for historical, and black or dark colors for tragedy.

Audiences could be very **rowdy**. They would shout, boo, and even throw food at

the actors they didn’t like.

**The author** of the *Magic Tree House* series of books, Mary Pope Osborne, also has a Merlin Series and A Fact Tracker Series.

**The “*Magic Tree House*” book series** is being developed into multiple live-action films to be released by Summit Entertainment.

Some scientists believe that **time travel is possible** but renowned scientist Stephen Hawking claimed that time travel is not possible at all.

Some scientists claim there are **four ways** in which time travel is possible: wormholes, traveling at the speed of light, supermassive black holes, and cosmic strings.

We know about **the first three dimensions** - Length, Width, and Height. Time is the fourth dimension.

Humans are **three-dimensional creatures** and our physical world is constructed within these three dimensions. This is the reason why we are not able to see the fourth dimension, Time.

## About Mary Pope Osborne

Here is how she tells her story: “I grew up in the military. By the time I was fifteen, I had lived in Oklahoma, Austria, Florida, and four different army posts in Virginia and North Carolina. Moving was never traumatic for me, partly because I had very close and loving relationships with my parents, my twin brother, my younger brother, and my older sister.

“When my dad retired to a small city in North Carolina, I still craved the adventure and changing scenery of our military life. Miraculously I found the local community theater literally only a block away. From then on, I spent nearly every waking hour after school there, either acting or working backstage. When I stepped from the sunny street into that musty-smelling, dark little theater, all things seemed possible.

“I went on to study drama at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In my junior year, I discovered an even greater realm of adventure and changing scenery: the world of mythology and comparative religion. So, I became a religion major and learned as much as I could about other cultures.

“After graduating from college in the early 1970s, I lived an intensely varied life. For a while I camped in a cave on the island of Crete. Then I joined up with a small band of European young people heading to “The East.” We traveled overland in a caravan of rickety vans through sixteen Asian countries including Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, and Nepal. We nearly lost our lives, first in an earthquake in northern Afghanistan and then a riot in Kabul. My trip came to an abrupt halt in Kathmandu when I got blood poisoning.

“After that, I worked as a waitress in Greenwich Village, taught acting classes in a nursing home in the Bronx, was a bartender in Broadway theaters, and had a job as an assistant editor for a children’s magazine.

“Then one day, out of the blue, I began writing a story about an eleven-year-old girl in the South. The girl was a



lot like me, and many of the incidents in the story were similar to happenings in my childhood. The first draft was crudely written, but it must have communicated something to an editor, because shortly after completion it became a young adult novel called “Run, Run as Fast as You Can.” I finally knew what I wanted to be when I grew up.”

Mary Pope Osborne is a passionate advocate and supporter of children’s literacy, and the award-winning author of more than 100 books for children and young adults. Osborne is best known for her “Magic Tree House” series, which has been translated into more than 30 languages, and sold more than 130 million copies worldwide.

# The World Around Us

## Lesson 1

### Grades 1 - 3

**NMCCSS:**  
ELA-Literacy.RL.7  
ELA-Literacy.SL.1

**NCAS**  
TH:Cr1.1

**NCSS Standards**  
Strand II.d

### Objectives

Students will:

- use their imaginations and knowledge of different places, eras or stories to make observations.

### Materials

- A clear space in which the whole class can move

### Procedure

1. Explain to the class that Jack and Annie go to many different places and time periods from their magic tree house. Like them, the class is going to use their imaginations and knowledge of different places and eras to go on a Magic Tree House adventure in their classroom!
2. Create a large open space. Have students stand and begin to move silently around the room at a walking pace. They may walk in any direction and anywhere in the room, but they may not touch any objects or other people, and they may not use their voices...yet!
3. Once the students have successfully followed these directions, ask them to "freeze".
4. Tell them that they are now on a magic elevator that will take them to any kind of environment, time, or story book. The same rules apply in each environment, though - they must stay silent and safe with their body.
5. Choose an environment, or call on a student for an idea (suggestions include the time of dinosaurs, space, the jungle, a zoo, Balloon Fiesta, "The Three Little Pigs" story, etc.). Once an idea has been chosen, count down together - "3-2-1, We wish we could go there!" and have students unfreeze and explore the environment.
6. After a minute or two of exploration, prompt the children to "freeze" again, and ask them to raise their hands if they encountered something on their adventure that they'd like to share. Urge them to use their sensory words to describe it. What did they see? What did they hear? What did they smell? What did they taste? What did they touch?
7. When the class finishes their ideas on that topic countdown from 3 and have them shake out their bodies. Freeze. Then, get back on the elevator and move to the next time period, location, or story.

