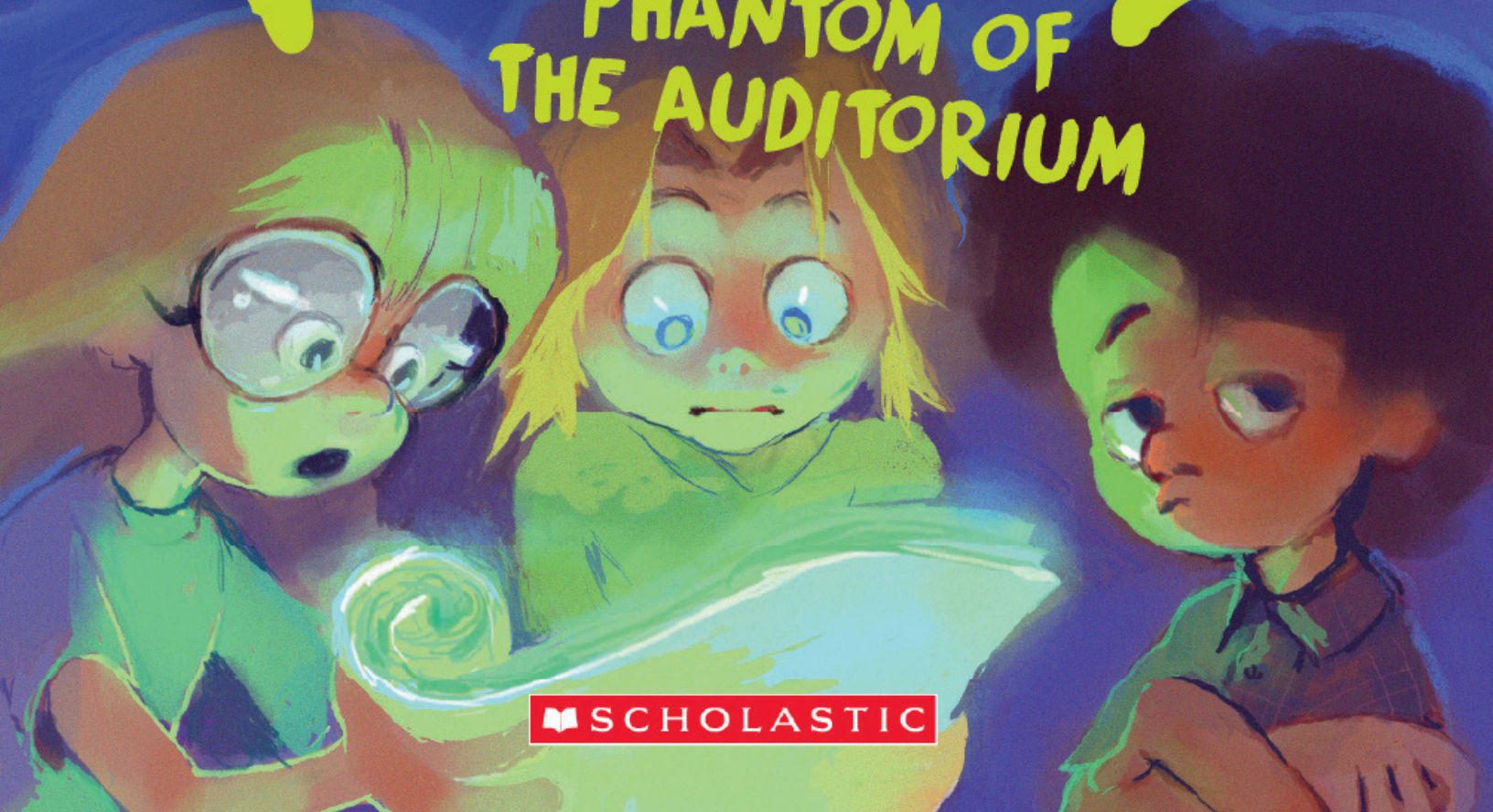


ENRICHMENT GUIDE

R.L. STINE'S
Goosebumps™

PHANTOM OF
THE AUDITORIUM



 SCHOLASTIC

 **FIRST
STAGE**
TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH THEATER

DEAR FIRST STAGE FRIENDS,

Horror fans Brooke and Zeke are thrilled to be starring in a mysterious show called *The Phantom*, and not the least bit frightened by the old legend that the play is cursed. But when strange, eerie messages start appearing and a masked menace starts disrupting rehearsals, they begin to wonder: what if there really is a ghost haunting their school, determined to stop the show?! Prepare to get goosebumps as they race to solve the mystery in this thrilling – and chilling – new musical, based on the classic series by R.L. Stine.

