

Play Index and Links to Plays

Grade 1

[Briar Rose – A Play for First Grade](#)

A classic Grimm's fairy tale. There are 18 main characters, though some roles can be combined as needed. The play contains two songs and two dances. Lyrics are provided, but teachers are encouraged to find, adapt, or to compose their own melodies.

[The Fisherman and His Wife – A Play for First Grade](#)

A well-known Grimm's fairy tale. The play was written to be recited chorally, though the roles of the fisherman, his wife, and the fish can be performed by individual students. The play consists of five scenes and contains three songs and one dance. Lyrics are provided, but teachers are encouraged to find, adapt, or to compose their own melodies.

Grade 2

[The Good Bishop — Tales of Saint Nicholas for Second Grade](#)

Two well-known stories from the life of Saint Nicholas, Bishop of Myra. The play includes three songs and one dance. There are fifteen characters, and the class—or groups of students—can speak the choral parts.

[The Sultan's Fool – A Play for Second Grade](#)

A comic tale of Abu Nowas, the clever trickster of Arabic folklore, who outsmarts the Great Sultan and his wife. The play has ten scenes; there are nine main characters, but courtiers, servants, or guards can be added if needed.

Grade 3

[By the Waters of Babylon — The Story of Daniel for Third Grade](#)

The trials and triumphs of Daniel, a Jew in Babylonian captivity, and the three kings he served. The play is comprised of three acts and includes two songs. It has 30

characters, though students can play more than one role since most of the characters only appear in one act.

Esther, the Queen – A Play for Third Grade

The story of the Jewish holiday Purim. The play begins with a plot against Ahasuerus, the king, that is foiled by Mordechai, Esther's uncle. Jealous of Mordechai's favor with the king, Haman, Ahasuerus's counselor, devises a plan to annihilate all the Jews in the kingdom. Esther learns of his plan and exposes him, causing him to be punished. The play has three acts and an opening and closing song. There are ten characters, though some incidental characters could be added if necessary.

Grade 4

Thor the Bride – A Play for Fourth Grade

A humorous retelling of the loss of Thor's hammer. Thor's hammer is stolen by Thrym, the king of the giants, who will only return it if Freyja becomes his bride. Loki convinces Thor to go visit the giants dressed as Freyja, and together they retrieve the hammer and slay the giants. The play has five scenes and 18 characters, though the gods can also be cast as giants since they appear in different acts.

The Curse of the Ring — The Story of Sigurd the Volsung for Fourth Grade

This play presents tragic story of Sigurd, the Volsung, one of the greatest heroes of the Norse people. The play portrays the workings of fate and its heroic acceptance. One of the features of this play is the speech choruses; a polyphonic web that evokes the twining Norse braided forms. The second half alludes to infidelity. If the wording seems too explicit or inappropriate, the text can be revised to be more euphemistic. There are four acts with 21 characters, but students could play multiple roles because many of the characters appear in different acts.

Grade 5

Searching for the Light: The Tale of Isis and Osiris for Fifth Grade

The story of Osiris's murder, Isis' journey to find his corpse, and Horus's battle with Set. The play is in three acts, with some lines evocative of ancient Egyptian poetry. There are 19 characters, but because characters in the first part of the play do not appear in the second part, students can play more than one role.

Perseus the Brave – A Play for Fifth Grade

The story of the courageous Greek hero, Perseus, who slew Medusa, and rescued his mother from slavery. The play has eight scenes; there are 19 characters, though students can play more than one part because some characters appear in only one act.

Grade 5 or 6

Cupid and Psyche – A Play for Fifth or Sixth Grade

A Roman story based on a Greek myth which tells how Cupid was tricked into falling in love with Psyche, a mortal. Psyche's jealous sisters undermined her marriage, and Psyche had to undergo various trials in order to reunite with her husband. The play represents the gods humorously and irreverently, so this play can be in 6th rather than 5th grade. There are 27 characters, but students can play more than one role if necessary. The characters form two choruses that serve as narrators.

Grade 6

Alice in Wonderland – A Play for Sixth or Seventh Grade

A comic and melodramatic dramatization of Alice's adventures in Wonderland. Some of the dialogue is based on Lewis Carroll's text, and some is original. The play consists of two acts, with a total of 11 scenes. There are 15 characters, and some appear in only one act, so students can play more than one part.

The Three Kings - A Play for Sixth Grade

This play was written as a companion to *Little Play of the Nativity*, which was traditionally performed by the eighth grade at the Rudolf Steiner School in NYC when I taught there. The play consists of two acts, each with six scenes, and contains several traditional carols. There are 17 characters, but students can play more than one part since some of the characters appear in only one act.

Grade 6 or 7

Lovers' Knot – Three One-Act Plays for Sixth or Seventh Grade

A collection of three one-act plays based on Geoffrey Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. The plays can be done separately or together. The first play, *Heart's Desire* portrays the dynamics of male-female relationships with humor, but if you find it or its source

inappropriate, feel free to revise or adapt it. *Heart's Desire* has 12 characters; *The Promise* has 8 characters; and *The Two Lovers*, has 12.

Grade 7

The Lily of the Field - The Story of Joan of Arc A Play for Seventh Grade

A portrayal of the triumphs and crises in Joan of Arc's life. The first three acts trace Joan's ascent among the French, while the last two acts present the tragic end of her life when she is tried, convicted, and executed. The play has 24 characters, but students can play more than one role, since the characters in Acts 1 – 3 do not appear in Acts 4 and 5.

Elizabeth – England's Queen A Play for Seventh Grade

A dramatic portrayal of the major events in Elizabeth I's reign. The play has four acts, with four scenes per act. The text includes several Elizabethan sonnets and excerpts from two of Elizabeth's speeches. There are 26 characters, but students can play more than one role because most of the characters only appear in one act.