

PROVIDENCE
Ballet
THEATRE

Presents

**SNOW WHITE &
THE SEVEN DWARFS**

for the

2022/23 PPAC Arts Showcase

Study Guide

**Providence Ballet Theatre
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Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

Providence Ballet Theatre's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" is an original, contemporary ballet interpretation of Grimm's classic fairy tale. All of the choreography, music and costumes were developed for this performance. Attending this performance provides teachers and students with wonderful opportunities to explore and address many of the ELA common core standards. In order to maximize the educational value of this opportunity, you may consider the following ideas, activities, questions and prompts, which were designed to help you align your ballet experience to the common core reading standards for Literature 3-8:

- Read Grimm's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."
- Watch or read Disney's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."
- Choose from the selection of questions and prompts, which can be easily modified to accommodate student age, levels, abilities and needs.

We hope you enjoy the performance.

Pre viewing questions

- How do you think people perceive you?
- What adjectives do you think people might use to describe your personality?
- Most of us are familiar with Disney's seven dwarfs. If an eighth dwarf were added to the story, and its character based on your personality, what would it be named?
- The ballet we are going to see involves no spoken words. If I were to take away your ability to speak, how would that change people's perception of you?
- What are some elements that seem to be common to most fairy tales?
- How does the Disney version of Snow White stay true to the Grimm's version? How does it differ?
- Which version do you think might be more appropriate to be developed into a ballet? Why?
- What is the central theme of "Snow White" and how does it develop, or change, over the course of the story?
- Provide a reasonable explanation of why seven dwarfs may be living communally in a cabin in the woods?
- Imagine you are the costume designer for "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs". Design a costume that one of the dwarfs might be expected to wear. Explain why you incorporated various elements into your design.

Observing the Ballet Performance

Dance

- How do the dancers use different parts of their bodies?
- Notice how and when the dancers change their movements from heavy to light.
- Does the mood of the dancers change between scenes?
- Do you notice any repeating patterns or steps?
- How do the dancers articulate their character? Do you have a favorite?

Music

- How does the music compliment the various characters, or various parts of the story?
- Can the music be used to predict what is about to happen?
- Note changes in the tempo, key, mood and rhythm of the music.
- What instruments do you hear?

Visual

- Notice the details of the set. Does it fill the stage?
- How would you describe the costumes? Are they colorful, drab? Are they what you would expect the characters to wear?
- How does the lighting change throughout the performance? What does it add to the performance?
- Do the performers look like they are working hard or having fun, or both?
- Does the set, costumes, dance steps suggest when and where the story might take place?

After viewing questions.

- Create a Venn diagram, comparing and contrasting 3 different versions of Snow White i.e. Grimm's fairy tale, Disney animation and Live Ballet Performance. Focus on techniques, music, movement, colors, costumes, and characterizations utilized by each medium.
- How did ballet, a medium without speech, manage to capture and convey the personalities and emotions of the various characters in the story?
- Describe a scene in the ballet where you knew exactly what a character was thinking or feeling. How did that character convey his or her emotions on the stage?
- Describe a part of the story you thought was suspenseful, humorous, sad or silly. How did each medium (dance, music, video and lights) use different strategies to convey the element of suspense, humor, sorrow or silliness?
- How did the ballet "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" differ from the Disney or the Grimm's version? How did it stay true? Evaluate these plot choices made by the ballet director.
- Which character in the ballet do you relate to most? Why?
- Select one character from the ballet performance of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs". In what ways were their personalities shaped by events that took place? Was there a pivotal event or moment that shaped their character, or did it happen gradually?