Enjoy the show,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brinn Hill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brinn Hill
Education Director
(414) 267-2919
bhill@firststage.org

CONTENT ADVISORY

**Recommended for families with young people ages 8-18
and thrill seekers of all ages!**

Every young person is different and may or may not be ready for certain elements of each production. Read more about this show's age recommendation below.

Audiences will be charmed by this spine-tingling tale filled with singing, dancing and friendship.

The performance is expected to run approximately 90 minutes including a brief intermission - very young audiences may have difficulty staying connected for the full length of the show.

The show contains ghostly encounters, moments of suspense, and tension between friends and classmates; audiences may feel anxious as the characters experience these difficult situations, but they will learn how to stay courageous in moments of uncertainty.

There will be flashing lights, scary moments, monsters, and loud music and sounds that may be overwhelming for those with sensory sensitivities. We offer sensory friendly performances and sensory kits for patrons who may need them.

PLOT SUMMARY

An ensemble of middle school students tells about the thrill of scary stories (Goosebumps). The students of Woods Mill Middle School are preparing to audition for their fall show. Ms. Walker, the drama teacher, has announced that the show will be filled with chills, thrills, suspense and a phantom. Brooke and Zeke are ecstatic when they hear the news. They love scary stories and hope to be cast in the lead roles in the play. Anxiously awaiting for Ms. Walker to post the cast list, the students play tricks on each other to ease the tension in the room. Shortly after 2pm the cast list is posted. Brooke and Zeke are the lead roles of Esmerelda and the Phantom! Tina is appalled to hear that she is an understudy. Students are sent home with an assignment to read the script (A Super Scary Play).

The first rehearsal for 'The Phantom' has arrived, and as students introduce themselves and their characters, Corey and Austin discuss the play being cursed. Ms. Walker tries to quickly address the mystery of a haunted show and get the students back on track, but Tina is relentless, and shares the story of the cursed play, and reveals that the play was attempted once before by the school. Ms. Walker gives in, and she and Tina share the story of the legend (The Legend). Now that the news is out and the story has been told, Brooke and Zeke are tempted to take their research a little further. The two students are fascinated by a special trap door elevator that was built under the stage for the original production and decide to see where it leads. Confused when it stops at an unfamiliar place, Brooke and Zeke are scared. They quickly pull the lever that takes them back to the stage and find Emile, the night janitor, waiting for them. Emile warns them to stay away from the sub-basement (Watch Your Step).

With rehearsals in process and the crew at work backstage, things get a little crazy and creepy. A new student, Brian, has joined the school and wants to be in the play, but unfortunately there are no roles available (Babbling Brooke). Ms. Walker instead directs him to work with Tina and the crew. Zeke reveals that he hasn't read the script yet...

...and Brooke and the rest of the cast tell him what 'The Phantom' is all about (The Story of the Phantom). While everyone is busy preparing for the show, someone appears to be sabotaging it, leaving the words "stay away from my home sweet home" everywhere. Ms. Walker and the students are suspicious of Zeke, thinking that he is behind all the spooky things that have been happening. Even while keeping close eyes on Zeke the cast continues to receive mysterious threats. Even Brooke has a hard time believing it's not Zeke, that is, until the phantom shows up, whispers in her ear and causes her to faint. She blames Zeke, but he insists it wasn't him. Ms. Walker cancels rehearsal to take Brooke to the nurse, and Tina thinks this may be her opportunity to play Esmerelda (Understudy Buddy).

The next day the cast and crew are back at rehearsal. Brian shows Brooke the backdrop he's been working on, but painted over his work are the words "stay away from my home sweet home". A trail of paint leads them to Zeke's locker, and when Ms. Walker asks him to open it, she finds a can of paint inside. Ms. Walker says that Zeke is out of the play, and they may have to cancel it all together. On a mission to prove that he's innocent, Zeke decides to investigate. Brooke and Brian join him (Whodunit?). The investigators return to the sub-basement to find a table, chair, and freshly eaten Cheerios; proof that someone was there. The door bursts open, and Emile reveals that he lives in the sub-basement, and he's been the one warning the kids to stay away (My Home Sweet Home), and the trio flees.

The police search the sub-basement, but don't find anything. Although Ms. Walker considers cancelling the show, she decides to continue, and they make it to opening night (My Story). The audience loves the show, and the cast is surprised at how amazing it was. They all praise Zeke for the talent he displayed as the Phantom until they find out it wasn't him playing the Phantom at all! Zeke had been knocked out. The Phantom appears, and Brooke pulls off his mask to reveal Brian! The ensemble once again tells of the thrill of scary stories (Goosebumps Reprise/Curtain Call).

PRESHOW QUESTIONS

1. The Goosebumps series are scary books that are suspenseful and give you chills. What do you think makes scary books mysterious, creepy, and spooky? What are some of your favorite scary books to read?

