



Reading Lists for Theatre and Television Resource Package

Grades K through 4

The items in this section can be used with the Theatre and Television Resource Packet for grades K through 4.

Books

Non-fiction and Biography

- 101 Drama Games and Activities: Theatre Games for Children and Adults, including Warm-ups, Improvisation, Mime and Movement, 2009 (2nd Edition) by David Farmer (Author). Sections include improvisation, mime, ice-breakers, group dynamics, rehearsal, story-telling, voice and warm-ups.
- 101 Improv Games for Children and Adults, 2004 by Bob Bedore (Author).
This book contains the basics: what improv is all about and how to do it, special instructions for how to teach improv to children, plus more advanced training on how to use your voice and body in ways you haven't thought of before. It has helpful hints for creating scenes and environments out of thin air.
- Acting Scenes & Monologues For Kids!: Original Scenes and Monologues Combined Into One Very Special Book!, 2010 by Bo Kane (Author).
Written to appeal to boys and girls who are just starting out, and to those with plenty of experience. Young actors will be in familiar territory with universal themes like friendship, trust, and telling the truth, and tests in school, the animal world, using your imagination, bullying, and sports.
- The Boy Who Invented TV: The Story of Philo Farnsworth, 2009 by Kathleen Krull (Author), Greg Couch (Illustrator).
Plowing a potato field in 1920, a 14-year-old farm boy from Idaho saw in the parallel rows of overturned earth a way to “make pictures fly through the air.” This boy was not a magician; he was a scientific genius and just eight years later he made his brainstorm in the potato field a reality by transmitting the world’s first television image.
- Hedy Lamarr's Double Life: Hollywood Legend and Brilliant Inventor, 2019 by Laurie Wallmark (Author), Katy Wu (Illustrator).
To her adoring public, Hedy Lamarr was a glamorous movie star, widely considered the most beautiful woman in the world. But in private, she was something more: a brilliant inventor. And for many years only her closest friends knew her secret.

- Monsieur Marceau: Actor Without Words, 2012 by Leda Schubert (Author), Gerard DuBois (Illustrator).
Marcel Marceau, the world's most famous mime, enthralled audiences around the world for more than fifty years. When he waved his hand or lifted his eyebrow he was able to speak volumes without ever saying a word. But few know the story of the man behind those gestures .
- Theater Actors Then and Now: My Community Then and Now (Primary Source Readers), 2006 by Kathleen C. Null Petersen (Author).
In this exciting book, young readers will learn about the history of theater and the various roles that are involved, including directors, actors, and the chorus. Through examples from the past, readers learn about theaters from ancient Greece and Asia, as well as different genres and types like comedies, tragedies, and Kabuki.
- You Can Be An Actor Too! (Acting for Beginners), 2018 by Nyna Lyle (Author), Emma Rayne Lyle (Author).
In this book, young readers will learn through poetry and rhyme how they can be an actor too, if they know just what to do.
- You Wouldn't Want to Be a Shakespearean Actor!: Some Roles You Might Not Want to Play, 2010 by Jacqueline Morley (Author), David Salariya (Creator), David Antram (Illustrator).
This lively, interactive series enthralls young readers by making them part of the story, inviting them to become the main character and revel in the gory, dark, horrific side of life during important eras in history.

Fiction

- Amazing Grace, 1997 by Mary Hoffman (Author), Caroline Binch (Illustrator).
Grace loves stories, whether they're from books, movies, or the kind her grandmother tells. So when she gets a chance to play a part in Peter Pan, she knows exactly who she wants to be.
- Backstage Cat, 2013 by Harriet Ziefert (Author).
A runaway kitty named Simon introduces kids to what it takes to put on a show and have a moment in the spotlight. It's a kid-pleasing peek at a fascinating world the draws both stardom-seekers and those who prefer to remain behind the scenes.
- The Fabulous Feud Of Gilbert And Sullivan, 2009 by Jonah Winter (Author), Richard Egielski (Illustrator).
Welcome to Topsy-Turvydom, a magical kingdom (well, more like an opera stage) full of pirates, policemen, fairies, and fake mustaches! Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Sullivan have ruled this kingdom together in peace, but one day, Mr. Sullivan decides he's had enough. Every opera they write is the same silly old story, and he's ready for something different.
- Full Moon and Star, 2011 by Lee Bennett Hopkins (Author), Marcellus Hall (Illustrator), Fiction. K-4
Best friends Kyle and Katie do everything together. When Kyle decides to write a play about a full moon, Katie decides she will write one about a star. But it is always more fun to do things

together, so when they decide to combine their two plays to create *Full Moon and Star*, the outcome is a beautiful collaboration and an over-the-moon testament to their friendship.

