



The Sorcerer's Apprentice Study Guide

Dear Educators,

The following pages contain information and ideas for the classroom that you can use following *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* performance. The story of *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* is an ancient one which has been retold in many different ways over the centuries. Although it's not the first version of the story, the 1797 poem by German poet Goethe is among the most famous versions of the tale and the one that inspired us. You'll find the a translation of the poem in this guide. If you have time to study the poem with your students before the show, we think they'll have fun discovering our take on many of the lines. After that, there are many possible directions to go after watching this performance with your students. We've included a few things that we've thought of, but if you have your own ideas, please share with us. We love hearing what you and your students come up with.

Enjoy the show!
Kristi and Greg
The Sorcerer's Apprentice

Performer Bios for Greg Tarlin and Kristi Heath

From the creators of *Fizzical Fizzicks* and *Spaced Out!* comes their brand new production, *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*. After ten years of performing science based shows in schools, Kristi and Greg are excited to change their focus to presenting a show based on a classic story that features plenty of wonder and surprises.

Greg Tarlin's very first job in high school was as a birthday party magician. He later shifted his focus to juggling and at the ripe of old age of 20 became the Canadian juggling champion. Greg has gone on to perform all over the world with his shows including stints in Japan, Korea, the North Pole for Canada's military and across North America. One of his latest shows, Professor Pepper's Wizard Class was performed hundreds of times in Toronto's famous castle, Casa Loma. These days his skill with electronics and all things technical has led to him building and creating magic effects for some of Canada's top magicians.

Kristi Heath has been a professional performer since the age of eighteen, beginning her career with the Second City comedy revue company. Once she figured out how to combine her background in comedy and theatre with goofy circus tricks, she became a very happy person. She has been performing her own unique style of physical comedy around the world ever since, including engagements with Cirque du Soleil and performances in Japan, Korea, Europe, New Zealand, Singapore and coast to coast in Canada and the US.

Both Greg and Kristi have worked as instructors for Sorcerer's Safari, Canada's premiere magic camp.

Technical Requirements

One hour set up time, 30 minute tear down time

A clear floor space at least 20' X 20' and access to an electrical outlet.

Show length is approximately 50 minutes followed by a short question and answer session.

Show description

This is a performance filled with visual illusions, puppetry, circus arts, laughter and thought provoking moments. *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* balances comedy with a journey of discovery into what it takes to become good at something.

Notes for the audience:

We welcome honest audience reactions from the students - whether that be oohs and ahhs or clapping. We do ask that the students remain seated for the entire performance.

The Poem

(this is where the show started for us!)

The Sorcerer's Apprentice by Goethe written in 1797.

Good! The sorcerer, my old master left me here alone today! Now his spirits, for a change, my own wishes shall obey! having memorized What to say and do, with my powers of will I can do some witching, too!

Go, I say, Go on your way, do not tarry, water carry, let it flow abundantly, and prepare a bath for me!

Come on now, old broom, get dressed, these old rags will do just fine! You're a slave in any case, and today you will be mine! May you have two legs, and a head on top, tie the bucket, quick hurry, do not stop!

Go, I say, Go on your way, do not tarry, water carry, let it flow abundantly, and prepare a bath for me!

Look, how to the bank he's running! and now he has reached the river, he returns, as quick as lightning, once more water to deliver. Look! The tub already is almost filled up! And now he is filling

every bowl and cup!

Stop! Stand still! Heed my will! I've enough of the stuff! I've forgotten - woe is me! what the magic word may be.

Oh, the word to change him back into what he was before! Oh, he runs, and keeps on going! Wish you'd be a broom once more! He keeps bringing water quickly as can be and a hundred rivers he pours down on me!

No, no longer can I let him, I must get him with some trick! I'm beginning to feel sick What a look! - and what a face!

O, you ugly child of Hades! The entire house will drown! Everywhere I look, I see Water, water, running down. Be you damned, old broom, why won't you obey? Be a stick once more, please, I beg you, stay!