2. Some people believe that if you break a mirror, you will have seven years of bad luck. Others may wear the same socks every time they play in a football game. In the story of Goosebumps the Phantom of the Auditorium we hear about many superstitions that exist in the theater. Do you have any superstitions that you believe in?

3. R.L. Stine, the author of the Goosebumps series, is good at suspenseful writing. Suspense is what draws the reader in and keeps them engaged in the story. What are some ways different authors have captured your attention with their suspenseful writing?

THE ORIGIN OF SUPERSTITIONS

AN ELA ACTIVITY

What do salt, umbrellas, black cats, and William Shakespeare's play Macbeth all have in common? They are common superstitions! Superstitions are beliefs that if you do (or do not) do something, you may receive good or bad luck. For thousands of years, people have been sharing superstitions to warn others of good and bad things that can happen if you do certain things.

Here are some examples from around the world:

"When you spill salt, throw some over your shoulder!"

"Don't say Macbeth in a theatre!"

"The number 13 is unlucky..."

"Knock on wood!"

"A black cat crossing your path is an omen..."

"Cross your fingers and hope for the best!"

YOUR TURN!

For superstitions like these to be created, something had to happen first. In this activity, you get to pick your favorite superstition and write the story for why we say them today! Maybe you will write a story about a scary-looking black cat that a town is afraid of, even though all she wants is a best friend. Or maybe you write a love story about someone who always gave four-leaf clovers to their sweetheart. Or you could write a funny story about a cooking disaster after someone spilled salt all over the dish they were preparing. Feel free to use any of the examples above, look up a fun superstition, or you can make up a brand-new superstition for your story!

THE ORIGIN OF SUPERSTITIONS

WRITING WORKSHEET

MY SUPERSTITION: _____

MY STORY:

DESIGNING "THE PHANTOM"

A STEM ACTIVITY

As a set designer, it is important to plan your set design with great detail. You must make sure that your artistic vision works with the budget and the stage space. In this activity, you'll use your math skills to plan the set for "The Phantom" play. You are the set designer and must make the decisions on where the set pieces will go. Use a pencil because as you draw the parts of the set, you may need to erase and rearrange items to ensure they fit your space. Look at the example on page 10 if you need help.

MATERIALS

- A Writing Utensil

DIRECTIONS

1. Draw the Stage
 - a. The length of the stage is 34 feet.
 - b. The width of the stage is 22 feet.
2. Place 1 prop table offstage left.
 - a. The dimensions of the table are 2 feet by 6 feet.
3. Place a star at Center Stage (halfway in between the length and the width).
4. The play you are designing for takes place inside a haunted house. You can place the pieces of the set anywhere onstage. Your options include:
 - a. A Flat (you may have as many as 3) - a flat piece of scenery that can be painted on to look like the place where you are.
 - b. Table- may not be bigger than 6 feet on any side.
 - c. Chair- must be smaller than the table.
 - d. Couch

In the dot chart on the next page, each centimeter line is equal to 2 feet!

