The Gruffalo

Grades CD-3rd
ABOUT THE THEATER

In 1983, Michael and Theresa Holden founded Holden & Arts Associates, a booking agency that is committed to bringing stories that inspire, educate, and entertain audiences of any age. Holden & Arts Associates works with artists from theater, dance, puppetry, and music. They often pair much-loved books with engaging performances as well as produce original ideas. These touring productions are centered on young audiences reaching preschool to high school students. ¹

ABOUT THE SHOW

Based on Julia Donaldson’s classic story, this musical adaptation follows Mouse through an exciting adventure. When Mouse encounters three predators, a fox, owl, and snake, he has to hope that his story of the frightening Gruffalo will save him from being their dinner. Full of songs and laughs, Tall Stories’ production of The Gruffalo promises a fun experience for the whole family. ²

A musical adaptation of the book by Julia Donaldson
Produced by Tall Stories
From London, England

Learn More About Tall Stories

EXPLORE // Classroom Workshops

**Gruffalo Character Headbands** Grades PreK-K
In this workshop, students will identify the main characters in *The Gruffalo*. Students will use a combination of shapes to create a Gruffalo headband and will draw the other characters to decorate their band.
[Click Here for Workshop]

**Puppet Retell** Grades K-2nd
In this workshop, students will create popsicle stick puppets to retell *The Gruffalo*. Students will also identify the following story elements: character, setting, plot, and problem.
[Click Here for Workshop]

**Watercolor Gruffalo Visualizations** Grades 1st-3rd
In this workshop, students will be introduced to the reading strategy of visualization. Students will listen to *The Gruffalo* and will draw the Gruffalo's physical attributes.
[Click Here for Workshop]

[Click Here for Assessment]
JULIA DONALDSON
Julia Donaldson has written some of the world's best-loved children's books, including modern classics *The Gruffalo* and *The Gruffalo's Child*, which together have sold over 17 million copies worldwide. She also is the author of the successful *What the Ladybird Heard* adventures and the *Princess Mirror-Belle* books. Her work includes fiction, poems, plays, and songs. Many of her stories have become popular live performances. She was the UK Children's Laureate from 2011 to 2013, and she received honors as a CBE for Services to Literature. Donaldson and her husband, Malcolm, divide their time between West Sussex and Edinburgh. 3

LEARN MORE

The World of Julia Donaldson in Lockdown

Interview with Julia Donaldson

ACTIVITIES

**Storytelling Wheel**

**Broom and Cauldron Drawing Activity**

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Room on the Broom
The witch and her cat are happily flying through the sky on a broomstick when the wind picks up and blows away the witch’s hat, then her bow, and then her wand! Luckily, three helpful animals find the missing items, and all they want in return is a ride on the broom. But is there room on the broom for so many friends? And when disaster strikes, will they be able to save the witch from a hungry dragon?  

The Snail and the Whale
When a tiny snail meets a humpback whale, the two travel together to far-off lands. It’s a dream come true for the snail, who has never left home before. But when the whale swims too close to shore, will the snail be able to save her new friend? From the creators of Room on the Broom and The Gruffalo comes this touching tale of adventure and friendship. With vibrant illustrations and rhymes that are both playful and lyrical, here is a story that shows us that even the smallest creatures can help others in a big way.  

Zog and the Flying Doctors
Zog the dragon, Princess Pearl, and Sir Gadabout have taken to the skies! No sniffly lion or sunburned mermaid will go without care while the flying doctors are on duty. But Princess Pearl’s unconventional career path doesn’t sit so well with her uncle, the king. He thinks princesses should stay in their towers and embroider cushions all day! When the king’s mysterious illness befuddles all the royal doctors; however, it’s Princess Pearl to the rescue! She not only heals the king -- she also changes his mind about what it means to be a princess. The heroes of A Gold Star for Zog fly again in this story of the value of letting your talent shine, all told in Julia Donaldson’s enchanting rhymes with Axel Scheffler’s witty illustrations.  

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5 Julia Donaldson, Snail and the Whale, illustrated by Axel Scheffler (New York: Puffin Group, 2006).
CONNECT // Julia Donaldson Author Study cont.

“The Gruffalo Song” and Sign Language

“The Gruffalo’s Child” Song

How to Draw the Gruffalo
EXPLORE // Fables Around the World

READ

**Tikki Tikki Tembo**  
**Arlene Mosel**  
*Tikki tikki tembo-no sa rembo-chari bari ruchi-pip peri pembo!*

Three decades and more than one million copies later children still love hearing about the boy with the long name who fell down the well. Arlene Mosel and Blair Lent’s classic re-creation of an ancient Chinese folktale has hooked legions of children, teachers, and parents, who return, generation after generation, to learn about the danger of having such an honorable name as Tikki tikki tembo-no sa rembo-chari bari ruchi-pip peri pembo. 

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**Anansi the Spider**  
**Gerald McDermott**

Anansi the Spider is one of the great folk heroes of the world. He is a rogue, a mischief maker, and a wise, lovable creature who triumphs over larger foes. In this traditional Ashanti tale, Anansi sets out on a long, difficult journey. Threatened by Fish and Falcon, he is saved from terrible fates by his sons. But which of his sons should Anansi reward? Calling upon Nyame, the God of All Things, Anansi solves his predicament in a touching and highly resourceful fashion.

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**The Dancing Turtle**  
**Pleasant DeSpain**

Turtle loves to dance and play the flute. But her exuberance puts her at risk when her music attracts the attention of a hunter who brings her home for turtle stew. After she is caught, her only hope for escape is the hunter’s children ... and her own wit. This folktale, first told by the indigenous people of Brazil, is now told throughout Latin America. The versions are as different as the cultures that contain them, but all of them celebrate Turtle, who carries the world and its wisdom on her back. Like the people of Latin America, Turtle always seems to survive through courage and wit. In watercolors radiant with foliage and wildlife, David Boston guides the reader through the dense and fertile Amazon rainforest.

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EXPLORE  //  Fables Around the World

Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People’s Ears  
The Ten Suns

How Tiger Got His Stripes

ACTIVITIES

Fable Writing

Anansi the Spider Theater Script


Room on the Broom. Illustrated by Axel Scheffler. New York: Puffin Group, 2003


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