

**PLAYS FOR
CHILDREN,
BOOKS &
RESOURCES**

from

ARTS

on the move

PLAYS FOR CHILDREN KS1 / KS2

A SUITABLY HAPPY ENDING



A modern fairy tale containing all the familiar ingredients - with a twist! Jack fails his SATs and his family disown him. Banished to the Large and Spooky Forest, our hero finds support from unlikely sources. Simple to stage, this is a comedy which will appeal to adults and children alike.

A Suitably Happy Ending - musical version!

Select the option of turning this play into a musical by purchasing the double CD ROM - comprising printable song lyrics and musical scores, plus song samples and full backing track - of original music created to accompany it.

Cast: 26+ **ISBN:** 978-1-906153-03-8
Runtime: 30-80 minutes
Suitable for: KS1 / KS2
Genre: comedy, fairy tale/fantasy

CRIME DOESN'T PAY



Based on a short story by Thomas Hardy, this is a gentle comedy with a strong moral. Whilst doing his father a favour, kindly Hubert finds himself accused of burglary, but manages to reveal the real culprits through some smart thinking - and a clever trick with a pepper pot! Set at Christmas, the script provides opportunities to include appropriate music.

Cast: 22 **ISBN:** 978-1-906153-07-6
Runtime: 30 minutes
Suitable for: KS1 / KS2
Genre: comedy, adaptation

FAIRY CRYSTAL AND THE REALLY BIG LIE



A modern fairy tale which uses gentle humour to explore whether telling lies can ever be a good thing. Every time Fairy Crystal tells a lie, another fairy dies - and she lies a lot! The colony are on the verge of expelling her when Crystal tells the biggest lie of all, putting the safety of the fairy community before her own.

Cast: 22-28 **ISBN:** 978-1-906153-08-3
Runtime: 30 minutes
Suitable for: KS1 / KS2
Genre: comedy, fairy tale/fantasy

PETER'S PROBLEM

A gentle comedy in the fairy tale genre which addresses some of the issues surrounding bullying and explores the meaning of friendship. Bullied at school, Peter escapes to the woods and is astonished to discover that the animals can talk! They all give him different advice, but will any of it make sense and resolve his problem? Provides opportunities to include a number of children in non-speaking roles.

Cast: 32-40 **ISBN:** 978-1-906153-10-6
Runtime: 40 minutes
Suitable for: KS1 / KS2
Genre: comedy, fairy tale/fantasy

SPELLBOUND

Spellbound is a fairy tale with attitude. When life becomes dull in Fairyland, the goblins Chaos and Mayhem decide to help. But things don't quite go to plan... Simple to stage and appealing to all ages, this play also provides young performers with a great introduction to theatre, and the opportunity to include dance routines.

Cast: 16 **ISBN:** 978-1-906153-39-7
Runtime: 30 minutes
Suitable for: KS1 / KS2
Genre: fairy tale/fantasy

THE CLOWN WHO COULDN'T SMILE

A gentle story with elements of comedy which explores the concept of happiness. Bonzo the clown has lost the ability to smile and is in danger of being kicked out of the circus and sent back to Clown School. All seems lost, then a possible solution presents itself - but will Bonzo recognise the key to happiness? Provides opportunities to include circus routines and musical extracts.

Cast: 30-40 **ISBN:** 978-1-906153-11-3
Runtime: 40 minutes
Suitable for: KS1 / KS2
Genre: comedy

THE HISTORY OF THE THEATRE - PART ONE!

A comedy which uses flashbacks to the origins of theatre, then explores its development up to Elizabethan times. Two narrators lead us through a fascinating journey of short scenes which reveal the theatrical movers and shakers - and show us what some playwrights really thought about each other!

Cast: 30-36 **ISBN:** 978-1-906153-12-0
Runtime: 30 minutes
Suitable for: KS1 / KS2
Genre: comedy, history



THE WAR OF THE VEGETABLES



A gentle comedy narrated in rhyming verse which raises such social issues as racism, war, bullying and living in harmony with others. An accident with the seeds leaves the Tomatoes and Peas growing in the same vegetable plot. War between the two seems inevitable, until they are threatened by the terrifying Runner Beans and have to unite against a common enemy! Provides opportunities to include dance routines or musical numbers.