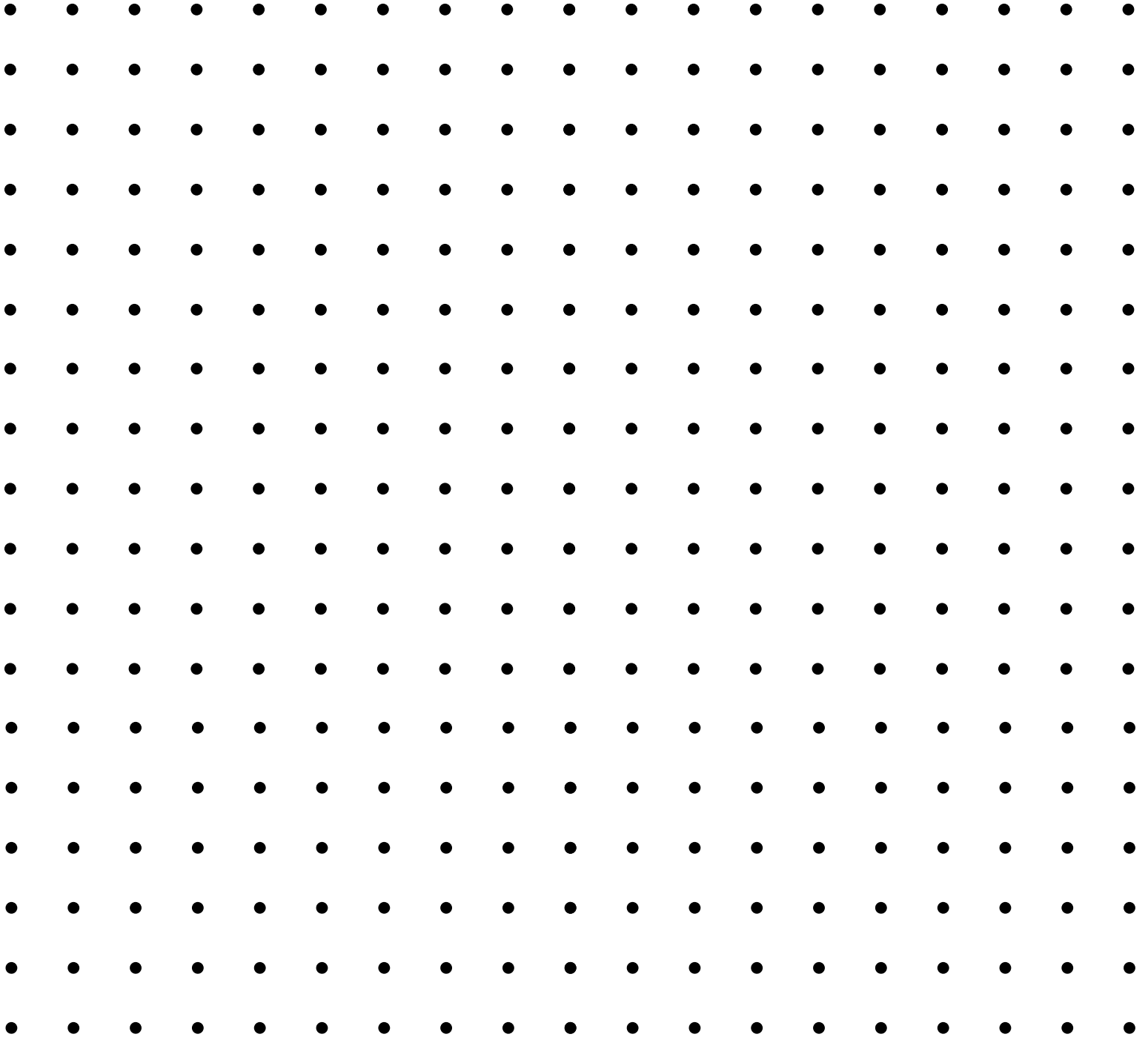
ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW:

1. What is the perimeter of the stage?
-

2. What is the total area of the stage? Area= Length times Width
-

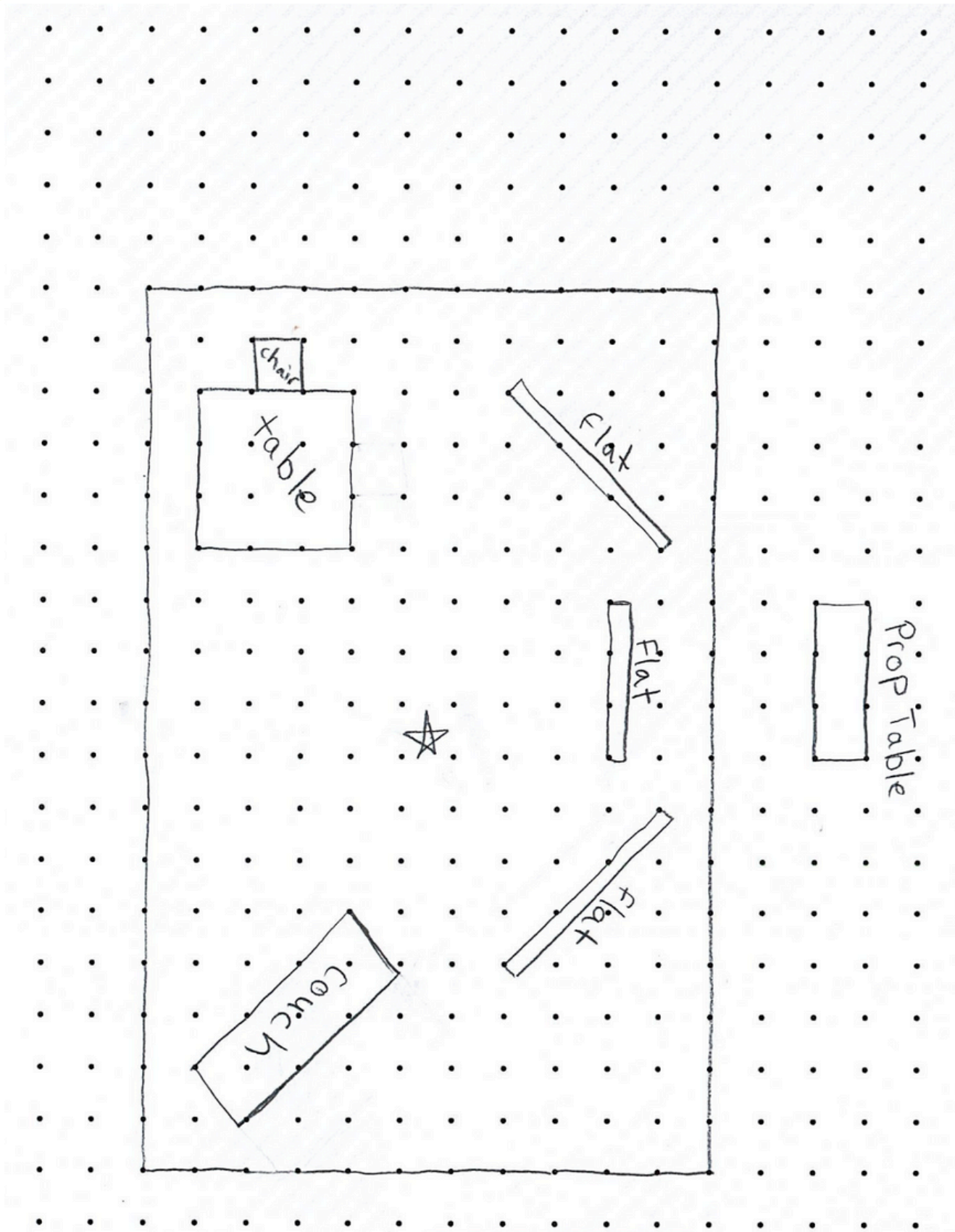
DESIGNING "THE PHANTOM"

