

School Performances:

Monday, March 9, 2009
9:45 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Lied Center of Kansas

Roseneath Theatre Presents:

SPIRIT HORSE

Welcome to *Beyond the Stage for Students*. This guide is designed to help you prepare for the Roseneath Theatre's production of *Spirit Horse*.

BEYOND THE STAGE INCLUDES:

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SYNOPSIS OF THE PLAY:

As the play opens, we meet Jesse and Angelina, two adventurous children who are members of the Stoney Nation and live with their father in a high-rise apartment in Calgary, Alberta. Both girls were born on the Stoney Nation reservation in the foothills of the Rockies, but their father turned his back on the First Nations community after the death of their mother and moved them to Calgary when they were very young. The children still speak with their grandfather, who lives on the reservation. One day at the reservation, Grandfather discovered a Spirit Horse that mysteriously appeared from under the lake near Wildwind Mountain. The Spirit Horse led him to where the children live in Calgary. Grandfather told them that the Stoney Nation people believe that Spirit Horses run below the surface of the lake by Wildwind Mountain, and very, very rarely, one will come to the surface. Legend has it that if some person is lucky or strong enough to ride this Spirit Horse, the horse will return to the lake, giving up its power to whoever catches and rides it. The children begin an exciting adventure with the Spirit Horse that ultimately leads them on a quest of healing for their family.

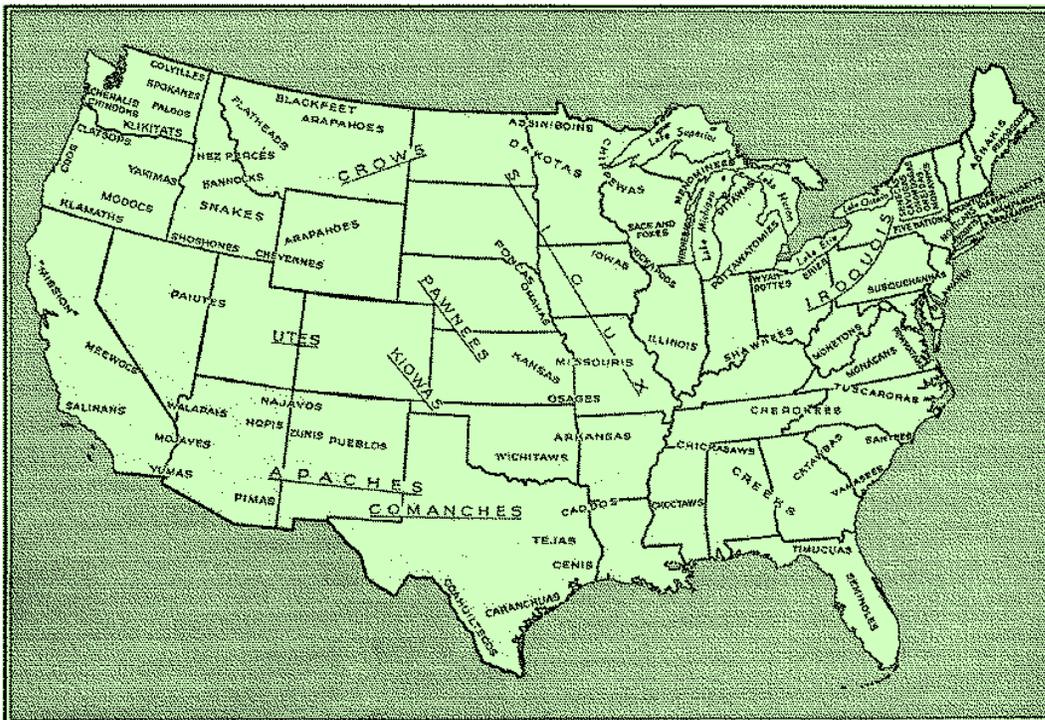
FIRST NATIONS VS. NATIVE AMERICANS

The terms, “First Nations” and “Native Americans” refer to the same people. They both refer to the indigenous people of North America. Indigenous people are any ethnic group of people who live in a region where they have the earliest historical connection. In the United States, they are Native Americans, in Canada they are First Nations peoples.

