



One Room Schoolhouse 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.

One Room Schoolhouse

New England (1890's) The program focuses on the values of nineteenth century education. The experience of attending a one-room schoolhouse is recreated by students and teachers with enjoyable role reversals throughout the show. Beginning with the mandatory chores before school, the "pupils" lives are depicted - including their arduous walk to school. A layout of the schoolhouse is described along with the subjects to be studied. Also discussed are the school supplies needed e.g. a slate, chalk, wood, rags. After a clever recitation and spelling bee, the show concludes with a square dance - similar to those often held at schoolhouses at the turn of the 20th century.



Miss Mabel Weatherby

A fictitious single woman from the south, Miss Mabel explains the strict codes to which school teachers must adhere. Her high collared dress and hairstyle reflect the rigid Victorian values of the day.



Performance Objectives

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

- Depicting the differences between a modern school day and those of one hundred years ago.
- Allowing students to excel at the interactive tasks set before them.

Pre-Show Preparation

Discuss with students their daily school day routine

- What time they rise
- What they eat for breakfast
- How they travel to school
- School supplies
- Subjects they study

Post-Show Activities

Have students rise one hour early and perform chores such as: sweeping the floors, patio, and garage or picking up their room and discuss the difference that it makes in getting ready for school

Have students memorize a short portion of a famous speech or poem and hold a recitation for the class

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.