A STEM ACTIVITY: WORKSHEET



DESIGNING "THE PHANTOM"

A STEM ACTIVITY: EXAMPLE



THE PHANTOM'S MASK

AN ART ACTIVITY

“And I saw him, a blue-and-green masked creature wearing a shiny black cape.”

-Goosebumps: The Phantom of the Auditorium, novel by R.L. Stine

Throughout the story of Goosebumps, the audience is kept wondering: who really is the Phantom? Is it prankster Zeke? Bossy Tina? The mysterious janitor Emile? You could even be the Phantom, if you wanted to! One thing is certain: the Phantom is a masked figure in a black cape. In this activity, you get to create your own Phantom mask!

MATERIALS

- A sheet of aluminum foil, roughly 2 feet in length
- Masking or painter's tape
- ¼ inch strips of newspaper or tissue paper. Scrap paper can work in a pinch, too!
- 1 Cup Flour
- 2 Cups Water
- 1-2 Tablespoons of salt
- Whisk or fork
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Paint
- Paintbrush
- 2 pieces of string or ribbon. Both pieces will need to be 1-2 feet in length

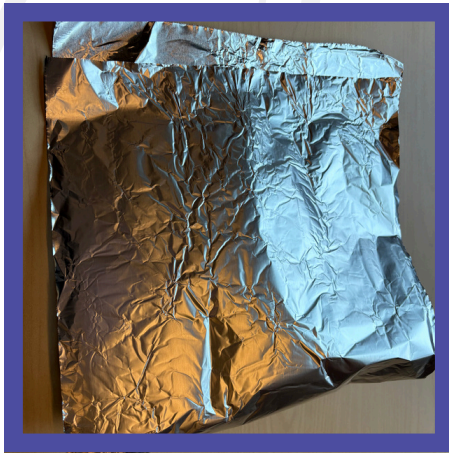


THE PHANTOM'S MASK

AN ART ACTIVITY: CONTINUED

DIRECTIONS:

1. Fold the two short edges of your aluminum foil together. Tape the two edges together with your masking tape. Then, repeat this fold-and-tape process once more with the two shortest edges of your aluminum foil.



2. Carefully, press your aluminum foil over your face and gently crease it so that it takes on the shape of your face. This will create the mold that you will build your mask on top of.



Things may get messy! We recommend putting down a plastic bag, scrap paper, or cardboard to make clean up easy!



THE PHANTOM'S MASK

AN ART ACTIVITY: CONTINUED

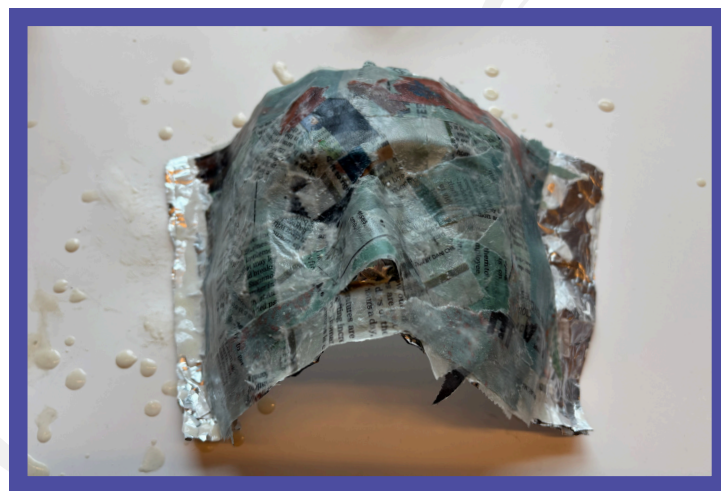
DIRECTIONS CONTINUED:

3. Make your papier mâché paste: combine your flour, salt, and water together and whisk together with a whisk or fork until there are no lumps. Add more water for a thinner paste or more flour for a thicker paste.