These are just a few of the First Nations tribes that exist today. The family in Spirit Horse belongs to the Stoney Nation. The playwright and actors represent the Cree, Ojibwe and Métis people:

The **Stoney** or Stony are a First Nations group, indigenous to both Canada and the United States. The Stoney are descendants of the Dakota and Lakota nations of the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains, part of the Sioux Nation. The name “Stoney” was coined by white explorers who observed tribe members using a technique of using fire-heated rocks to boil broth in rawhide bowls.

The **Cree** tribe is one of the largest American Indian groups in North America. There are 200,000 Cree people today living in communities throughout Canada and in parts of the northern United States (North Dakota and Montana).



Along with the Cree, the **Ojibwe** are one of the most populous and widely distributed First Nations tribes in North America, with 150 bands throughout north-central United States and southern Canada. Today there are 200,000 Ojibwe living throughout traditional territories.

The **Métis** are a result of the relations of First Nations women and European men. Today, the Métis people live almost exclusively in Canada, where they continue to push for respectful recognition and reconciliation for Aboriginal rights.

NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES

The **Cherokee** tribe is one of the largest in the United States today. They originally migrated from Texas or northern Mexico to the Great Lakes area. Around 1835, the Cherokee were driven west in a forced march known as the Trail of Tears, where more than 4,000 people died of hunger, disease and exposure. In 1887, after the Civil War, the government of the Cherokee Nation was dissolved and its people became U.S. citizens.

The **Kickapoo** originally occupied land that is now known as the Illinois area. In 1819, the tribe ceded all its lands in Illinois to the United States. After the relinquishment of land, many Kickapoo moved to Kansas and Oklahoma, where many still reside today. Some went to Mexico and became known as Mexican Kickapoos. Remaining Mexican Kickapoos are settled on a reservation in Chihuahua.

In its history, the **Comanche** were a very hostile people and the tribe effectively prevented white settlers from passing safely through their territory for more than a century. Originally from Idaho, Wyoming and neighboring states, the Comanche Nation is now centered in Lawton, Okla.

The **Apache** people came from Canada to settle in the Plains and the southwestern United States. Like the Comanche, the Apache have an aggressive past and many people feared them. Today, the Apache people live primarily in New Mexico, Arizona, Texas and Oklahoma.



ACTIVITIES:

The following are the names of some of the 50 states. Many state names come from Native American languages. Circle 10 of the ones that you think may have originated from a Native American word. Then, check your answers with your teacher!

Alabama	Montana
Kansas	Iowa
South Carolina	Mississippi
Missouri	California
New Hampshire	Pennsylvania
Indiana	Louisiana
Washington	Texas
Rhode Island	North Dakota
Ohio	Florida
Georgia	Illinois

NATIVE AMERICAN FACTS

- 1) How many Native Americans are there in the U.S.?
- 2) How many live on reservations?
- 3) How many Native American languages are there?
- 4) Where did the word "Kansas" originate?

1) About 2 million in the United States and 1 million in Canada 2) About 800,000 3) There are 150 Native American languages in the United States and Canada. About 500,000 people speak these languages 4) "Kansas" comes from the Kansa language and means "Southwind"



Lakota Sioux Language Guide:

one:	wan<ji
two:	nu<pa
three:	ya<mni
four:	to<pa
five:	zap<tan
six:	'sa<kpe
seven:	'sa ko<win
eight:	'sa glo<'han
nine:	ne p'cun<ka
ten:	wi k' ce<mna
twenty:	wi k'ce<mna nub
thirty:	wi k'ce<mna yam ni
fifty:	wi k'ce<mna zap tan
hundred:	opawin<'ge

Read the equations below. Solve each equation, and then write the Lakota Sioux words for each number, using the language guide legend provided. The first one is done for you.