Cast: 16-24

ISBN: 978-1-906153-02-1

Runtime: 30 minutes

Suitable for: KS1 / KS2

Genre: comedy

THE WITCH WHO NICKED HAPPINESS



A gentle comedy in the fairy tale genre which encourages children to explore the concept of happiness and what it means to be a good citizen. Witch Fisticuffs is banned from the King's party, and vows to take her revenge. Immediate misery prevails amongst the villagers, so the heroic Honest John Begood goes in search of answers. He finds them, but all is not quite as it seems...

Cast: 18-26

ISBN: 978-1-906153-16-8

Runtime: 40 minutes

Suitable for: KS1 / KS2

Genre: comedy, fairy tale/fantasy

PLAYS FOR CHILDREN KS2 / KS3

LOVE ME TENDER



A soap opera version of the first half of Romeo and Juliet - with cliff-hanger ending! Faithful to the original story and characters, it places Shakespeare's great tragedy in a modern context and ends with the pivotal event of Tybalt's death. An excellent resource for comparing and contrasting with the original text, or using as a springboard for writing the follow-on script. Performances provide opportunities to include stage fighting, montage and dance routines.

Cast: 28-36

ISBN: 978-1-906153-01-4

Runtime: 40 minutes

Suitable for: KS2 / KS3

Genre: adaptation, drama

WHISTLE AS YOU WALK AWAY



A powerful, informative and moving play which dramatises the lives and times of Victorian children working in the cotton mills. Viewed through the eyes of the young workers, we hear of their hardships and learn about the difficulties and dangers they faced each working day - and understand how their lives gradually improved. Performances provide opportunities to develop mime and movement skills, and to include a number of children in non-speaking roles.

Cast: 32-42

ISBN: 978-1-906153-04-5

Runtime: 50 minutes

Suitable for: KS2 / KS3

Genre: drama, history

THE TROUBLE WITH YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY...



A modern drama with comedic elements which encourages young performers to explore how a lack of self-confidence, and disregard for personal safety, can have serious consequences. Jimmy is easily influenced and will do anything to impress his mates. Approval from his friends takes precedence over everything, much to his mum's concern. Eventually Jimmy's lack of self-esteem forces him to 'prove himself' - with devastating results.

Cast: 28

ISBN: 978-1-906153-15-1

Runtime: 40 minutes

Suitable for: KS2 / KS3

Genre: drama

THE PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN



An engaging interpretation of Robert Browning's thought-provoking narrative poem. Lively scenes expand and support the original text, which is narrated by several voices. Comedy and pathos combine to bring the story to life, and encourage children to consider the themes of honesty and the consequences of breaking promises. Provides opportunities to include musical extracts and to cast a number of children in non-speaking roles.

Cast: 30-40

ISBN: 978-1-906153-13-7

Runtime: 40 minutes

Suitable for: KS2 / KS3

Genre: traditional tale/narrative verse

CORONATION FLEET



A madcap comedy set on a spaceship sometime in the future. A visit from the Outer Far Space Tracking and Eradication Division inspectors is imminent, but the ineffectual Captain has other things on his mind - namely beating his personal best on his Game Boy! Bullying, drugs and broken down workstations add to the chaos and lead to a soap opera-style cliff-hanger ending, as the inspectors suddenly bring their visit forward!

Cast: 26-32

ISBN: 978-1-906153-06-9

Runtime: 30 minutes

Suitable for: KS2 / KS3

Genre: comedy, fairy tale/fantasy

HAMLET, THE MURDER MYSTERY



A lively retelling of one of Shakespeare's finest tragedies. Horatio, being the only person left standing at the end of the play, is being interrogated by the police. Anxious to exonerate himself, he recounts the events which led to so many tragic deaths and, through flashback, we see the full story unfold. Although condensed, this script retains all the essential elements of the original text.

