

Uncle Remus' Br'er Rabbit

The Ensemble Theatre

Grades: PK-5

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

A fun-packed combination of African-American folklore and American popular culture, Br'er Rabbit is family entertainment that focuses on the Golden rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills):

	Theater	Lang. Arts	Math	Social Studies	The Students Will: * Demonstrate appropriate concert etiquette during live performances. * Practice positive speaking and listening skills. * Engage in original writing. * Practice problem solving.
K	K..2, 4, 5	K.1, 10, 11	K.1	K.11, 12, 16	
1	1.2, 4, 5	1.1, 11, 12	1.1	1.15, 19	
2	2.2, 4, 5	2.1, 11, 12	2.1	2.15, 16, 20	
3	3.2, 4, 5	3.1, 11, 12	3.1	3.14, 15, 19	
4	4.2, 4, 5	4.1, 11, 12	4.1	4.19, 23	
5	5.2, 4, 5	5.1, 11, 12	5.1	5.21, 22 26	

STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness):

Writing	Grade 4	Reporting Category	The Students Will: * Demonstrate an ability to compose a variety of written texts with a clear, central idea; coherent organization; sufficient development; and effective use of language and conventions.

Academic Vocabulary:

Br'er Rabbit	* Br'er Rabbit (Brother Rabbit), is a central figure in an oral tradition passed down by African-Americans of the Southern United States. He is a trickster who succeeds by his wits rather than by brawn. Popularly known adaptations are by Joel Chandler Harris in the 19th century, and later The Walt Disney Company adapted it for its 1946 animated motion picture Song of the South.
Golden rule	* The principle of treating others as you want to be treated. It is a maxim that is found in many religions and cultures.
Trickster	* A character in a story, which exhibits a great degree of intellect or secret knowledge, and uses it to play tricks or otherwise disobey normal rules and conventional behavior.
Briar patch	* A dense thicket of thorny plants.

Tar Baby	* In African folklore, a figure made up of wax or gum or some other sticky material and used to literally trap someone.
Uncle Remus	* The fictional title character and narrator of a collection of Black American folktales compiled and adapted by Joel Chandler Harris and published in book form in 1881.

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS:

Before the performance

- What folktales do you know?
- What do you know about Br'er Rabbit?

After the performance:

- What did you learn about the Golden Rule?
- Write, draw, tell, sing, dance, or act out your favorite part of the presentation.

Language Arts:

- Read other trickster stories, such as *The Tale of Rabbit and Coyote* by Tony Johnston or *Anansi the Spider* by Gerald McDermott.
- Write your own trickster tale or mixed up fairytale.
- List rhyming words of "trick," and then write a rhyming poem. Ideas: brick, chick, click, Dick, flick, lick, nick, pick, quick, sick, slick, stick, trick, tick, wick, etc.

Math:

- Write an original math problem, using ideas from the performance.

Social Studies:

- Research the Golden Rule in different cultures.
- Read trickster stories from different cultures, such as stories about Anansi, Ijapa, Coyote, Jack (as in Jack and the Beanstalk), Loki, Puss in Boots, Reynard or Zomo.

Science:

- Compare things in fairytales with the same things in science, such as a beanstalk or rabbit.

Resources:

Related Websites:

<https://www.goldenruleproject.org/lesson-plans/>

https://www.bing.com/images/search?view=detailV2&ccid=TMhlfDx6&id=C3CEB7E8B6088AF4665CF7CE2D2BE85D38821ADA&thid=OIP.TMhlfDx6BBB_UbzexbHTHwHaFj&mediaurl=https%3a%2f%2fcontent.lessonplanet.com%2fresources%2fthumbnails%2f159527%2foriginal%2fntq3nti3Impwzw.jpg%3f1414260480&exph=480&expw=640&q=trickster+lesson+plans&simid=608024089254496010&ck=082B12B1DFD202B89808C24A7066F3DB&selectedIndex=6&qvpt=trickster+lesson+plans&FORM=IRPRST&ajaxhist=0

<https://www.lessonplanet.com/lesson-plans/trickster/all>

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

The Ensemble Theatre was founded in 1976 by the late George Hawkins to preserve African American artistic expression and enlighten, entertain and enrich a diverse community. It is the oldest and largest professional African American theatre in the Southwest and holds the distinction of being one of the nation's largest African American theatres that owns and operates its facility with an in-house production team. *The 'E' Online Entertainment Experience! Theater for Everyone Everywhere!* is the extension of what would normally be the theatre's in-house programming of stage readings and special projects including a virtual summer Young Performers Program for youth ages 6-17.