4. Dip one newspaper strip at a time into the paste. Carefully brush off excess paste to make sure the papier mâché dries faster. Then, place this strip onto your aluminum foil mold, careful not to press down on the aluminum foil.

5. Repeat this process until there are two layers of newspaper on top of your aluminum foil mold.



THE PHANTOM'S MASK

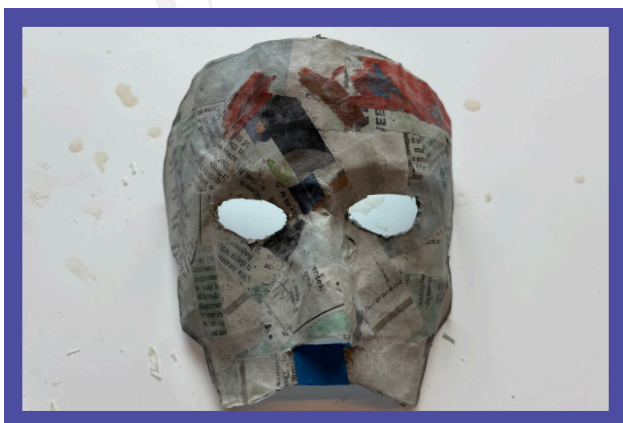
AN ART ACTIVITY: CONTINUED

DIRECTIONS CONTINUED:

6. Cover your paste with a lid or plastic wrap and store it in the fridge.

7. Let your mask dry for a few hours or overnight.

8. Once your mask is dry, pull your paste out of the fridge and let it warm up for an hour. Meanwhile, peel off the aluminum foil and set aside.



9. With your pencil, sketch out the shape you want your mask to have and where you want the eye holes to be. Carefully cut out the shape of your mask and where the eye holes are.

THE PHANTOM'S MASK

AN ART ACTIVITY: CONTINUED

DIRECTIONS CONTINUED:

10. Add 1-2 more layers of paper following the same process in step 4. We recommend using some paper pieces along the edges to make sure the edges are smooth and won't peel apart.

11. Let your mask dry on top of your aluminum foil mold, once more, overnight.

12. Once your mask is completely dry, carefully poke 2 holes near where your ears would be.

13. Now, it's time to paint! You can sketch out a design before you paint, or you can free hand paint whatever design you'd like.



You can also use this time to add details to your mask! When your paper is wet from the paste, you can crumple it up and mold it into whatever shapes you want—like bony eyebrows and cheeks, scars, fangs, bumps, or horns. You will need to add extra layers of paper on these and where they connect to the mask to make sure they are secure. These added details will also need extra time to dry.



THE PHANTOM'S MASK

AN ART ACTIVITY: CONTINUED

DIRECTIONS CONTINUED:

14. Weave your string or ribbon through the two holes you made earlier and tie a knot on each end of the string or ribbon to secure them to the mask.

15. Put on your mask, and tie the two pieces of string or ribbon together. Now you're ready to play the Phantom in *Goosebumps the Musical*!



AN INTERVIEW WITH ALEX GIBSON

FIRST STAGE ALUMNI



Alex Gibson is a First Stage Alumni and Broadway actor from Milwaukee, WI. Some of his Broadway credits include: *Pirates! The Penzance Musical*, *SpongeBob SquarePants the Broadway Musical*, and *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*.

Here's what Alex had to say about both his time at First Stage as well as what it's like being a Broadway actor in New York City!

Q: How did the tools you learned at First Stage carry into your adult career?

A: My time at First Stage really gave me the cornerstones of my training that I still use in my career. I learned how to stand shoulder width apart, unlock my knees, and take a deep breath. I learned how to listen and observe. I learned how to be bold and fearless and to delight in my own eccentricity. I learned to dive into text like a map to hidden treasure. I learned the rhythm of iambic pentameter against my own heart beat. I learned the importance of a grip top sock! I learned the mystical power of "yes, and...". And I learned the life-changing power of a stranger becoming a new friend during lunch time.

Q: What was your favorite class you took at First Stage?

A: So many of the classes I took at First Stage were incredible and formative. But I have to give a special shout out to our Improv classes (that were headed up by Patrick Schmitz at the time). The foundations of that improv training are what I carry most with me into rehearsal rooms and help imbue every process with the feeling that anything is possible. And - I got to return as a teaching assistant for Improv at First Stage after my freshman year of college and it was a tremendous joy to see the students come out of their shells and thrive!

