



510 Centerville Rd.
Lancaster, PA 17601
717-898-1900
www.DutchApple.com

Study Guide

The Emperor's New Clothes

Book by: Jim Eiler

Music by: Jim Eiler and Jeanne Bargy

Lyrics by: Jim Eiler

Based on the Tale by Hans Christian Andersen

Two con-men “play the palace” in this breezy adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen’s well-known satirical tale. Mr. Stitch and Mr. Sew wreak havoc at Wits Ends Palace when they present the Emperor with a special gift: an exquisitely beautiful “magic” suit of clothes, invisible to all but the wisest of men. It is a charming exploration of the dangers of vanity, with a host of hilarious characters.

Author Information

Hans Christian Anderson

Hans Christian Andersen (1805-1875), Danish author and poet, wrote many poems, plays, stories and travel essays, but is best known for his fairy tales, of which there are over one hundred and fifty.

Born on April 2, 1805 in Odense, on the Danish island of Funen, Denmark, he was the only son of washerwoman Anna Maria Andersdatter and shoemaker Hans Andersen. They were very poor, but Hans's father took his son to the local playhouse and contributed to his creative side.

Andersen traveled to Copenhagen to pursue an acting career. He attended the Copenhagen University which were shaping but difficult years for him. Coming from a humble provincial background he had to adjust to busy life in the capital city and competitive jobs in theatre.

The Improvisatore or "Life in Italy" (1835) received international fame for Andersen, it set off on his literary career. His first collection of *Fairy Tales, Told for Children* was published in 1835 (which included *The Emperor's New Clothes*). Andersen's fairy tales of fantasy with moral lessons are popular with children and adults all over the world.

He had a unique interest in other countries and traveled far throughout Europe during his life and wrote a number of travel books. He also wrote novels, many more fairy tales, plays, biographies, autobiographies, poems, and essays.

After suffering from liver cancer and in the care of his friends, Hans Christian Andersen died at their home on August 4, 1875 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Theater Definitions and Vocabulary

The Director is responsible to read the script and then interpret the story using the talents of actors, designers and technicians.

The Musical Director is responsible to read the script and study the music and teach it to the actors.

The Choreographer is responsible to work closely with the director to determine what dance steps should be used to tell the story in each scene and then teach the actor/dancers.

The Set Designer is responsible to work closely with the Director to determine the different “looks” that will be used in each scene.

The Costume Designer is responsible to work closely with the director to determine the costumes (clothing) that each performer will wear that will help to tell more about each character.

The Hair and Makeup Designer is responsible to work with the Director and the Actors to determine how each character will look in each scene.

The Lighting Designer is responsible to work with the Director and Set Designer to determine what the lights will look like in each scene to set the “mood.”

The Actors are responsible, working with the Director, to tell the story through their voices, their facial expressions, their dancing and their body movements.

The Stage Manager is in charge of the production side of the play during rehearsals and then is completely in charge once the play opens.

Technicians build the sets, costumes; hang the lights, and so much more. They make the show happen. In the dinner theater setting, there is no stage crew to move scenery; the actors do this for the production.

The Protagonist is the hero/heroine of the play.

The Antagonist is the villain or character opposite of the protagonist in the play.

The Cast are all the actors in the play.

BEFORE THE PLAY

The Emperor's New Clothes is a show written and produced for young audiences such as yourself. **Virtually any play is comprised of five basic elements: Plot, Theme, Character, Language and Spectacle.** All the elements work in unity to produce dramatic action.

PLOT: Many people believe that the plot is the story, but this is not altogether true. All plays have a single plot, but not all plays have a single story line. The plot is the basic organizing factor of the play as a whole. It's the glue which holds all of the story, character and thematic elements together.

THEME: This term is often used to refer to the message of the play. In most good plays, there are recurring themes, images, and symbols which help to shape the total theme of the play.

CHARACTER: A character is a person in a play. The characters are those who live the world of the play and the audience comes to know that world through the actions of the characters.

LANGUAGE: The use of language in any play is a vital dramatic element. The style and sound is every bit as important as the content of the words. Characters are revealed by what they say and how they say it.

SPECTACLE: When we think of spectacle, we generally think of big special effects or the spectacular moments in the play, but spectacle includes ALL of the elements of the production. The director of the play must work together with the designers of lights, sound, costumes and set in order to create a production which all of the elements of spectacle work as a unified whole.

Emperor's New Clothes Characters

Chester: The Jester

Maximillian the Most: The Emperor

Carlotta the Least: The Empress

Sinister: The Prime Minister

Lady Winifred: In charge of the Emperor's Wardrobe

Royal Herald: He proclaims the entrances and other announcements of the court.

1st Stranger/ Mr. Stitch: Con Artist gets most ideas from his less educated partner Mr. Sew

2nd Stanger/ Mr. Sew: Partner of Stitch, gentle & vulnerable and tries to keep peace with Stitch

Verity: Scullery Maid

DISCUSSION SUGGESTIONS

PLOT:

Have your students discuss the major events in the play and then have them draw pictures illustrating each event.

Divide the class into groups, each covering a different event in the play and have each group present a TV style newscast based on the event.

Have the students write a newspaper article or review about the major events of the play.