1) $1+3=$ 4

wan<ji + ya<mni=to<pa

2) $2 \times 4 =$

3) $6+4=$

4) $10 \times 2 =$

5) $9-5=$

6) $7-6=$

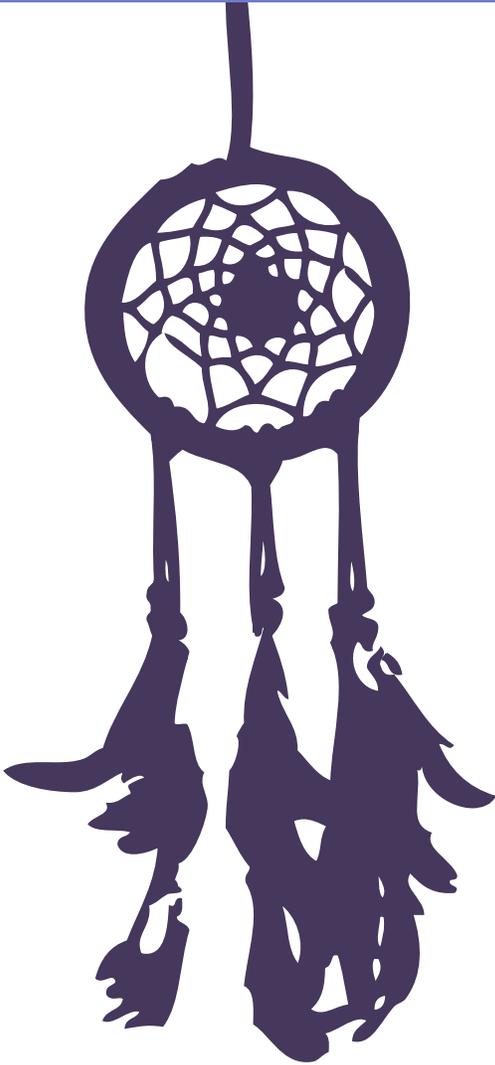
7) $10 \times 10 =$

8) $10+8+2=$

LOSS ACTIVITY

In the play, Jesse and Angelina have lost their mother who died when they were both very young. Have you ever lost anyone close to you? Has a good friend ever moved away? Have you ever had a pet that died? Have you ever lost anything really important to you? How about a favorite toy?

In the space below, draw a picture of a person, pet or thing that you have lost, or draw how you felt when you lost them or it. Underneath the picture, list three things that you miss about them or it.



THEATRE TECH TERMS:

Match the term on the left to its correct definition on the right.

Center stage

A large drapery or painted canvas that provides the rear or upstage masking of a set.

Front of house

Left and right offstage areas.

Trap

An opening in the stage floor, usually covered, which can be used for special effects, such as having scenery or performers rise from below.

Wings

A position in the very middle of the stage.

Backdrop

To give a performer cues during a performance for missed or forgotten lines.

Script

The portion of the theater reserved for the audience.

Prompt

The backstage team responsible for carrying out the technical parts of a production, such as scene changes and lighting.

Crew

The written or printed text, consisting of the dialogue, stage directions and character descriptions for a play.

If you need some help, visit these websites:

<http://www.tctwebstage.com/glossary.htm>

http://www.dramatic.com.au/glossary/glossarya_d.htm

PRODUCTION TERMS:

Match the term on the left to its correct definition on the right.

Epilogue

The arrangements of events and characters for a drama.

Producer

Tension between two or more characters in the play that leads to a crisis or a climax.

Monologue

The main character of the play.

Conflict

The chief opponent of the protagonist.

Plot

A speech addressed to the audience after the conclusion of the play and spoken by one of the performers.

Protagonist

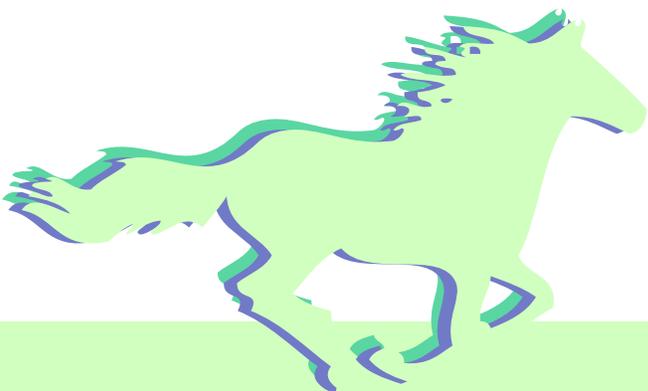
A long speech made by an actor.

Obstacle

That which delays or prevents the achievement of a goal by a character. It creates complication and conflict.

Antagonist

The person responsible for the business side of a production, including raising the necessary money.