Cast: 24

ISBN: 978-1-906153-09-0

Runtime: 50 minutes

Suitable for: KS2 / KS3

Genre: adaptation, drama

HARRY RINGS, LORD OF THE POTTERS



A lively comedy pastiche in which well-known characters from the fantasy genre come together. Harry Rings, wizard potter at Hogwash School, and Mojo the hoblin - a cross between a hobbit and a goblin - unite against a common enemy ('he who cannot be named but is called Fred') to prevent him from gaining knowledge of the goblet of youth. Fast, funny and simple to stage, it will appeal to both young performers and their audiences.

Cast: 18-24

ISBN: 978-1-906153-00-7

Runtime: 25 minutes

Suitable for: KS2 / KS3

Genre: comedy, fairy tale/fantasy

THE BIG SHIP SAILS



An emotional play about the British child migration scheme during the 1940s and 1950s. Based upon actual recollections, the play focuses on the lives of children from different families and explores the reasons for, and effects of, this devastating exportation programme. Powerful as a performance, and an excellent resource for investigating events of recent British history from the perspective of those involved.

Cast: 30-40

ISBN: 978-1-906153-05-2

Runtime: 50 minutes

Suitable for: KS2 / KS3

Genre: drama, history

THE RISE AND FALL OF LORD MACBETH



A compact and moderately modernised version of Shakespeare's well-known tragedy which still retains the character names, symbolic imagery and powerful themes of the original text. The compelling story of the greed and downfall of Macbeth and his ambitious wife is told in full, but also allows room for individual interpretation. Simple to stage, clear and concise, it's an excellent resource for both literacy work and performance.

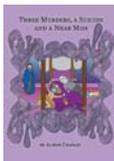
Cast: 20-26

ISBN: 978-1-906153-14-4

Runtime: 40 minutes

Suitable for: KS2 / KS3

Genre: adaptation, drama

THREE MURDERS, A SUICIDE AND A NEAR MISS

A comedy based on Shakespeare's tragic Othello. The powerful play is transformed into a farcical melodrama, with the stock characters of villain, hero, heroine and fool. Introduced by an Announcer, the script mixes modern characterisation with melodramatic farce, but still retains all the essential elements of the original story. Appealing to adults and children alike, and simple to stage, it offers a lively introduction to Shakespeare.

Cast: 22

ISBN: 978-1-906153-17-5

Runtime: 45 minutes

Suitable for: KS2 / KS3

Genre: comedy, adaptation, drama

DRAMA BOOKS

ALL GROUPS

DRAMA GAMES COMPENDIUM 1



Contains 50 simple, fun, drama games for any occasion, class or group, and covering a range of activity levels: Vigorous; Calmer; Verbal and Creative. Many include ideas for follow-on or variations, and each game also specifies the amount of space and any equipment required to play it. However, the majority of games in this Compendium require little or no equipment - so are excellent 'any time, any place, anywhere' games!

Author: Alison Chaplin

ISBN: 978-1-906153-18-2

ABOUT ARTS ON THE MOVE

Arts On The Move is an innovative and versatile company run by Alison Chaplin, a drama specialist and teacher with experience in primary, secondary and special needs education. As the founder and Artistic Director of two youth theatres, university specialist lecturer, provider of teacher training courses and workshops for schools and drama consultant for local education authorities, Alison has devised and delivered a vast range of workshops catering for a wide variety of ages, needs and abilities.

In addition to a strong theatre-based degree and qualification in teaching drama, music and English, Alison was awarded a scholarship to study Shakespeare at the Shakespeare Institute, Stratford-upon-Avon, in conjunction with the University of Birmingham. She has also recently completed an MA in Television and Radio Scriptwriting at Salford University.

In her extensive experience as a teacher and theatre director, Alison has written plays and sketches for children, has written and produced TIE projects, devised all manner of games and exercises and has directed numerous productions for both adults and young people.

The benefit of this varied range of knowledge and skills means that each playscript produced by Arts On The Move has the added value of having been tried and tested on the young people it was written for, and that every book written or selected by the company meets the direct needs of teachers and drama practitioners - whether new or experienced.



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PLAYS FOR CHILDREN

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