Q: We are currently performing *Goosebumps: Phantom of the Auditorium*. You were a part of the original cast recording! What was the recording process like?

A: It was wild! I got an email from John Maclay (who did the book and co-lyrics for *Goosebumps*) inviting me to be part of it because they needed a bass to round out the vocals. It was such a fun full circle moment because John was not only academy director when I was a student...



*Alex & Friends at Summer Academy

AN INTERVIEW WITH ALEX GIBSON

FIRST STAGE ALUMNI



... but he starred in the first production I performed in at First Stage, Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel, when I was 9! So John got me in touch with the composer, Danny Abosch, who sent me the music with some audio tracks and I recorded them on my home voice over set up. This was still early on in the COVID pandemic so I was grateful to be able to do something creative and fun that paid while also being able to stay safe at home. And then listening to it when the album came out I was shocked by how great it sounded and what an amazing job they did with it! I'm very proud to be a small part of the Goosebumps legacy.

Q: Are you a New York based Actor? What is the auditioning process like in New York?

A: Yes, I currently live in NYC! Auditioning here can be exhausting at times - there are so many people who are so so talented and everyone wants to work! But it's also really incredible; I feel so

lucky to be surrounded by so many artists who are bold, creative, and visionary. What some people might view as competition actually becomes an unrivaled opportunity for collaboration. Some of the favorite projects I've done have been small scale projects put together by people who just want to make art with the people around them in whatever form that takes.

Q: What advice do you have for young people who are interested in pursuing a career in theater?

A: Study what has come before you! There's so much information at your fingertips, whether it's cast recordings, play texts, filmed performances or even live performances in your area. We live in an era where there is a lot of content focused on commentary about things, but do your best to first go experience the thing for yourself!

Also if you really love theater, don't let it cut you off from larger parts of the world, let it open you up to the world! Life is long and there is so much to learn and explore. Perhaps you might eventually be led to something more specialized or outside of theater as your profession (and that's great too!) but you cannot be an artist if you are not first in touch with your humanity as a citizen of the world!

WRITING ACTIVITY

SPOOKY MADLIBS

Directions:

Did you know that there are over 200 published Goosebump books? Now is your chance to create your very own spooky story! Fill in the blank spaces below with words that fit the requested parts of speech.

One dark and _____ night, _____ was getting
adjective *name*

ready for bed when they heard a _____ sound
adjective

coming from down the stairs. They _____-ed
verb

up the courage to creep down the stairs and

saw a _____ eating out of the fridge! They
spooky noun

_____ upstairs to grab their camera but when
verb

they came back, nothing was there. All that was

left behind was some _____ slime dripping
color

down the fridge. Must've been _____'s
name

imagination. Just then, a _____ claw touches
adjective

their shoulder! _____!!!!
exclamation

POSTSHOW QUESTIONS

1. At the beginning of the show, who did you think The Phantom was? Why? Who do you think is The Phantom now? Why?

2. If you were going to write a super scary play, what would it be about? Who would you cast in your play? What would the set look like?

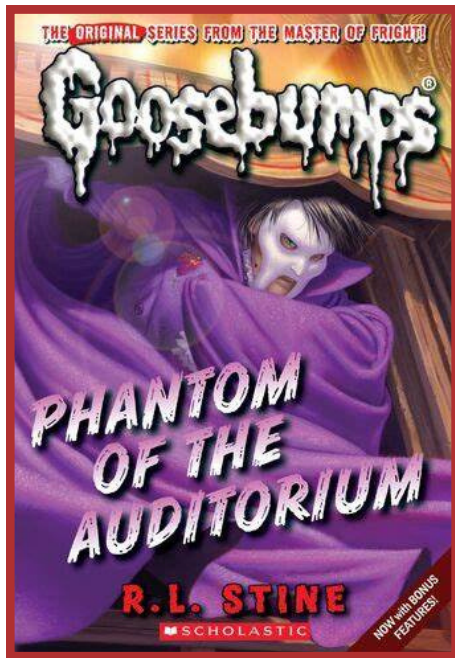
3. What song or scene in Goosebumps Phantom of the Auditorium was your favorite? If you were going to direct this musical, how would you stage that song or scene?

WHO SAID IT?

