

EDUCATION WORKSHOP

Magic Treehouse: Showtime with Shakespeare



MEET THE ARTISTS



AUTHOR: MARY POPE OSBORNE

Mary Pope Osborne grew up in the military, and by the time she was fifteen had lived in Oklahoma, Austria, Florida and four different army posts in Virginia and North Carolina.

After graduating from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the early 1970's, Mary traveled all over Europe, and spent the first six weeks of her trip living in a cave on the island of Crete. She then joined up with a group of European young people and traveled in rickety vans through sixteen Asian countries, including Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Nepal.

She was an acting teacher, a waitress, a travel agent, a window dresser, and a medical assistant—all before becoming an author! Now she is the author of many highly acclaimed picture books, early chapter books, middle-grade biographies, and young adult novels.

In February 1993, Mary was elected the 27th president of the Author's Guild, the oldest, most established organization for writers in the United States. Mary and her husband Will split their time between an apartment in Greenwich Village, New York and a cabin in Pennsylvania. They own a terrier named Bailey, who sleeps on the top of Mary's desk every day while she writes!



ILLUSTRATOR: SAL MURDOCCA

Murdocca grew up in Brooklyn, New York, and attended the High School of Art and Design in New York City, majoring in illustration. After graduating in 1960, he spent another year studying at the Art Students League while apprenticing in a commercial art studio. After a successful nine-year career as an advertising and magazine illustrator, Mr. Murdocca gradually turned to children's book illustration. Since 1970, Mr. Murdocca has authored ten books and illustrated hundreds of education, mass market, and trade books. He has illustrated books by such noted authors as Elizabeth Winthrop ("Dancing Granny", Marshal Cavendish, 2003), Eve Bunting, Bill Martin Jr., Olivia Newton-John, Charles Grodin, Alan Benjamin, Laura Numeroff, Edward Packard, Jeanne Bendick, and Mary Pope Osborne. He has also illustrated several series, including George E. Stanley's Third Grade Detectives, Scaredy Cats, and Mary Pope

Osborne's Magic Tree House series. In the early 1980s, Mr. Murdocca taught writing and illustration for two years at the Parsons School of Design. He has written the libretto for an opera inspired by his own book, "The Hero of Hamblett", published in 1972. Mr. Murdocca is also an award-winning fine artist who has participated in many one-man and group shows of his watercolor and acrylic paintings. His fine art has been represented by galleries in Nyack, NY, SOHO, NYC, and in France.

CHECK OUT THESE VIDEOS

[Mary Pope Osborne on the Magic Tree House](#)

[Mary Pope Osborne on Writing](#)

ABOUT THE SHOW

SHOWTIME WITH SHAKESPEARE

Stage Fright on a Summer Night is a cheery romp back to the Elizabethan era conjured by author Mary Pope Osborne as part of her Magic Tree House book series for young readers. The two main protagonists, Jack and Annie, travel back in time to Britannia and meet the famous playwright William Shakespeare, who is considered to be the greatest writer of the English language. *Showtime with Shakespeare* is a stage adaptation of that book. Infused with clever hip-hop rhyme schemes, energetic dance numbers, and fun musical arrangements, this live version accentuates the importance of Shakespeare to kids and adults alike in an entertaining way and drops many winking references to the Bard's 37 or so plays. In this rap musical, siblings Jack and Annie see what appears to be a shooting star and spot their treehouse! Inside is enchantress Morgan le Fay, who has a new mission waiting for them; they must solve her riddle: "To find a special magic, you must step into the light and without wand, spell, or charm turn daytime into night." They locate a book about Merry Olde England and are whisked away to 1601.

Produced by NJPAC in association with George Street Playhouse. Book and Lyrics by Jenny Laird and Will Osborne. Music and Additional Lyrics by Randy Courts. Based on "Magic Tree House: Stage Fright on a Summer Night" by Mary Pope Osborne.

