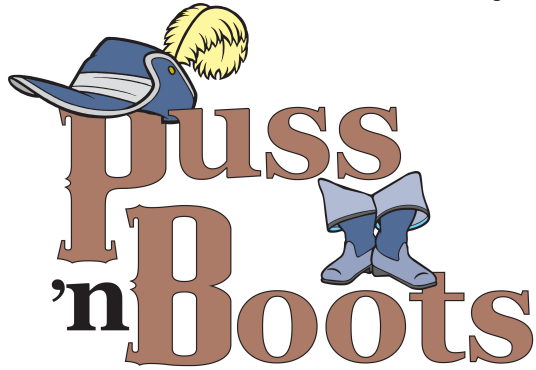




Parent/Teacher Study Guide



A Musical for Children Based
on the Charles Perrault tale

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Music & Lyrics by
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Storybook Musical Theatre

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Storybook Musical Theatre is a non-profit, professional children's theatre company operating under a Theatre for Young Audiences Contract with Actors' Equity Association, the union for professional actors and stage managers in the U.S.A.



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Puss 'n Boots **Play Synopsis** **Act I**

As the play begins Puss explains how he used to be the Miller's cat and not be as prosperous as he is now. Puss introduces the miller's three sons. They have to divide the estate of their father. By flipping a coin, the eldest picks the grain mill, the middle son picks the donkey, and this leaves the youngest left with the cat. The eldest and the middle sons become partners, leaving the youngest to find his own way in the world. The cat speaks up promising to help the son if he will buy the cat some clothes and boots. The son decides to get Puss the boots. Puss provides food by going hunting, but realizes that the son deserves better. One day Puss sees the King coming and makes a plan. Puss introduces himself as the courier for the Marquis de Carrabas, bearing gifts of food and cider for the King and Princess. The King, wanting to meet the Marquis as soon as possible expresses his gratitude and leaves. The son is not sure of how to be a Marquis, but Puss tells him that the plan will work. After several weeks of receiving gifts, the King and the Princess are eager to meet the Marquis, but the Marquis does not have a manor house where the King can visit. Puss tells the son to meet him at midday by the lake. After the younger son leaves, Puss meets a farmer and his wife who explain that a mean, nasty ogre owns all the land and the villagers have to do all his work. Puss gives them some gold and asks them to tell the King, when he travels by, that all the land belongs to the Marquis. When the King arrives he is further impressed by what the farmer tells him. Puss hurries the farmer and his wife off to tell all the villagers about the Marquis owning the land. Puss hurries to the youngest son and makes him disrobe behind a tall hedge as the King's coach approaches. Puss then calls to the King and explains that the Marquis had his clothes stolen by robbers as he was swimming. From behind the hedge the son finally meets the King. The son is given an extra set of clothes to wear from the King. He dresses and joins the King and Princess to travel to the Ogre's castle as Puss hurries off to reach the castle first and confront the Ogre.

Act II

As the Act begins, Puss is in a room in the castle. He decides to take a look around the rest of it. As he leaves the Ogre comes in talking about doing some horrible mischief in the village. He hears Puss coming back and hides. The Ogre confronts Puss, who gets the Ogre to talk about himself. The Ogre is quick to show how special he is with all his tricks. He asks Puss to stay for supper, or rather be supper. Puss changes the subject back to the Ogre's magical powers. He tells the Ogre that he has heard about his ability to change into different animals. The Ogre changes into a lion and then back again. Puss asks if the Ogre can change into a smaller creature like a mouse. As soon as the Ogre changes into a mouse, Puss pounces on him and gobbles him up. Soon the youngest son, the King and the Princess arrive at the castle. Puss enters and explains that he was housecleaning, but now the castle was safe for the village and the son. The son asks the Princess to marry him and she accepts. They toast to their new fortunes and everyone lives happily ever after. The End.

FOR PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND COUNSELORS

The following common core aligned* activity ideas and questions may be beneficial to share with your student(s) before and after the play.

1. Read the original story by Charles Perrault. Talk with your child(ren) about the different characters and their feelings. Discuss how they might be different in the play and how they might look when they come to life on stage. Share the Play Synopsis with them. How is it different from the story you read? How is it the same? Have the child(ren) use their imaginations to create their own versions of the story. (RL 2.3, RL 2.6)

2. Talk to your child(ren) about attending a live performance and how it differs from watching TV at home. Discuss what it means when there are many people who want to see and hear the action. How should good audience members behave? (SL 2.2) They will have the chance to meet the actors after the play!