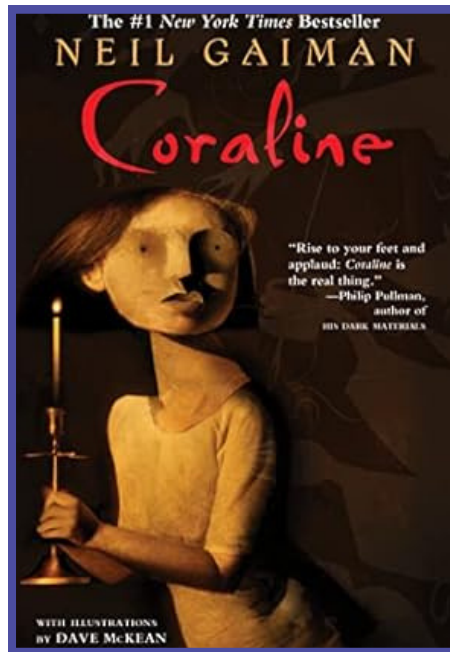
1. "We can scare the whole school! With a play!"
2. "Stay away from my home sweet home."
3. "You're lucky you're my best friend."
4. "And if Coach Grundman says it, it must be true because he's an international mixed martial arts champion."
5. "Just old tunnels under the school. Nothing for you to be concerned about. You should be more concerned with minding your own business."
6. "Yeah. I'm sorry I said that Indiana is gross. That was totally unfair. I've never even been to Indiana."
7. "Oh! A student who calls me ma'am. How lovely! You didn't mean that sarcastically, did you?"
8. "I know. Brooke's just not cutting it. Don't worry. I'm ready to take over."
9. "Are things always this weird at this school?"
10. "Someone's been eating cereal. Recently. Do ghosts eat Cheerios?"

RECOMMENDED READING

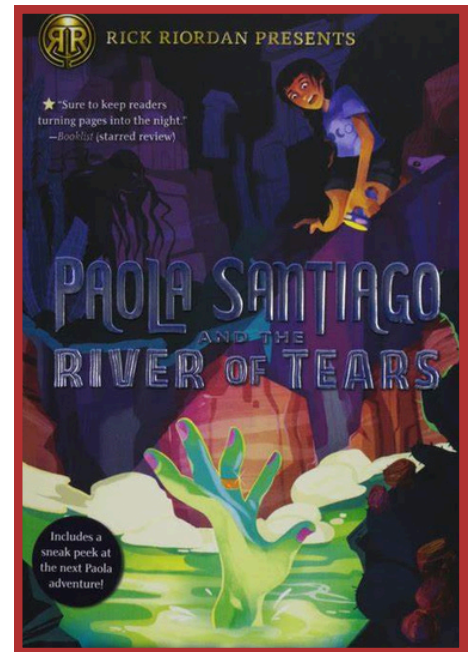
BOOKS FOR YOUNG ADULTS



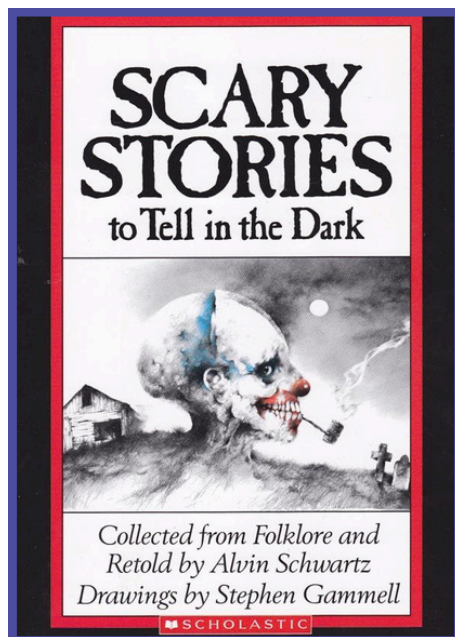
GOOSEBUMPS SERIES
by R.L. Stine



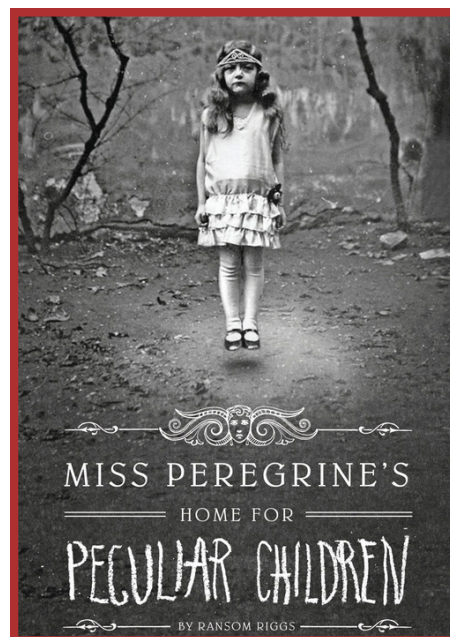
CORALINE
by Neil Gaiman



PAOLA SANTIAGO AND THE RIVER OF TEARS
by Tehlor Kay Mejia



SCARY STORIES TO TELL IN THE DARK
by Alvin Schwartz



MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN SERIES
by Ransom Riggs



SMALL SPACES
by Katherine Arden