NJPAC & GEORGESTREET PLAYHOUSE

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), by celebrating diversity, shall be America's foremost urban presenter of arts and entertainment, a creative and effective leader in arts education for children, a convener of useful and enlightening civic engagement events, and a catalyst for economic development in its home city of Newark. Other NJPAC On the Road productions include *The Hip Hop Nutcracker* and *Carefree: Dancin' with Fred & Ginger*.

The mission of George Street Playhouse is to enrich people's lives by producing world-class theater. The Playhouse has been well represented by numerous productions both on and off-Broadway – recent productions include *It Shoulda Been You*, which ran on Broadway in Spring 2013, the Outer Critics' Circle Best Musical Award-winner *The Toxic Avenger*, the Outer Critics Circle, Drama Desk and Drama League nominated production of *The Spitfire Grill* and the Broadway hit and Tony® and Pulitzer Prize winning play *Proof* by David Auburn, which was developed at GSP during the 1999 Next Stage Series of new plays.



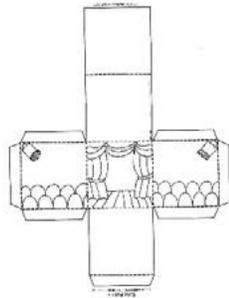
EXPLORE // Classroom Workshops



Magic Treehouse Shakespearian Masks

In this lesson, students will learn about the history of Elizabethan theater and the use of masks during that time. Students will create a paper collage to create symmetrical Elizabethan masks.

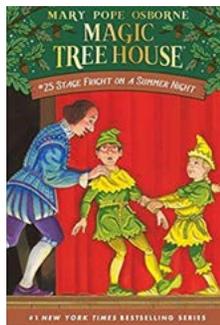
[VIEW LESSON PLAN](#) ▶



Shakespeare Boxes

In this lesson, students will be introduced to Shakespeare's use of "play within a play" writing structure.

[VIEW LESSON PLAN](#) ▶



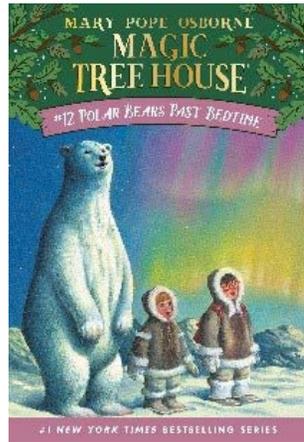
Magic Treehouse Scripts

In this lesson, students in groups, will brainstorm and create their own Magic Treehouse script. As a group, students will develop characters, setting and plot for a prospective book and performance.

[VIEW LESSON PLAN](#) ▶

CONNECT & ENHANCE

Connect Magic Treehouse Literature and Science



Fiction vs. Nonfiction

In this unit of study, students will read the Magic Treehouse story *Polar Bears Before Bedtime* and will compare it with the nonfiction text *Polar Bears and the Arctic*. In groups, students will create book review brochures and an 'All About Arctic Animal' fiction book. View the activity [here](#).

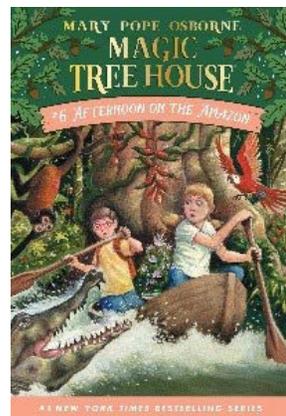
[Polar Bear Facts](#)

[Science and Homemade Ice Cream](#)

[Into the Arctic](#)

[Ice House STEM Challenge](#)

Enhance your classroom with a Magic Treehouse Bookclub



Around the World Book Club

In this unit of study, students will participate in a Magic Treehouse bookclub. In this bookclub, students will be introduced to a specific country and the animals that inhabit that country. Connecting ELA and Social Studies will further research this country and create a travel brochure and will present their country. Extensions for this unit could include: making a dish from that country, presenting traditions, and holidays. View the activity [here](#).

National Geographic for Kids

[AFRICA](#)

[AUSTRALIA](#)

[ASIA](#)

[SOUTH AMERICA](#)