



STUDY GUIDE FOR

THAT CHICKEN LITTLE HENNY PENNY

Adapted by Kevin M Reese

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.

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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 their 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 the 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. At those times we encourage the audience to answer them wholeheartedly (but not in an overly loud yell). Over the years, this has become one of the hallmarks of KMR Scripts productions.

VOCABULARY

Here are some of the words and phrases the children will encounter during the performance:

league	villains	extraordinaire	paralyzed	appetite	proof
measly	focus	Padded Room	disguise	explanation	kaput
revenge	drastic	coincidence	undignified	The Economy	

TWENTY QUESTIONS

Hide a stuffed animal in a box. Have the children ask "yes" or "no" questions until they can guess the contents of the box.

- 1> Have the students write a review of the play. What were their favorite parts? Their least favorite? Did anything happen that they didn't understand or seemed confusing? Did they like the music or did it "get in the way of the story?" What did they think of the costumes and scenery? Help them understand that their opinions are most certainly valid but will most likely differ from that of others (and that is OK). Being able to objectively discuss their opinions and others' is definitely a skill that will benefit them the rest of their lives.
- 2> Class Play. There are many different versions of this story. Sometimes it's called "Chicken Little," sometimes it's called "Henny Penny," or even "Chicken Licken" or "The Sky is Falling." Using the KMR Scripts production as a guide, have the class come up with their own version of CHICKEN LITTLE (or another fairy tale). Write the script, cast and rehearse the play and perform it for another class.
- 3> Chicken. Both Henny Penny and Chicken Little had to deal with people calling them a "chicken." Many times we make foolish choices in order to keep that from happening. What should you do if someone calls you a "chicken?"
- 4> Worry. Henny Penny ended up worrying over nothing. That is something we all do. Why do we worry about things? Does it ever help to worry about things? Usually, if we understand what it is we're worried about— we find that we needn't be worried after all. But there is a difference between worrying and being careful. It is always good to be careful. Luckily for the characters, the villains in this adaptation ended up being more silly than evil— but it doesn't always turn out that way!
- 5> Have the students draw a picture of their favorite character or event in the play or write a letter to their favorite character. Display it on the wall or bulletin board. Or, send it to theatre. The actors LOVE to receive mail from their audiences.
- 6> Duck! Duck loved to play tricks on people by saying "Duck." Can you think of any other expressions that are named after animals? (Examples: Horsing around, getting Goosed, being Dog Tired, having a Whale of a time....)
- 7> Exaggeration. Every time Henny Penny described getting hit on the head, the object seemed to get bigger and bigger with each re-telling. Why do we exaggerate? Play "Telephone Line" to show how things can get changed through re-telling— and the power of gossip.