

ABOUT THE SHOW

Are you ready for some dragon stories? We are! We wanted to create a play that was fun, exciting, and interesting for young people today. We also wanted the play to be based on a story that already existed. So, we started looking at short stories written for young audiences. There are a lot of them! Thinking about what are good subjects, we agreed that dragons would be a good place to start.

Who doesn't like dragons? Google searches can turn up some great surprises. We discovered the English writer, Edith Nesbit. She wrote some very funny short stories for children in the late 19th/early 20th centuries. She wrote a number of stories about dragons and put them into a collection she called *The Book of Dragons*. We chose three of the stories to develop into a play. While the stories were exciting and very funny, they were written a long time ago in a different country - England. The words felt kind of old fashioned. We decided to update the words so the stories would feel more contemporary, and would feel more relatable to audiences today.

There is a long tradition of doing this kind of updating and adapting of old stories to fit better into the current times. Think about all the movies that have been remade. How many different Spider Man movies are there now? People have been fascinated with dragons for a long, long time. Many different countries and cultures have dragon folktales. While the dragons in our stories are problematic, in some cultures and stories, dragons are considered good.

We had so much fun developing this play. We laughed a lot in rehearsal, and we hope you will laugh, too. And at the same time, we hope the play causes you to think a little about problems in our world today, and the power of young people like you to make a difference.

- Dwayne, Katie, Daniel and Rachel

THE GUIDE!



THE TEAM

The Book of Dragons

From the book by Edith Nesbit

Adapted by Katie McFadzen and Dwayne Hartford

Performed by Lauren McKay & Luz Navarro

Directed by Dwayne Hartford

Production design and Puppets by D. Daniel Hollingshead

Sound Design: Mara Nadolski

Technical Director: Anthony Lee

Production Manager: Rachel Solis

DISCUSS

- ★ How do you define bravery? When was a time you were brave?
- ★ What makes someone a shero or hero? Who are the heroes in your life?
- ★ How did the children in each story save their world?
- ★ What do you think the storyteller means when she says, a story to meet the need? What stories meet your needs?
- ★ In the play, the actor uses many props (objects used and held by the performer) to help tell the story. How did the props enhance the telling of the story?
- ★ The characters in each of the stories in Book of Dragons worked to solve problems in creative ways. When was a time you solved a problem creatively? Are there some problems in the world that are too big to solve on our own?

EXPLORE

Dragon Tales

Fire-breathing! Magical! Fierce! No wonder there are so many stories about dragons! Dragons are a part of a storytelling genre called folklore. Folklore is the traditional beliefs, customs and stories of a community passed down through generations. Folklore becomes a tall tail when elements of the story are exaggerated.

Write your own dragon folktale using the play as inspiration. Questions to think about as you write: What powers would your dragon have? How would the dragon stop or assist the main character in your story? What lessons could people learn from your folktale?

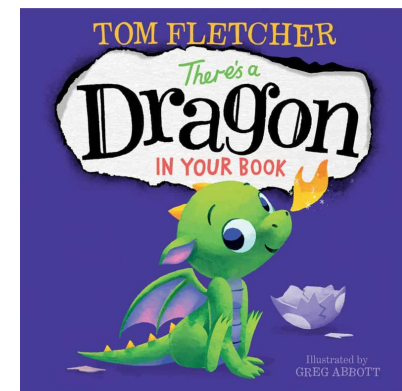
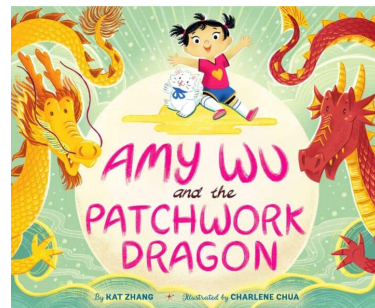
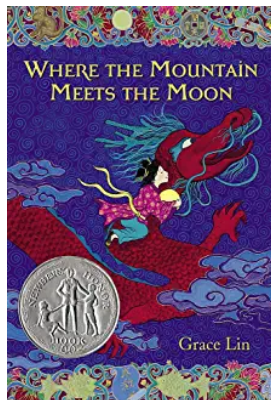
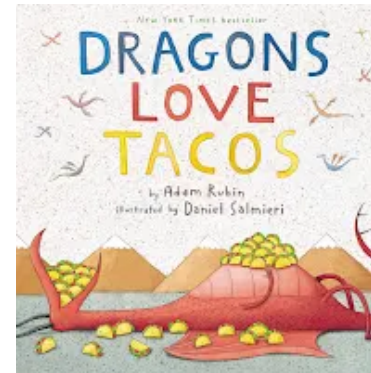
From Page to Stage!

Bring your dragon tale to life just like the actor did in the play by performing your story for the class. How can you use your voice, body, and imagination to make your story leap off the page and bring excitement to your audience? Try dimming the lights and adding props to enhance the storytelling experience.



CHECK OUT THESE BOOKS!

Our fabulous volunteer librarian Sarah put together a great list of books connected to themes in the show.



EXTEND THE EXPERIENCE!

Bring a professional Teaching Artist to your classroom to lead an arts-based, standards-driven lesson connected to the play.

Email us at:

CPEducation@childsplayaz.org

CREATE

Dragon Picture Map

The play demonstrates just how many types of dragons there are. Really, a dragon to fit every need! Become a map maker and create a picture map guide to help humans better understand dragons. Using a large sheet of butcher paper, create a complete guide to dragons, be sure to include detailed elements such as special traits, magical powers and environments.

Fire Breathing Dragon

To make this fun craft you will need the following materials: a toilet paper roll, pom-poms, tissue paper, markers, glue and tape. Follow the steps below!

- Decorate the toilet paper tube to make your dragon any color you like. Add details such as scales or patterned designs. Texture can also be added with feathers, pom-poms, or washi tape.
- Glue two pom-pom balls near one end of the tube on for eyes.
- Cut strips of colorful tissue paper and tape the pieces inside the tube so that the strips stream out to represent flames.
- Imagine you are a fire breathing dragon by holding the tube up to your mouth! Grrr!

