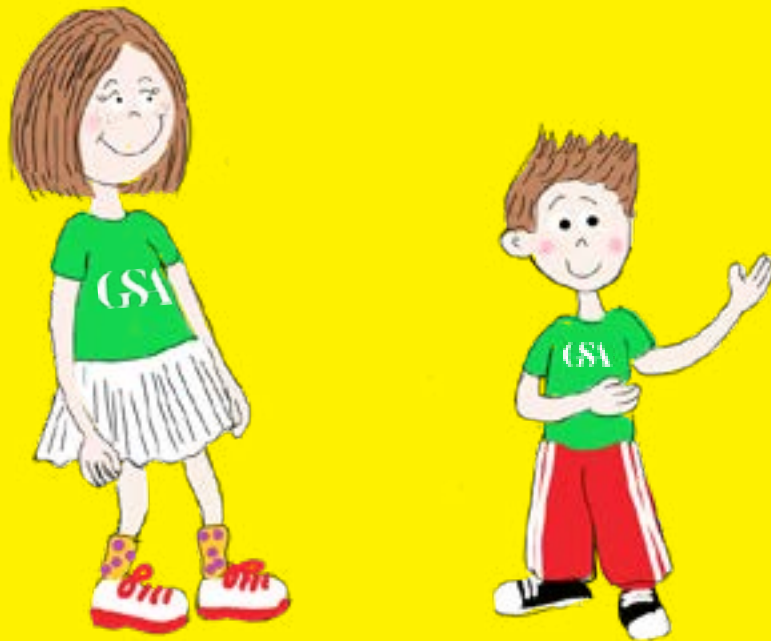


GSA

GAIETY SCHOOL
OF ACTING

Youth Theatre: *At Home*

THE GRUFFALO



Drama and Creative Resources for Ages 3-8

We will take you on an trip through the deep dark wood in this week's Drama Home Resource, as we explore the book *The Gruffalo* by Julia Donaldson. *For elements that require adult guidance we will let you know.

Have fun, be safe, and we look forward to seeing you back at GSA very soon.

***CONTENTS: DRAMA GAMES, CREATIVE DRAMA,
MAKE YOUR OWN PLAY, COLOURING SHEET, PUPPETRY,
CRAFTS AND SCIENCE***

DRAMA GAMES

It's important to warm up before every drama class or performance. Warm up games are not just great for warming up your body and voice, but for getting your creativity flowing. These exercises are fun, will get you moving when the playgrounds are closed, and are great for ALL ages! As much as possible, furniture should be pushed back to the sides of the room. This is to avoid any accidents. Ask a parent first!

BIBBITY, BIBBITY, BOP: GRUFFALO VERSION!

1. Everyone stands in a circle and choose one person, maybe an adult, to stand in the middle of the circle.
2. LEVEL 1: The "leader" points at someone in the circle and says "bippity bippity bop" as fast as she can. The person being pointed at must say "bop" before she gets to the end of her phrase. If the leader points to someone and only says "bop", then the person must stay quiet. The goal is it get the people to not say "bop" fast enough in the first case scenario, and to say "bop" in the second.
3. LEVEL 2: After this level is well understood by the whole group, it is time to add another level. If the leader points to a person and says "underground house", they must crouch down and in a spooky voice say "Come in! Come in!". The two people to his left and right must use both their arms to make the roof of a house over the crouched student.
4. LEVEL 3: If the leader points to a person and says "Gruffalo" than the person must stomp in place and roar as if he was the Gruffalo while the person on the left and right must cower and scream.
5. Finally, once everyone gets the hang of it, you can add an "elimination mode": if anyone messes up, he/she must sit down. Go until you have a winner!



DRAMA GAMES

GOOD MORNING MR MOUSE

Choose one child to sit in a chair with their back to the rest of the kids - this person is now playing "Mr Mouse". One at a time everyone else must walk up to the chair, behind the child (keep hidden!) and say "Good Morning Mr Mouse". But the point of this game is not to speak as you usually would, everyone must try and disguise their voice!

Try speaking as deep as you can, as high as you can, maybe you can do a funny accent or talk like someone you've seen in a movie.

Players must keep saying hello to "Mr Mouse" in different voices until the mouse can't guess who is saying hello. If the mouse can't guess, or gets it wrong he must leave the chair and the person who catches him out takes over the chair and the game continues.

This game is great for playing around with different voices.

TIP: Making funny voices can sometimes hurt your vocal chords, so it's a good idea before playing this game to warm up your voice. Your voice is a VERY important tool for an actor so you need to protect it!

VOCAL WARM UPS:

Imagine you are chewing a big sticky ball of chewing gum. Now imagine that there are bees stuck in the chewing gum (EW!)