- Kamishibai Man, 2005 by Allen Say (Author).
The Kamishibai man used to ride his bicycle into town where he would tell stories to the children and sell them candy, but gradually, fewer and fewer children came running at the sound of his clappers. They were all watching their new televisions instead. Finally, only one boy remained, and he had no money for candy.
- Olivia Saves the Circus, 2001 by Ian Falconer (Author, Illustrator).
Olivia remembers her trip to the circus very well. The performers were out sick, so she had to do everything. She rode on a unicycle, jumped on a trampoline, juggled five balls, tamed lions, flew through the air
- Onstage & Backstage: At the Night Owl Theater, 1997 by Ann Hayes (Author), Karmen Thompson (Illustrator). Offers a behind-the-scenes look at the world of the theater as the cast of animal characters prepares for opening night of their production of Cinderella, in a book that comes complete with a glossary of theatrical terms.
- Rifka Takes a Bow, 2013 by Rebecca Rosenberg Perlov (Author), Cosei Kawa (Illustrator).
Rifka's parents are actors in the Yiddish Theater in New York, but one day Rifka finds herself center stage in a special role! A slice of immigrant life on New York's Second Avenue, this is a unique book about a vanished time and a place, the Yiddish theater in the early 20th century.
- A Stage Full of Shakespeare Stories, 2018 by Angela McAllister (Author), Alice Lindstrom (Illustrator).
Step on to a stage full of stories with this beautiful anthology of 12 stories from Shakespeare. Featuring much-loved classics such as *The Tempest*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet* and *Othello*, each story is rewritten in a comprehensive way that is accessible for children and stunningly illustrated.
- Stagestruck, 2007 by Tomie dePaola (Author/Illustrator).
Tommy is so excited. His first-grade class is putting on a play about Peter Rabbit, and he's sure to get the starring role. But in his enthusiasm, Tommy talks too much in class, so his teacher decides that he should play Mopsy instead, and Mopsy doesn't have any lines!

Magazines, Journals, Miscellaneous

- PLAYS, The Drama Magazine for Young People, for lower, middle, and upper grade students, published by the PLAYS Magazine company. <https://www.playsmagazine.com/default.asp>
- Puppet Pals HD: All the world's a stage with this easy, thematic story creation app. Download in your app store

Online Links

- The Early Television Museum
<http://www.earlytelevision.org/>

- Musicals 101.Com: The Cyber Encyclopedia of Musical Theatre, Film, and Television
<https://www.musicals101.com/links.htm>
- The Theater Collection at the Museum of the City of New York
<https://www.mcny.org/collections/theater-collection>
- The Theater Museum
<https://www.theatermuseum.at/en/>
- Vintage Radio Script Library
<http://www.genericradio.com/library.php>

Background information for the Educator

- 12 Fabulously Funny Fairy Tale Plays: Humorous Takes on Favorite Tales That Boost Reading Skills, Build Fluency & Keep Your Class Chuckling With Lots of Read-Aloud Fun!, 2002 by Justin Mccormy Martin (Author), Terry Sirrell (Illustrator).
Learners will have oodles of fun building essential reading skills with these versions of beloved fairy tales turned into read-aloud plays! Even your most reluctant readers won't be able to resist these hilarious twists on their favorite tales, like Spiderella, Goldilocks and the Three Bullfrogs, The Popsicle Boy, Little Late Riding Hood, The Cheetah and the Sloth, Rafunzel and many more!
- The Drama Teacher: Resources
<https://thedramateacher.com/>
- EDTA: The Educational Theater Association
<https://www.schooltheatre.org/home>
- Learning Through Drama in the Primary Years, 2011 by David Farmer (Author), David Hurtado (Illustrator).
Educators will be able to pick up this book, walk into a classroom or studio and deliver exciting learning methods through drama. The book outlines 36 drama strategies and over 250 cross-curricular activities for use with primary school children across the curriculum.
- TheaterFolk: The Drama Teacher Resource
<https://www.theatrefolk.com/blog/free-resources-for-theatre-teachers/>

Theatre and Television Reading Lists

Grades 5 through 8

The items in this section can be used with the Theatre and Television Resource Packet for grades 5 through 8.

