



# Resource Guide | for Educators and Audiences

We include information about our production along with creative activities to make connections both before and after the show. For educators, all activities are aligned to the Common Core Standards and North Carolina Essential Standards. Look for the symbol below throughout the guide.



NCES-TheaArts.(K-5).TA.A.1: Analyze literary texts and performances. NCES-TheaArts.(K-5).TA.A.1.1: Recall the basic parts of a story, such as characters, setting, and events.

## Mainstage production

Recommended for all ages

Directed by Corey Mitchell



Book by Thomas Meehan  
Music by Charles Strouse  
Lyrics by Martin Charnin

Original Broadway Production  
Directed by Martin Charnin Based On  
"Little Orphan Annie"® by Permission  
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Annie is presented through special  
arrangement with Music Theatre  
International (MTI). All authorized  
performance materials are also  
supplied by MTI. mtishows.com

**Themes explored**  
Hope, justice, optimism

## Summary of Annie

Set in New York City against the backdrop of the Great Depression, little orphan Annie does her best to hang on 'til tomorrow come what may. After enduring hardship at the hands of evil Miss Hannigan, a new family breathes hope into the heart of everyone's favorite spunky hero.

## Audience expectations

You may wish to have a discussion with your students about their role as an audience member. Live theatre only exists when an audience is present; their energy and responses directly affect the actors in performance.

Younger audiences should know watching live theatre isn't like watching more familiar forms of entertainment: there is no pause or rewind button, there are no commercials for bathroom breaks, and they can't turn up the volume if someone else is talking. Encourage your students to listen and watch the play intently, so they may laugh and cheer for their favorite characters when it is appropriate. At the end of the play, your applause is an opportunity to thank the actors for their performance. Here are some other guidelines to remember as well:

- Respect others audience members. Stay seated and keep your hands to yourself.
- Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during the performance.
- Photography and recording of the performance is prohibited by copyright law.
- We do not permit food and drinks in the theatre.



NCES-TheaArts.(K-5).TA.CU.2: Understand the traditions, roles, and conventions of theatre as an art form. NCES-TheaArts.3.TA.CU.2.1: Illustrate theatre etiquette appropriate to the performance situation.

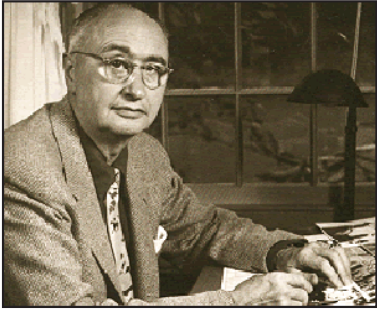
## The BIG QUESTIONS about the show

1. Why was Annie's necklace so important to her?
2. What is a family? What are different types of families that exist?
3. What makes you happy? When is Mr. Warbucks happiest in the play? What makes him happiest at that moment?
4. Why do you think that Miss Hannigan acts the way that she does towards the orphans? What is happening or not happening in her life that might make her unhappy? How does unhappiness affect the way that we act towards others?
5. How is Annie's world different than the world you live in? How was it the same?



CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.(K-5).2: Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media. NCES-TheaArts.2.TA.A.1.2: Analyze the relationships between events, characters, and settings.

## Did you know?



Annie was a daily comic strip created by Harold Gray that first debuted in the New York Daily News on August 5, 1924. The comic strip followed the adventures and misadventures of an 11-year-old orphan

girl, Annie, who was soon joined in the strip by her life-time companion Oliver Warbucks, or as he demanded she call him, "Daddy." A munitions manufacturer, Warbucks made his money during World War I. In January 1925 Annie's loveable mutt Sandy appeared in the strip. After 85 years, Tribune Media Services ceased syndication of the comic strip on Sunday, June 13, 2010.



## Recommended Reading

If you enjoyed the show, check out these books at your local Charlotte Mecklenburg library branch. Check availability at [cmlibrary.org](http://cmlibrary.org).

*The Ogress and the Orphans*  
by Kelly Barnhill\*\* (Chapter Book)

*Pollyanna*  
by Eleanor Porter (Chapter Book)

*The War that Saved My Life*  
by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley (Chapter Book)

*Paper Things*  
by Jennifer Jacobson (Chapter Book)

*Anne of Green Gables*  
by L.M. Montgomery (Chapter Book)

*What is Given from the Heart*  
by Patricia C. McKissack (Picture Book)

*Amal Unbound*  
by Aisha Saeed (Chapter Book)

## THEATRE CORNER

Every play Children's Theatre of Charlotte produces is created by a talented team of designers, technicians, actors and a director. As a class, discuss what you experienced when you saw the performance.

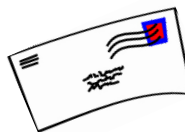
1. Name three things you noticed about the set. Did the set help tell the story? What sort of set would you have designed?
2. What did you like about the costumes? Did the costumes help tell the story? What sort of costumes would you have designed?
3. What role did lighting play in telling the story? How did the lights enhance what you were seeing?
4. Talk about the actors. Were there moments you were so caught up in the story you forgot you were watching a play?
5. Were there any actors who played more than one character? What are some ways you can be the same person but play different characters?



NCES-TheaArts.(K-5).TA.A.1: Analyze literary texts and performances. NCES-TheaArts.(K-5).TA.AE.1.2: Understand how costumes [and technical elements] enhance dramatic play.

## Want more activities and content?

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## Write to Us!

Children's Theatre of Charlotte  
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Charlotte, N.C. 28202



CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.(K-5).1: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.