3. Divide your group into teams for each character in the play. Write a descriptive sentence about them. Have the teams draw a picture or write a

letter to their characters. Send the drawings and letters to us. We love to get them. (W 2.7, 2.8)

4. Puss helps the youngest son because he trusts Puss. Have you ever helped someone because they helped you? Do you make friends because you trust them? How did you become friends? How did you meet? (RL 2.2)

5. The Ogre is very boastful and greedy. This gets him trouble. Do you ever treat people badly because you think you are better than them? How do you think that makes them feel? What could you do to make up to someone that you were not nice to. (RL 2.3)

6. The youngest son spends his money on clothes and boots for Puss because Puss promises to find them food. Have you ever spent money on a friend because they had less than you did? When you make a promise to someone, do you keep it? Do you do a chore or an errand when you are asked? (RL 2.3 W 2.1)

7. The King and Princess are very grateful because the Marquis shares his food and drink with them. Do you share things with your friends? How do you feel when you share? Happy? Sad? Proud? (W 2.8)

8. Puss pretends his master is a Marquis and convinces people that he is one. Have your child(ren) pretend to be someone famous or different. Have them write a short story or act out a short scene about that person. What type of clothes would they wear? Where would they live? (RL 2.6, W 2.3, SL 2.2)

9. The music and lyrics tell the audience several important things about the action and the characters. Talk to your child(ren) about what they felt when they heard certain kinds of music in the play. (SL 2.2 RL 2.4)

10. Costumes and makeup help actors create their roles in the play. Using old clothes and fabrics that your child(ren) can bring in from home, help your students create a costume for their favorite character in the play and act out some of the story.

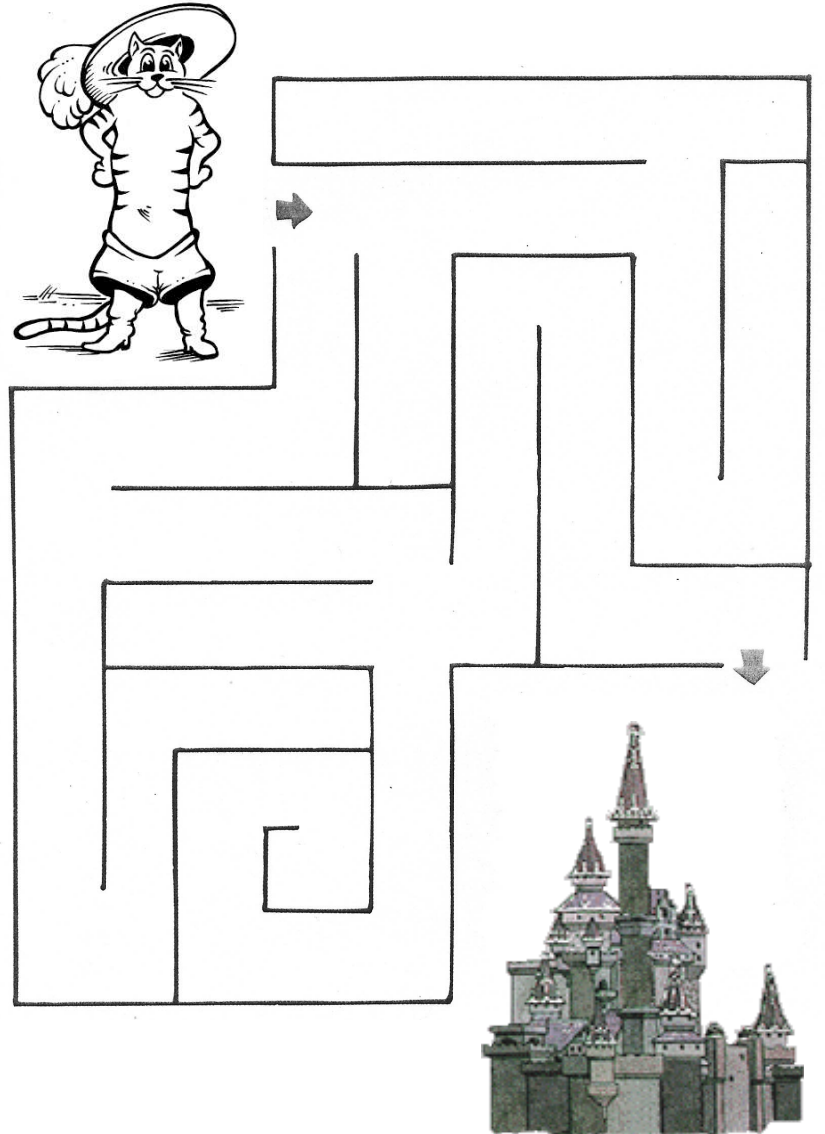
(the 2nd grade common core standards used can be easily adjusted to meet the needs and levels of your students)