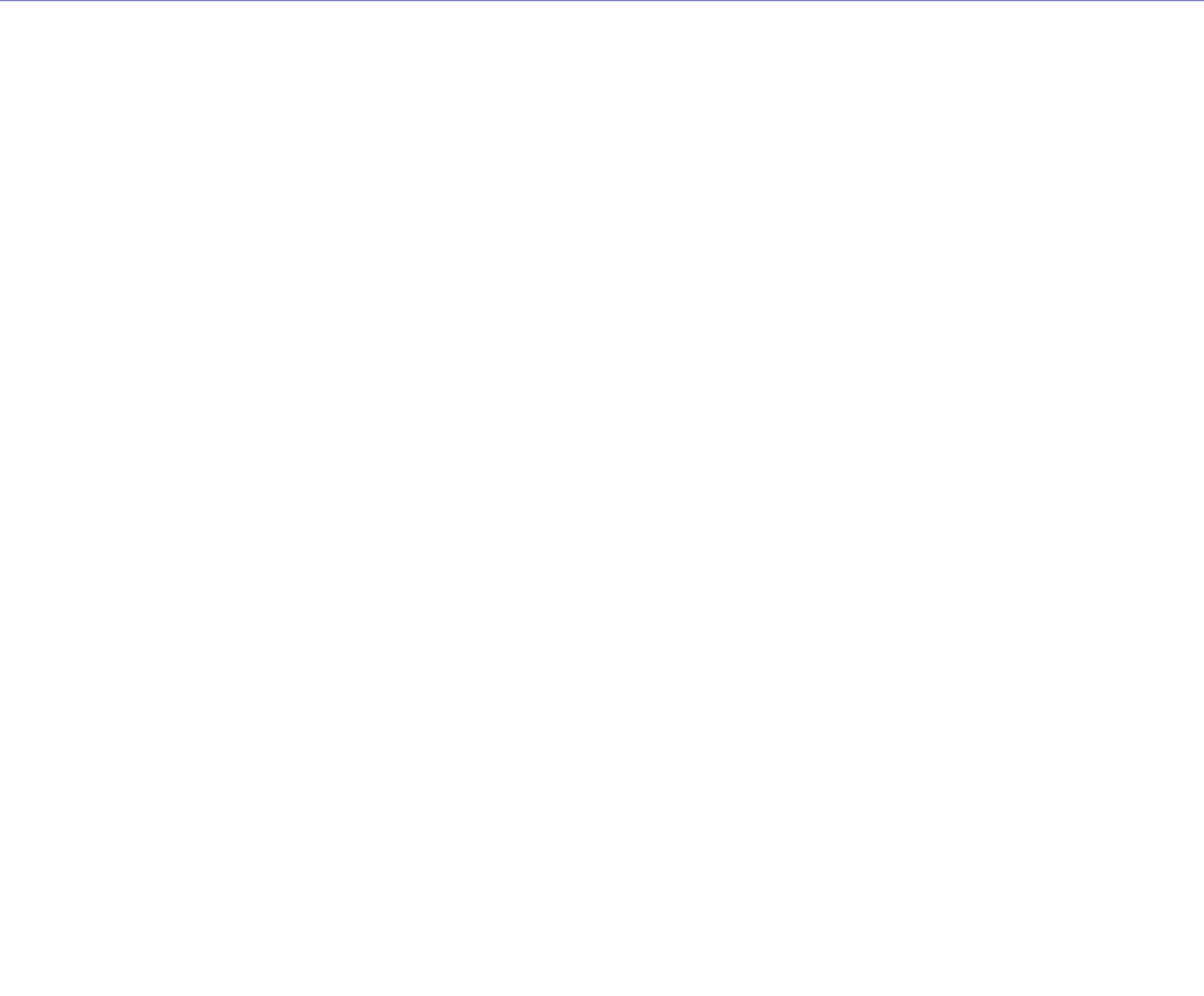




WILDWIND: THE SPIRIT HORSE

We never actually see the Spirit Horse in the play. What do you imagine Wildwind looked like?

Draw a picture of Wildwind at the lake near Wildwind Mountain. Or create a flyer promoting Wildwind's upcoming appearance at the Calgary Stampede. Or create a poster for a rodeo that features Father riding Wildwind when he was the star of the show and in his prime.



Post-performance activity:
CHARACTER CHANGE CHART

Choose one of the characters from the play *Spirit Horse*. In the first box, print the character's name and describe him or her at the beginning of the play. In the next box, write the event(s) that caused a change in the character. In the last box, describe the character at the end of the story.