Books

Non-fiction and Biography

- 12 Great Moments That Changed TV History, 2015 by Lori Fromowitz (Author).
Chronicles twelve key moments in the history of television, from the quiz show scandals of the 1950s to Ted Turner's invention of twenty-four hour news.
- 101 Drama Games and Activities: Theatre Games for Children and Adults, including Warm-ups, Improvisation, Mime and Movement, 2009 (2nd Edition) by David Farmer (Author). Sections include improvisation, mime, ice-breakers, group dynamics, rehearsal, story-telling, voice and warm-ups.
- 101 Improv Games for Children and Adults, 2004 by Bob Bedore (Author).
This book contains the basics: what improv is all about and how to do it, special instructions for how to teach improv to children, plus more advanced training on how to use your voice and body in ways you haven't thought of before. It has helpful hints for creating scenes and environments out of thin air.
- Acting Scenes & Monologues For Kids!: Original Scenes and Monologues Combined Into One Very Special Book!, 2010 by Bo Kane (Author).
Written to appeal to boys and girls who are just starting out, and to those with plenty of experience. Young actors will be in familiar territory with universal themes like friendship, trust, and telling the truth, and tests in school, the animal world, using your imagination, bullying, and sports.
- Break a Leg!: The Kids' Guide to Acting and Stagecraft, 2001 by Lise Friedman (Author), Mary Dowdle (Author), Julia Stiles (Foreword).
A complete drama course for kids in a book. This book teaches budding thespians everything they need to know about stagecraft and the production of performances, in home or out.
- On Stage: Theater Games and Activities for Kids, 2012 by Lisa Bany-Winters (Author).
Lights, camera, play! With this book, budding thespians will have fun under the footlights as they choose from more than 125 theater games that spark creativity, boost confidence, and encourage collaboration.
- Shakespeare: Explore the Life of History's Most Famous Playwright from His Elizabethan World: DK Eyewitness Books, 2015 by DK (Author).
Whether you have a special interest in theater, poetry, or the work of William Shakespeare, you're going to see a Shakespeare play, or you want to add depth and additional resources to Shakespeare's work that is being studied in the classroom, this book is a great choice to get to know the bard even better.

- A Shakespearean Theater, 2015 by Jacqueline Morley (Author), John James (Illustrator). Elizabethan London was a vibrant, growing city, and theater, especially that of William Shakespeare, played a major role in its lively culture. There was even a different play every day of the week! Here's your ticket to the Globe, the legendary 20-sided building where Shakespeare's plays were staged. Go backstage to discover how the theater was run, who chose the actors, how big an audience it could hold, and why it was built on the banks of the Thames.
- Show Time!: Music, Dance, and Drama Activities for Kids, 2000 by Lisa Bany-Winters (Author). In this book, kids will learn to become “triple threat” performers, developing their skills as singers, dancers, and actors through more than 80 activities that include imitating a musician or musical instrument, acting out a song, creating a mirror dance, making puppets and playbills, and more.
- Theater Actors Then and Now: My Community Then and Now (Primary Source Readers), 2006 by Kathleen C. Null Petersen (Author). In this exciting book, young readers will learn about the history of theater and the various roles that are involved, including directors, actors, and the chorus. Through examples from the past, readers learn about theaters from ancient Greece and Asia, as well as different genres and types like comedies, tragedies, and Kabuki.
- Who Invented the Television?: Sarnoff Vs. Farnsworth, 2018 by Karen Kenney (Author). David Sarnoff, the powerful radio executive, is often thought of as the Father of Television. But the story might not be so straightforward. What if a simple farm boy, Philo T. Farnsworth, deserves the credit? Follow along in the race as an underdog inventor takes on a high-profile executive in a battle that would last more than a decade and cost millions of dollars.

Fiction

- Drama, 2012 by Raina Telgemeier (Author). Charlie is famous! After the whole terror in the tunnel rescuing her best friend, she's getting a lot of attention from Hollywood, and she loves it. When she has the opportunity to shoot her own show, she's excited and apprehensive because the producers also are interested in her best friend.
- The Glorious Adventures of the Sunshine Queen, 2011 by Geraldine McCaughrean (Author). When a diphtheria outbreak forces twelve-year-old Cissy to leave her Oklahoma hometown in the 1890s, she and her two classmates embark on a wild adventure down the Missouri River with a team of traveling actors who are living on a dilapidated paddle steamer.
- King of Shadows, 2001 by Susan Cooper (Author). Only in the world of the theater can Nat Field find an escape from the tragedies that have shadowed his young life. So he is thrilled when he is chosen to join an American drama troupe traveling to London to perform *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in a new replica of the famous Globe theater.
- The Marvels, 2015 by Brian Selznick (Author, Illustrator).

The journey begins at sea in 1766, with a boy named Billy Marvel. After surviving a shipwreck, he finds work in a London theatre. There, his family flourishes for generations as brilliant actors until 1900, when young Leontes Marvel is banished from the stage. Nearly a century later, runaway Joseph Jervis seeks refuge with an uncle in London. Albert Nightingale's strange, beautiful house, with its mysterious portraits and ghostly presences, captivates Joseph and leads him on a search for clues about the house, his family, and the past.