#### For example:

**Teacher:** All right, we're going to explore the time of the dinosaurs. We're going to say, "3, 2, 1, We wish we could go there!" Now all together "3, 2, 1, We wish we could go there!"  
(Students explore around the room, silently and safely.)

**Teacher:** 3, 2, 1, FREEZE! Raise your hand if you'd like to share what you discovered in the time of the dinosaurs. Yes, Jack?

**Jack:** I saw a velociraptor!

**Teacher:** That's great! Yes, Annie?

**Annie:** I heard a lot of growling and roaring!

### Extensions/Modifications

- Have the children act out what each of the student's name. Begin with "3,2,1, we saw — or heard or smelled — and have the children become a velociraptor. Have them walk like a velociraptor then freeze. When a student hears the growling and roaring, ask the class to make those sounds. Remind them that when you say "freeze" they stop moving and making sounds. The next student then shares what they experienced. Repeat until each student has had a turn.

### Assessment

- Quality of participation

# A Cup Full of Rhymes

## Lesson 2

### Grades 1 - 3

(4 - 5 with modifications)

#### NMCCSS

ELA-Literacy.RL.7

ELA-Literacy.W.4

ELA-Literacy.SL.1

### Objectives

Students will:

- read a few rhymes;
- review the characters and story elements in *Showtime for Shakespeare* and explore vocabulary;
- create a rhyming poem;
- share their work with classmates.

### Materials

- *The Magic Tree House: Showtime with Shakespeare* or books with rhyming text (Shel Silverstein or Dr. Seuss)
- Paper cups
- Notebook paper
- Pens or pencils
- Scissors
- Plastic cups or containers

### Procedure

1. Choose a few rhyming stories to read as a class. Point out the rhyming words and rhythms. Explain how these words come together to make a picture in the mind and tell a short story.
2. Explain to the students that parts of the performance in *Showtime for Shakespeare* is in the form of hip-hop poetry that rhymes. Shakespeare's plays were in another form of poetry. Today, the class is going to write their own poem.

#### Younger students

1. Have them come up with a list of topics such as a sport, swimming at the beach, hiking, favorite food, animal, something yucky, etc.
2. Choose a topic and brainstorm words that go with the topic. Either as a class on the board, or in small groups putting these words in a cup.
3. Each student will pick two words from the board or cup on which to start their poem.
4. Encourage the students to make the 1st and 3rd lines rhyme and the 2nd and 4th lines rhyme. This can lead to discussions of rhyme and meter if desired.

#### Older Students

1. Either as a class or in small groups have the students think of the characters in the show. If they need a reminder read the book version. (Annie, Jack, Queen, Puck, Dan the Bear, etc.) For the class, write them on the board. For small groups, have them write the words on a strip of precut paper and put it in a cup, bowl or container.
2. Repeat with items or elements from the story like play, scary, act, actor, bold, stage, brave, fear, try, cry, etc. Put these in a separate cup or container.
3. Each student will choose a word from each cup.
4. Encourage the students to make the 1st, 3rd and 5th lines rhyme and the 2nd, 4th, and 6th lines rhyme.

#### All students

1. Share their poems.
2. Talk about how some students started with the same word but came up with different words to rhyme with it. How does that make the two stories different?

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## Extensions/Modifications

- Have the students choose more words, two at a time, to continue their poem into a short story.
- The Cauldron of Words (Grades 4-6): Create one box, bag, or container filled with all the words created as a group. Add your own words or tell the class to each write down a word they think would fit with the topic and that would be fun to incorporate in their poem. Collect the pieces of paper and put them in the cauldron. Mix it up. Each student then picks two slips (or more) that they must include in their poem. Add these to the mix: A BONUS slip means they may pick another word or trade one of the words they have. If they chose the TEACHER slip, the teacher gives them a word.

## Assessment

- Quality of participation

## Questions to Engage & Connect

Why do you think some of the play is told in rhyme?

Why do you think Morgan Le Fay wanted Jack and Annie to discover theatre?

What is something new you learned today?

Have you ever been afraid to do something? What was it?

What about theatre do you think is magical?

Sometimes we are afraid to do something that is dangerous but our friends want us to do it. Should you do it any way? Is that being brave or smart? Discuss.

What about the play was different from the book? Which did you prefer?

Do you think there is a lesson that the play wants you to learn? What is it?

Jack and Annie love to go on adventures to different times and places. If you could go anywhere at any time, where and when would you like to go? Why?

At the end of the play, Shakespeare tells Jack and Annie, "Thy life is a miracle." He lists many things that are miraculous to him, like writing a story, a beautiful cloud, and a good friend. What are some things in your life that you think are miraculous or amazing?