Have the students write a review of the show and the performers.

Discuss how the set made them believe in the place represented. Have them draw a picture of the set.

THEME:

What kind of things happen over and over (repeated motifs) that tell you what the play means?

CHARACTER:

Have students re-write the story from each character's point of view.

Create collages of the characters using textures, shapes, and colors that capture that character's essence.

Write a letter to your favorite character in the show and tell him or her what you liked about them.

You may explain how the costumes fit the style of where the musical took place. Then have your students design new costumes as if it took place in outer space or the Middle Ages, or relate it to whatever you are studying in school right now.

Sit the children in a large circle. Then, have them act out one of their favorite characters from the story. Have the rest of the group name who they are.

WELCOME TO THE DUTCH APPLE DINNER THEATRE and our CHILDREN'S THEATRE PROGRAM

This workbook is to help you understand basic theatre concepts, vocabulary, about the authors and introduce new ideas. Open your mind to all that is possible with the creative assignments. You just might find that theatre isn't just for the adults...it's for EVERYONE, from young to old. We thank you for joining us today to see this production and hope you enjoy it as much as we have enjoyed creating and performing it for you.

THE MUSIC

- ❖ How does the music contribute to our understanding of the larger themes of the show?
- ❖ How did the music and lyrics evoke time and place for you?
- ❖ *The Emperor's New Clothes* features an overture. What is an overture? What purpose does it serve? What is established during the overture? Identify all you learn about the show's theme. Setting, characters and energy level from listening to the overture.
- ❖ Discuss the ways in which music and lyrics play a role in your life? Which moments in your life might be set to music?

THE CREATORS OF MUSICAL THEATRE

- ❖ What is the meaning of the word "collaboration"? What is the process of having more than one person create a musical?
- ❖ In most musicals, the show is put together by many people. How do you imagine a director, choreographer, set designer, costume designer and musical director all work together?

FAIRY TALE ANALYSIS

Who were the good characters in *The Emperor's New Clothes*?

Who were the bad characters *The Emperor's New Clothes*?

What were the magical or fantasy elements of the story?

What was the main problem or conflict of the story?

What was the solution to the problem?

Sequence of Events

Place the events from *The Emperor's New Clothes* in the correct story order by numbering them 1 to 12.

___ Chester and Verity decided to try and catch Stitch and Sew.

___ The Emperor wants new clothes made, but finds out he is broke!

___ Empress Carlotta uses the magic glasses to show that Sinister is bad, and that he kidnapped their Son Lester.

___ Max issues a proclamation for new tailors.

___ Chester and Verity try on the magic truth glasses.

___ Chester gives Max the magic glasses to reveal that Stitch and Sew are crooks.

___ Prince Lester asks Verity to marry him.

___ During the procession, nobody can see his clothes.

___ Stitch and Sew make "invisible clothes"

___ Court members and Empress pretend that they can see the clothes.

___ Verity shows Max and Carlotta that Chester the Jester is really their son Lester.

___ Stitch and Sew decided to pretend that they are tailors and go to the palace.

THEATRE GAMES

When students begin to act, they may feel a bit self-conscious or nervous. When a cast first gets together, they often take some time to get to know each other so they can lose their inhibitions about performing. The following are two examples of theatre games used with younger casts.

Zip! Zap! Zop!

Standing in a circle, one actor begins by announcing “Zip!” while clapping once toward someone else in the circle. With this clap, he/she sends all of the energy of the “zip” to the next player. The designated player then sends a “Zap!” to a new person, who sends a “Zop!” to yet another person. The game continues, repeating the same sequence and getting faster and faster until someone misses a cue or calls out the wrong word in the sequence. Start over as needed until the cast succeeds in creating an impressive display of teamwork.

The Name Game

The cast forms a standing circle, and the first player says her name while associating a specific movement to his/herself: a bow or curtsy, a jumping jack, anything he/she comes up with. The actors should not repeat any of the movements they have already seen. The person to the student’s right repeats the name and movement of the first player and then creates his own. Continue to the right, with each player in the circle repeating the name and action of all players before his/her and then adding his/her own.

**Color Stitch and Sew showing Maximillian his
“invisible” clothes!**



**Oh No! Nobody can see Maximilian's Clothes!
Color them in so you can see!**



Word Scramble

Name _____

Date _____

The Emperor's New Clothes

Unscramble the words below:

1. eheTm_____
2. Polt_____
3. ctraaheC_____
4. eeTtrah_____
5. aMnlilixim_____
6. atoCltar_____
7. rthseeC_____
8. thctiS_____
9. wSe_____
10. hotlesC_____
11. tinerSsi_____
12. idnferWi_____
13. rietVy_____
14. ctAosr_____
15. Maliscu_____

Word Bank

Character
Stitch
Sew
Winifred
Carlotta
Maximillian
Theme
Theater
Plot
Chester
Clothes
Actors
Musical
Verity
Sinister

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Emperor's New Clothes

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

CARLOTTA
CASTLE
CHESTER
EMPEROR
SEW
STAGE
STITCH
TAILOR
THEATER
VERITY

**Help Maximillian find his way
through the castle to his
Wardrobe!!**

