



Grace the Pirate Study Guide

Interactive Plays

Kitty's unique interactive plays weave history, literature, manners, customs, dance and music into theatrical presentations where audience members - both teachers and students - portray the key characters and historical figures of the times. Great sensitivity is used when involving participants, as some folks would prefer to sit back and watch the antics of their comrades.

In order to set good examples of theatre etiquette, it is respectfully requested that teachers attend programs without papers or homework in hand.

Grace the Pirate

Ireland (1601) The program is geared for younger students therefore it focuses on the more whimsical aspects of pirate life. From the beginning, Grace O'Malley establishes her student crew and the rules for sailing aboard her vessel. With the aide of her newly 'recruited' quartermaster, boatswain and crew, Grace sets off with map in hand to find the treasure of Blackbeard the Pirate. Once at sea, she entertains her crew with one of their favorite folktales.



However, the crew hasn't sailed for long before the dreaded Blackbeard appears. A friendly struggle of wits, dancing skills and athletic competitions ensues to determine who shall win the treasure map. The two mighty pirates finally agree to work together to find the treasure and the booty is shared by all. (Each student receives a token of treasure).

Grace O'Malley

Based on the historical Irish pirate, Grace O'Malley, that sailed during the Elizabethan period. She was feisty, strong-willed and fearless. Bedecked in her Elizabethan vest, skirt, knickers, boots and hat, she is a true swashbuckler from the 17th century.



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Performance Objectives

Create a supportive environment wherein students' participation results in a positive, self-affirming experience that allows them to co-create the show with the character by

- Offering the students the flavor of 17th century pirate life
- Focusing on the valor and diplomacy exhibited by seafaring men and women
- Impressing upon the students that the best way to settle disputes is through cooperative means rather than hostile conflicts.

Pre-Show Preparation

- Read about Grace O'Malley and other female pirates such as Ann Bonney and Mary Reade
- Discuss the need for rules aboard the ship and list the rules they might make if they were captain of a ship
- Create hats (scarves), eye patches, kerchiefs or other pirate paraphernalia

Post-Show Activities

Have students design and make

- Treasure maps and chests
- Jolly Roger flags
- Plays about their favorite researched pirate
- Scavenger hunts that leads to their treasure

The Artist

Having developed her unique style of interactive theatre since 1987, Kitty combines her passion for history with her love of theatre to create 16 different high-energy shows.

Ms. Jones brings 4000 years of history and literature to life in programs ranging from *The Mysteries of Ancient Egypt* to *Women's Rights*. Since 1996, she has written, choreographed, produced and performed her own original material for Kit's Interactive Theatre. Kitty Jones has appeared on TV, Film and the stages of New York.