Keep doing this for at least thirty seconds.

Next repeat the word bubblegame 20 times, and then follow up with the word chocolate 20 times.

Now your voice should be lovely and warmed up!



COLOUR ME IN

MAKE A PLAY

What you need: Pen, paper, props, costumes

WRITING THE PLAY

The great thing about the Gruffalo is you can use the book as a script to make your play. The author, Julia Donaldson, has even written in dialogue (the words the characters say in the play) so just go through the book and write out what the following characters say.

- Mouse
- Gruffalo
- Fox
- Snake
- Owl

You can then write out all the other words such as "a mouse took a walk in the deep dark wood" and give them to the narrator to say.

You now have 6 parts in your play. Even if you don't have 6 people to play the parts, each person could play a few parts!

Now choose who will play each character and start rehearsing.

Maybe pick one person who will be the Director. They will make the decisions like:

- Where do the actors stand in each scene?
- Does the mouse act scared at all in the play or is he always brave?
- What way can you make the Gruffalo seem very scary?



CRAFTS & SCIENCE

SHADOW PUPPET THEATRE

Some people prefer to perform using puppets, so here are tips on how to make your own shadow puppet theatre.

WHAT DO YOU NEED:

- Desk lamp with a bright bulb (be careful using electricity and always ask a grown up for help)
- A large white sheet
- 2 chairs
- 4 large binder clips or tape

FOR SHADOW PUPPETS:

- Art supplies: crayons, markers, scissors, tape, lollipop sticks or straws
- Cut out a shape for your characters and stick them onto the straw or lollipop using tape
- You can give them features and colour them in if you like, but the most important thing is their shape so we can see their shadow clearly. (Younger children should get help with scissors)

HOW TO:

- Put the two chairs a few feet apart
- Drape a sheet across two chairs that are a few feet apart
- Use binder clips or tape to attach the corners of the sheet to the top and bottom of each chair
- Make sure that the sheet is stretched tightly
- Put your desk lamp behind the sheet so that it shines through
- Now take the shadow puppets you've made and play around with the light
- When you move your puppet far away from the light is it bigger or smaller?



THE SCIENCE BIT

Do you ever wonder where shadows come from? And why does a shadow change shape depending on the time of day or time of year? Look around you now - do you see any shadows?

A shadow is the absence of light. Light is a form of energy that travels in a straight line until it hits an object. If the object blocks the light from passing through it, that creates an area of darkness—a shadow—on the other side.

There are many sources of light but the biggest one is our SUN! Have you noticed how easy it is to see shadows outdoors on a bright sunny day? It's not so easy on cloudy days?

CRAFTS & SCIENCE

LET'S GO ON A GRUFFALO NATURE TRAIL!

I know you can't go very far at the moment, but if you have a park or green area near your house, why don't you go on a nature trail and try to find some of the animals from The Gruffalo?

WHAT CLUES SHOULD YOU LOOK FOR?

THE FOX: Fox tracks are usually diamond-shaped and narrow. Dog tracks are squarer than a fox's but a similar size. Can you spy any fox tracks? Foxes are nocturnal, which means they come out at night, so you may not see them easily, but they are very common so you may even have one visit your garden! See if you can find tracks.

THE MOUSE: We have two species of mouse in Ireland: the Wood Mouse and the House Mouse.

The Wood Mouse is most common in the wild - it has orange-brown fur on its sides and back and a white belly. Its eyes are large and black. Its ears are very big and are almost hairless. Its nose is pointed, and it has long whiskers.

The House Mouse is usually found in cities and in buildings. This mouse is usually grey and has small eyes and ears.

Keep your eyes peeled when walking through the woods or park - maybe a little mouse is hiding in the long grass! What kind of mouse is the mouse in the Gruffalo do you think? A Wood Mouse or House Mouse?

THE OWL: It will be even harder to spot an owl than a fox! They are nocturnal too. The Long Eared Owl is the most common owl in Ireland. They are brownish-gray and have long ear-tufts. You can listen out for a Long Eared Owl - their call is an even hoot, repeated every two to four seconds.



WHAT OTHER ANIMALS CAN YOU SEE ON YOUR WALK? TAKE A PAPER AND A PEN WITH YOU, MAKE NOTES AND MAYBE EVEN DRAW THEM! LOOK OUT FOR SQUIRRELS, BIRDS AND EVEN INSECTS!

We hope you enjoyed the Gruffalo fun! We'd love to hear how you get on! You can tag us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @GaietySchool or email marketing@gaietySchool.com.

You can find out all about our Young Gaiety classes and Summer Camps at gaietySchool.com