Is the end not in sight? I will grab you, hold you tight, with my axe I'll split the brittle old wood smartly down the middle.

Here he comes again with water! Now I'll throw myself upon you, and the sharpness of my axe I will test, o spirit, on you

Well, a perfect hit! see how he is split! Now there's a hope for me, and I can breathe free!

Woe is me! Both pieces come to life anew, now, to do my bidding I have servants two! Help me, o great powers! Please, I'm begging you!

And they're running! Wet and wetter get the stairs, the rooms, the hall! What a deluge! What a flood!

Lord and master, hear my call! Ah, here comes the master! I have need of Thee! from the spirits that I called Sir, deliver me!

"Back now, broom, into the closet! Be thou as thou wert before! Until I, the real master call them forth to serve once more!"

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Definitions:

Sorcerer: sor·cer·er [sawr-ser-er] noun a person who practices sorcery; black magician; wizard.

Apprentice: ap·pren·tice [uh-pren-tis], noun

1. a person who works for another in order to learn a trade: an apprentice to a plumber.
2. History/Historical . a person legally bound through indenture to a master craftsman in order to learn a trade.
3. a learner; novice; tyro.

History of The Sorcerer's Apprentice

Our version of *The Sorcerers Apprentice* is inspired by many of the previous versions of this classic tale, but it is not a dramatization of any other version. It is instead our own take on a working relationship between a hapless apprentice and a magician.

The Sorcerer's Apprentice is an ancient tale of penalties and consequences. The story can be traced through hundreds of years and has spawned works of music, poetry, theatrical presentations, films, and books.

The earliest known version of this story is an ancient Greek tale by Lucian of Samosata. In his tale, some wise men discuss stories of the supernatural and whether to believe in them. At one point, one of them tells the story of traveling with a wizard. In the story he tells of using the wizard's pestle and magic words to enchant a water carrier. The water carrier begins fetching water, and the poor story teller is powerless to stop it. When the wizard returns, he stops the mayhem and goes away.

Later, the story of The Sorcerer's Apprentice was rewritten as a poem in 1797 by Goethe (the poem is included earlier in this study guide). As the years rolled by, versions the story also became a symphony, a tale by The Brothers Grimm, a film by Walt Disney and a motion picture starring Nicolas Cage, amongst many more.

Ideas for the Classroom

Creative writing:

Write a "help wanted" ad for the apprentice job. What qualities do you think the sorcerer is looking for? What previous experience would the apprentice need?

Create an ad for a magic product for the Sorcerer's show.

Write a story about a product with magical properties that would make your life easier.

What would happen if that product got out of control?

Which character would you rather be, the Sorcerer or the Apprentice? Why?

Read the poem by Goethe. Have the students find the similarities and differences between the poem and the performance they saw today.

Art Class:

Create a poster for one of the Sorcerer's upcoming shows

Using recycled materials and household items, see if you can create something that looks like a person.

Music:

The Sorcerer's Apprentice is also a symphony written by Paul Dukas in 1897. Dukas called this piece a "scherzo for orchestra." A scherzo is the musical word for a joke, so listen for the ways the music is funny: For instance, the quick tempo, and the sudden changes of rhythm. There are versions available on youtube.

Have your students listen to the music and see which instruments they can identify. Trumpets stand for the sorcerer's spell. You hear the trumpets muted at the beginning of the piece, as the sorcerer goes away. You also hear them when the apprentice casts the spell, and when he later tries and tries to remember the "stop" command.

Bassoons represent the broomsticks. Flutes and oboes? You can hear the apprentice himself: his fatigue at the beginning, his excitement as the broom begins to work, and once the sorcerer has gotten him out of trouble, his embarrassment.

Questions or comments? Please get in touch with us at info@thesorcerersapprentice.ca or by mail at Kristi Heath and Greg Tarlin, 25 Salem Avenue, Toronto, ON M6H 3C2