- Secrets of Shakespeare's Grave: The Shakespeare Mysteries, Book 1, 2013 by Deron R. Hicks (Author), Mark Edward Geyer (Illustrator).
Twelve-year-old Colophon Letterford has a serious mystery on her hands. Will she discover the link between her family's literary legacy and Shakespeare's tomb before it's too late? Antique paintings, secret passages, locked mausoleums, a four-hundred-year-old treasure, and a cast of quirky (and some ignoble) characters all add up to a fun original adventure.
- Short, 2018 by Holly Goldberg Sloan (Author).
Julia is very short for her age, but by the end of the summer run of *The Wizard of Oz*, she'll realize how big she is inside, where it counts. She hasn't ever thought of herself as a performer, but when the wonderful director of *Oz* casts her as a Munchkin, she begins to see herself in a different way.
- Surviving the Applewhites, 2012 by Stephanie S. Tolan (Author).
Jake is notorious. Rumor has it he managed to get kicked out of every school in Rhode Island, and actually burned the last one down to the ground. Only one place will take him now, and that's a home school run by the Applewhite's, a chaotic and hilarious family of artists and performers.
- Theater Shoes (The Shoe Books), 1994 by Noel Streatfeild (Author).
When orphans Sorrel, Mark, and Holly are sent to live with their grandmother, a famous English actress, she enrolls them in the Children's Academy of Dancing and Stage Training, the same Academy that made the orphans from Ballet Shoes famous so long ago.

Magazines, Journals, Miscellaneous

- AndromediaVideo Editor : Users can add transitions to each clip, edit audio, and record a narration using the microphone on the device. After rendering their video, students can share it on multiple platforms. Download in your app store
- Green Screen by Do Ink: Versatile, easy-to-use moviemaker yields great results. Download in your app store.
- PLAYS, The Drama Magazine for Young People: published by the PLAYS Magazine company. <https://www.playsmagazine.com/default.asp>

Online Links

- The Early Television Museum
<http://www.earlytelevision.org/>

- Musicals 101.Com: The Cyber Encyclopedia of Musical Theatre, Film, and Television
<https://www.musicals101.com/links.htm>
- The Theater Collection at the Museum of the City of New York
<https://www.mcny.org/collections/theater-collection>
- The Theater Museum
<https://www.theatremuseum.at/en/>
- Vintage Radio Script Library
<http://www.genericradio.com/library.php>

Background information for the Educator

- The Drama Teacher: Resources
<https://thedramateacher.com/>
- EDTA: The Educational Theater Association
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- Learning Through Drama in the Primary Years, 2011 by David Farmer (Author), David Hurtado (Illustrator).
Educators will be able to pick up this book, walk into a classroom or studio and deliver exciting learning methods through drama. The book outlines 36 drama strategies and over 250 cross-curricular activities for use with primary school children across the curriculum.
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Theatre and Television Reading Lists

Grades 9 through 12

The items in this section can be used with the Theatre and Television Resource Packet for grades 9 through 12.

Books

Non-fiction and Biography

- 101 Drama Games and Activities: Theatre Games for Children and Adults, including Warm-ups, Improvisation, Mime and Movement, 2009 (2nd Edition) by David Farmer (Author). Sections include improvisation, mime, ice-breakers, group dynamics, rehearsal, story-telling, voice and warm-ups.
- 101 Improv Games for Children and Adults, 2004 by Bob Bedore (Author).
This book contains the basics: what improv is all about and how to do it, special instructions for how to teach improv to children, plus more advanced training on how to use your voice and body in ways you haven't thought of before. It has helpful hints for creating scenes and environments out of thin air.
- Acting Scenes & Monologues For Kids!: Original Scenes and Monologues Combined Into One Very Special Book!, 2010 by Bo Kane (Author).
Written to appeal to boys and girls who are just starting out, and to those with plenty of experience. Young actors will be in familiar territory with universal themes like friendship, trust, and telling the truth, and tests in school, the animal world, using your imagination, bullying, and sports.
- The Actor's Life: A Survival Guide Paperback, 2017 by Jenna Fischer (Author), Steve Carell (Foreword).
Jenna Fischer's Hollywood journey began at the age of 22 when she moved to Los Angeles from her hometown of St. Louis. With a theater degree in hand, she was determined, she was confident, she was ready to work hard. So, what could go wrong?
- Backstage at a Movie Set, 2003 by Katherine Wessler (Author).
Explores the history of motion picture production, key players in the process of making a film, a typical day of shooting, and how to pursue one's interest in the field, either as a career or as a hobby.
- How To Write Awesome Dialogue! For Fiction, Film and Theatre: Techniques from A Published Author And Theatre Guy 2016 By Tom Leveen (Author).
Outstanding dialogue is often the difference between a good book and a great book. This title guides you through everything you need to make your dialogue shine!
- Kennedy Through the Lens: How Photography and Television Revealed and Shaped an Extraordinary Leader, 2011 by Martin W. Sandler (Author).
Provides insight into how JFK used the new medium of television and the advances in color photography to achieve the presidency and his administration's plans for America.