Character



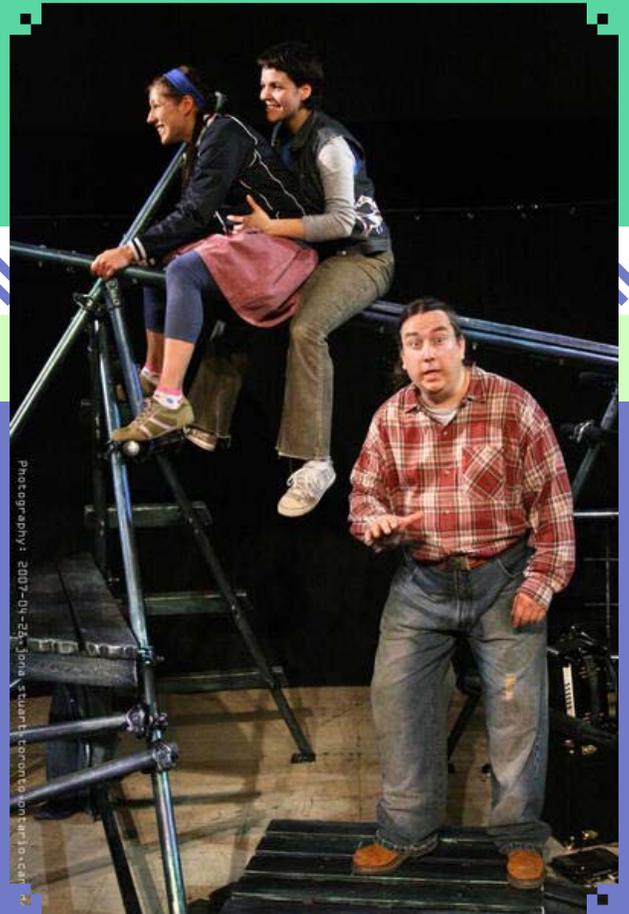
Events



End

ABOUT THE SET :

Spirit Horse is performed in a highly theatrical style that may be unfamiliar to you. There are only three actors and they play as many as 60 characters, including people, animals, and even inanimate objects. The story is told through narrative and dialogue on a very simple set, with the actors sometimes telling, sometimes acting out the action of the play. The set is designed in such a way as to allow the actors to climb on, through, and around it, which allows the many scenes and locations of the play to occur within one world, without big scene changes. Scene changes are made using the performers' and the audiences' imaginations.



BEING AN AUDIENCE MEMBER :

Being a part of a theatre audience is different than watching a movie or a television show. The performers are in the same room with you and are affected by what you do. Any unexpected noise or movement in the audience can destroy the performer's concentration.

Spirit Horse is full of onstage action. When you listen and watch carefully, you can hear the words, see what the actors are doing, and grasp the full experience of the performance. As an audience member, you play a very important part, too!



Adventures in Imagination is the Lied Center's L.E.A.P. partnership with the Lawrence Public Schools and U.S. Bank. Adventures' programs utilize the arts to enhance readings, writing, critical thinking and creative expression.

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Resources

<http://www.ahsd25.k12.il.us/curriculum/nativeamericans/index.html>
Interactive Web site with information on different tribes by region.

http://www.mce.k12tn.net/indians/navigation/native_american_territories.htm
Interactive Web site with pictures of the housing and clothing of different tribes.

http://archive.discovernativeamerica.com/discover_native_america-8.2008v2/maps-videos.php?view-map=res#maptop
Official Web site of Discover Native America with a lot of information on Native American history and more.

<http://www.apples4theteacher.com/native-american/>
Activities about Native Americans for kids.

<http://edtech.kennesaw.edu/web/natam.html>
More information for kids on Native Americans.

<http://www.thewildwest.org/cowboys-western/185/Native-Americans.html>
Web site contains information about different aspects of Native American culture.

<http://www.kstrom.net/isk/maps/mapmenu.html>
Information on Native Americans. This Web site has interactive maps to learn more about tribes in each state.

<http://www.native-languages.org/kids.htm> *Lots of information specifically for kids about Native Americans.*

<http://www.kiddyhouse.com/Thanksgiving/Native.html> *List of good Web sites.*

http://www.kidinfo.com/American_History/Native_Americans.html *Even more information.*