## Bonus Explorations

### LESSONS & ACTIVITIES

List on the board the following words or phrases: London, London Bridge, Thames River, Globe Theater, and William Shakespeare. Brainstorm as a group what the students already know about the given places or people. As a class, use a map to locate London, England, and ask them to imagine what life might have been like in the 1600s. Discuss the concept of the monarchy in England and how it still applies today.

In *Magic Tree House: Showtime with Shakespeare*, Jack has to face his stage fright in order to help Shakespeare and solve Morgan Le Fay's riddle. The other actors in Shakespeare's play give Jack advice to help him overcome his fear. Ask the students what they would say to someone who was afraid to do something. Have the student write them a letter, giving them advice on how to face their fears. Younger students can offer ideas that are written on the board. Then the class can adopt their favorites and make a class brave credo for the year.

## Resources

### BOOKS

Annunziata, Jane. *Sometimes I'm Scared*. Massachusetts: American Psychological Association, 2009.

Berenstain, Stan. *The Berenstain Bears Get Stage Fright*. New York: Random House Children's Books, 1986.

Claybourne, Anna. *The Comedy, History and Tragedy of William Shakespeare*. London: Franklin Watts; Illustrated edition, 2015.

McAllister, Angela. *A Stage Full of Shakespeare Stories*. Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 2018.

Osborne, Mary Pope, and Sal Murdocca.

*Stage Fright on a Summer Night*. New York: Random House Children's Books, 2000

Paiva, Luke., and Roberto Irace. *A Play on William Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Flowerpot Press, 2016.

### WEBSITES

Mary Pope Osborne's Classroom Adventures Program - Provides more information on Mary Pope Osborne and [lessons to do in the classroom](#).

[Magic Tree House Kids](#) - Explore all the adventurous books by Mary Pope Osborne.

How to Help Your Child Overcome Stage Fright - [Helpful tips for children who struggle with stage fright](#).

### MEDIA/VIDEOS

[Shakespeare Retold](#) - Listen to 10 of Shakespeare's most famous plays that inspired new stories by leading children's writers.

[William Shakespeare for Kids](#) - Watch this cartoon for kids with fun facts about William Shakespeare.

[Magic Tree House Collection](#) - Listen to the read along of the *Magic Tree House: Stage Fright on a Summer Night*.

[5 Tricks for Overcoming Fear](#) - Learn more about overcoming fears.

## About the Company

New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) is a spectacular live venue where performances and events enhance and transform everyday. Since opening night, NJPAC has attracted nearly 9 million visitors and reached more than 1.6 million New Jersey children with innovative arts education programs. NJPAC is a presenter of arts and entertainment, and a creative and effective leader in arts education for children. This is their first show to tour west of the Mississippi River.

# POPEJOY SCHOOLTIME

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## About the Schoolttime Series

The Popejoy Schoolttime Series brings national and international touring companies and performers to Albuquerque. Each company is selected with youth and family audiences in mind, and our repertoire reflects the cultural diversity of our global community. The Schoolttime Series includes new plays, familiar stories, literary works, biographies, mythologies, folktales, science shows, music, dance, and puppetry. These professional performing artists create entertaining educational experiences designed to encourage literacy, creativity, communication, and imagination.

## The Dreamcatchers Teaching Guides

By their nature, the arts engage students in learning through observing, listening, and moving, offering learners various ways to acquire information and act on it to build understanding. They also offer a natural way to differentiate instruction as the arts offer multiple modes of representation, expression, and engagement. Additionally, the arts provide an authentic context in which students solve problems. By engaging in learning in one subject, learning in another subject is reinforced and extended, and vice versa. These guides introduce students to what they will see, a basic vocabulary associated with the show, fun facts, vetted resources, and activities providing a connection between the arts and classroom curriculum.

## Popejoy Hall

Popejoy Hall is New Mexico's premiere nonprofit venue for the performing arts and entertainment. Our mission is to provide access to the performing arts for all New Mexicans.

## House Policies & Etiquette

The inside of a theatre where the audience sits is called a "house" and to get along, have fun, and enjoy the shows, there are rules to follow. Schoolttime is a wonderful opportunity to learn how good behavior in a live theater is different from watching television. For guidelines to practice with your class and chaperones, including safety, special needs, food and drink, backpacks, cell phones, photography, recordings, and more, go to [schooltimeseries.com/house-policies](http://schooltimeseries.com/house-policies).

## Dreamcatcher Credits

Dreamcatchers are Teaching Guides produced by the Education Department of PopejoyHall. Selected materials provided by **Shaw Entertainment Group, Orlando Shakespeare Theater, Emerald City Theatre Guide, Merriam-Webster's Learner's Dictionary, William Shakespeare facts, William Shakespeare, WebMD, Mary Pope Osborne's Classroom Adventures Program**, and other resources noted in this guide.