- My Squirrel Days, 2018 by Ellie Kemper (Author).
Meet Ellie, the best-intentioned redhead next door. You'll laugh right alongside her as she shares tales of her childhood in St. Louis, whether directing and also starring in her family holiday pageant, washing her dad's car with a Brillo pad, failing to become friends with a plump squirrel in her backyard, eating her feelings while watching PG-13 movies, or becoming a "sports monster" who ends up warming the bench of her Division 1 field hockey team in college.
- A Practical Guide to Becoming a Playwright: Real World Knowledge, Experience and Insight, 2018 by Andrew Biss (Author).
You won't find a lot of pontificating over Aristotelian theory in this book. What you will find is straightforward, practical guidance to help aspiring and early-career playwrights hone their craft and steer their plays toward successful productions.
- Screenwriting Unchained: Reclaim Your Creative Freedom and Master Story Structure (With The Story-Type Method), 2016 by Emmanuel Oberg (Author).
This practical, no-nonsense guide leaves behind one-size-fits-all story theories and offers a modern approach to story structure, making it a precious resource for anyone involved creatively in the Film and TV industry (or aspiring to be): writers, directors, producers, development execs, showrunners and, more generally, storytellers keen to reach a wide audience at home and abroad.
- The Shakespeare Book (Big Ideas Simply Explained), 2015 by DK (Author).
This book brings the work of William Shakespeare to life with full-color photography, images, idea webs, timelines, and quotes that help you understand the context of Shakespeare's plays and poems.

Fiction

- Chomp, 2013 by Carl Hiaasen (Author).
Wahoo Crane and friend Tuna Gordon look for the missing reality television show star who was filming in the Florida Everglades.
- The Hunger Games, 2010 by Suzanne Collins (Author).
In the ruins of a place once known as North America lies the nation of Panem, a shining Capitol surrounded by twelve outlying districts. Long ago the districts waged war on the Capitol and were defeated. As part of the surrender terms, each district agreed to send one boy and one girl to appear in an annual televised event called, "The Hunger Games," a fight to the death on live TV.
- The Marvels, 2015 by Brian Selznick (Author, Illustrator).
The journey begins at sea in 1766, with a boy named Billy Marvel. After surviving a shipwreck, he finds work in a London theatre. There, his family flourishes for generations as brilliant actors until 1900, when young Leontes Marvel is banished from the stage. Nearly a century later, runaway Joseph Jervis seeks refuge with an uncle in London. Albert Nightingale's strange, beautiful house, with its mysterious portraits and ghostly presences, captivates Joseph and leads him on a search for clues about the house, his family, and the past.
- Murder Offstage: A Posie Parker Mystery, 2014 by L.B. Hathaway (Author).
When Posie Parker's childhood friend is robbed of a priceless jewel and becomes a suspect in a

cold-blooded murder case, budding detective Posie vows she will clear his name. Aided by her assistant Len, Posie soon realizes things are not quite as they seem, and the dark glamorous world of London's theatre and nightclubs prove far more dangerous than she ever could have imagined.

- Reality Boy, 2014 by A.S. King (Author). This novel explores the desperate reality of a former child television 'star' struggling to break free of the oppressive anger he's felt since he was five years old.

Magazines, Journals, Miscellaneous

- Dramatics, a magazine for High School students, published by the Educational Theater Association. <https://www.schooltheatre.org/publications/dramatics>
- PLAYS, The Drama Magazine for Young People, for lower, middle, and upper grade students, published by the PLAYS Magazine company. <https://www.playsmagazine.com/default.asp>
- Shakespeare in Bits: A Midsummer Night's Dream
Animations and text supports bring the Bard's fantasy world to life. Download in your app store.

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- Musicals 101.Com: The Cyber Encyclopedia of Musical Theatre, Film, and Television
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Background information for the Educator

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- Learning Through Drama in the Primary Years, 2011 by David Farmer (Author), David Hurtado (Illustrator).
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<https://www.theatrefolk.com/blog/free-resources-for-theatre-teacher>