Rhyming Words

Write a word that rhymes with
each word below

1. cat _____
2. king _____
3. mouse _____
4. brother _____
5. mill _____
6. lake _____
7. boot _____
8. friend _____
9. mean _____
10. food _____

Can you help Puss find his way
to the Ogre's Castle?



Puss 'n Boots Word Search

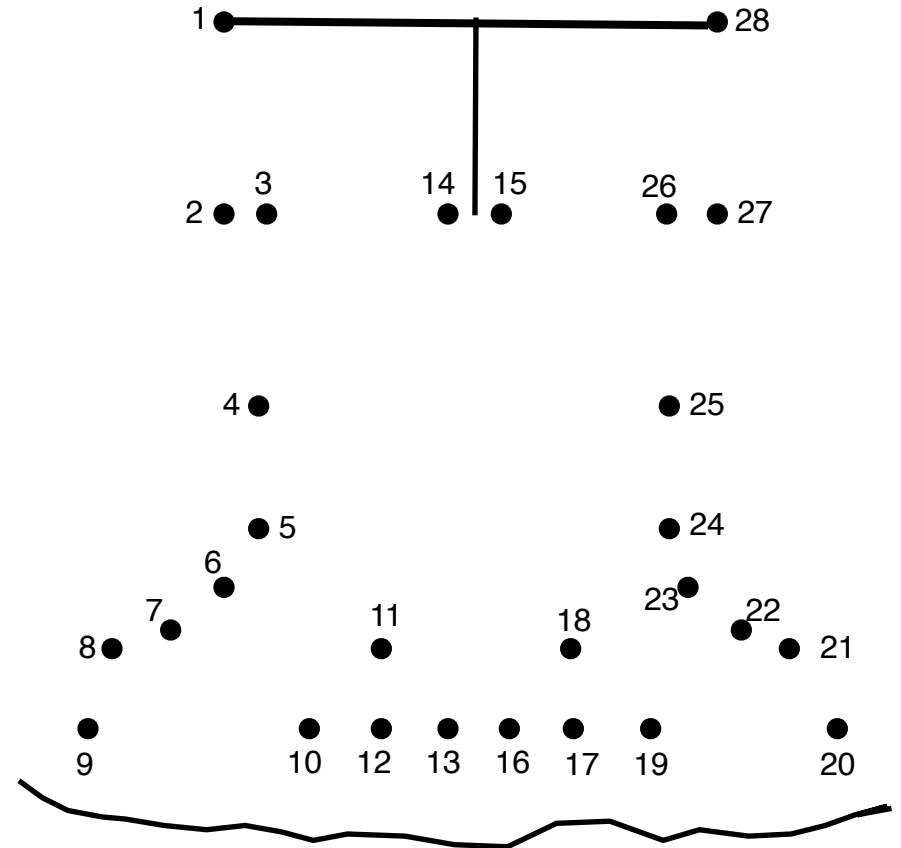
B H Z C A Q P U O G R E
 I R V F A R M E R K H H
 K U O P M I L L W I C R
 B T Q T M G I F T N O K
 T K P W H Q G I M G I I
 B O O T S E Z J A D N N
 C Q E J J N R K R O S G
 C L O T H E S S Q M J Q
 N V C L K B Z I U C A T
 P R I N C E S S I G G Z
 H E L P V Z J K S W M X

Find these hidden words:

BOOTS
 CAT
 COINS
 GIFT
 KING
 MARQUIS
 OGRE

BROTHERS
 CLOTHES
 FARMER
 HELP
 KINGDOM
 MILL
 PRINCESS

The Cat's Meow!



Connect the dots to find

what the youngest son

gave to his cat, Puss.

He gave Puss _____.