STUDY GUIDE FOR

The Three Little Pigs

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TO THE PARENT/TEACHER

This guide has been provided to help children benefit the most from experiencing a live theatrical event. The activities described herein are only suggestions. Please feel free to pick and choose the things that will most benefit your children in the time you have available. It is our hope that the performance is not only entertaining, but is a valuable educational experience as well.

You will find that some of the activities contained in this guide are geared for younger, some for older children-- but there is something for everyone. Please feel free to reproduce and distribute any of the enclosed pages and activities for your personal use, but please honor our copyright.

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Theatre Etiquette

1> Attending a theatrical performance is a social event. Just as the way you act (and behave) in church or temple is different than the way you act on the playground, there is certain behavior that is appropriate in a live theatre. Discuss with your children the types of behavior that is appropriate when they are members of an audience.

2> Explain that they need to act differently when they're watching a live play than if they're watching a movie in a theatre Live actors can hear the audience's laughter and applause as well as their talking to their neighbor or rustling papers. And their responses-- appropriate or not-- really do affect the actors' performance. The end line is: How would they want to be treated if THEY were up on the stage.

2> Audience Participation. Normally, audience members should never talk during the play--and especially not talk directly to the actors (it distracts other audience member and may even make the actors forget their lines). But the plays by KMR Scripts are unique in that we offer the audience special opportunities to participate in the production. They will probably not be asked to come onstage, but there are various times throughout the production where the actors will ask them questions or ask them to use their imaginations and pretend they are animals, trees, or people. At those times we encourage the audience to participate and/or answer them wholeheartedly (but not in an overly loud yell). Over the years, this has become one of the hallmarks of our productions.

Activities & Discussion

1. **STORY CIRCLE.** Have the children make up their own version of THE THREE LITTLE PIGS. Have them sit in a circle. Pick one child to begin the story and go clock-wise around the circle, allowing everyone a chance to add to the story. You may have to limit each child's contribution to one story event (some children are avid storytellers!).

2. **LOTS OF WOLVES**. One of the main characters of this play is the wolf. It seems that many fairy tales, and fables use wolves as main characters (and usually as the villain!) Why it that? Some scholars believe it is because early fairy tales and fables were actually written for adult audiences. The wolves were given human personality traits such as evil, sinister, and plotting--but in reality, we know they really act in natural "predator" ways (they're not "evil" at all). What other stories have wolves in them? What personality traits have they been given for the benefit of the story? What other stories have animals which have been given human personality traits? How do those traits differ from the real, natural animal behavior traits?

3. **TEMPER, TEMPER**. In this version of the story, the wolf has trouble controlling his temper. In fact, we find out that is the main reason he has no friends: everybody's afraid of his temper. Have you ever lost your temper? How did you feel? If you lost your temper at another person, how did it make *them* feel? It is natural to feel angry at times, but we must be careful how we display our anger.

4. **IN A HURRY!** Hazel Pig was always in too much of a hurry. She didn't want to take the time to do a job right--and almost got hurt because of it. Do you know of any people who are always in a hurry like that in real life? Why do you think they are like that? Have you ever been in such a hurry that you became careless?

5. **I FEEL PRETTY.** Mahogany Pig was always concerned with how she looked. She was vain. She was so concerned with her appearance, she almost got hurt. Why do you suppose she is like that?

6. **PIGS IN HOUSES.** The three pigs in this story live in houses just as people do. Do pigs *really* live in houses? In what kind of places do real pigs live? Name some other fairy tales where the animals live in houses (Goldilocks & the Three Bears, The Little Red Hen, The Three Little Kittens, The City Mouse & the Country Mouse, etc) Where do real animals like that really live? Take a sheet of paper and on one side, draw where the animal lives in fairy tales and on the other, draw where they live in real life.

7. **MAKE A MAP.** Have the students draw a map of the area in which the story takes place. Have it include: Mama Pig's house, the houses of each of the three pigs, the farm with the turnip patch, the apple orchard, the wolf's house, and the park where the carnival is held. They may also show rivers, forests, cities, etc.

This Little Piggy