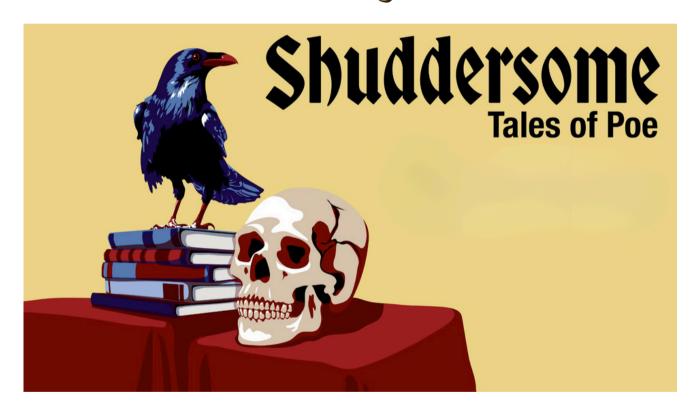
Fort Wayne to Late Youtheatre Following Foundation Guide



2024-25 SEASON

2024-2025 Arts Education Sponsors









As the fifth oldest active children's theatre in the nation, Youtheatre is dedicated to its mission to "educate, engage and entertain" through quality theatrical experiences. In 1934, Dr. Clive McAllister, president of the Old Fort Players (now the Civic Theatre), appointed a committee to create a junior or children's theater branch of the organization. The committee established the philosophy that the new "Children's Theatre" would develop poise, better diction, and self-esteem for children through dramatic instruction. They would give at least one play a year, and awaken enthusiasm in children for beauty in art and integrity in dramatic literature.

The first class began with an enrollment of a whopping 40 students, each of which paid just \$1.00 for 8 classes! The first production, "The Steadfast Tin Soldier," was performed at the Majestic Theatre in Fort Wayne and had a cast of 75 young people. Tickets were only 10 cents for children and 25 cents for adults.

In 1954, the Majestic Theatre was deemed unsafe for children by the fire department and so the Children's Theatre spent the next 10 years at various locations in the city. By the time it rejoined the Civic Theatre at the Old Palace Theatre, it had a new name, the "Fort Wayne Youtheatre." In 1973, both organizations moved to their current home in the Arts United Center on E. Main Street in downtown Fort Wayne. The Youtheatre became autonomous in 1984.

In 1978, Broadway star Harvey Cocks became the Executive Director of Youtheatre. Even after retiring from that position, Harvey remained as our Artist in Residence; inspiring young artists for over forty years until his death in 2022. In 2010, Leslie Hormann took the reigns, serving as Executive/Artistic Director until 2018, followed by Todd Espeland (2018-2024).

Today, Youtheatre is led by Executive Director Heather Closson, Artistic Director Christopher J. Murphy, Director of Patron Services Kimee Gearhart, and a staff of outstanding local artists who serve as teaching artists, directors, choreographers, music directors, designers, and more.

For over three quarters of a century, Youtheatre has produced classes, camps and theatrical productions for the artists and audiences of northeast Indiana. Our touring "Youtheatre-On-The-Go" troupe takes literature-based shows into the community, performing in hospitals, libraries, community centers and more. In 2018, our Linda L. Ruffolo "Young Heroes of Conscience" Series, which has spotlighted the likes of Anne Frank, Ryan White, Harriet Tubman and Ruby Bridges, won the "Mayor's Arts Award."



ELEMENTS OF A PRODUCTION

SETS

The scenery pieces that form the area in which the performers act out the play. Sometimes scenery is very realistic, making the audience think they are inside a real house, for example. Other times the scenery is quite fanciful or limited. What different sets can you name in the show? What time and place does it look like?

LICHTS

The lighting instruments that help to create the right atmosphere on the stage. Lights direct the attention of the audience to specific areas of the stage or to a specific performer. The lights may be different colors to add special effects such as nighttime or a storm. How do the lights in this production show changes in the time and place?

PROPS

The objects performers carry to help them act out the story. Look for important props that help define character or place. Can you name a few?

MAKE-UP

The cosmetic bases, blushes, lipsticks, mascara and eye liners which helps the performer physically become the character he/she is playing. Make-up is also used so that the performers facial features can be seen clearly under the bright stage lights from a distance. Do you notice any special make-up in the show?

COSTUMES

The clothing the performers wear. Depending on the story being acted out, this clothing may be what a character of the time would have actually worn. It may also be very exaggerated or fantastic in the case of a dream or a fairy-tale. Costumes help the audience know what a character is like or where and when he/she lived. Are the costumes drab or colorful? Do they look realistic? What do they tell you about the time and place?



BEHIND SCENES

Youtheatre has produced SHUDDERSOME in different forms between 2018-2024 as part of our summer camps and On-The-Go productions. The script, by Theatrefolk's Lindsay Price, contains six Poe stories to choose from and each Youtheatre iteration has used a different combination. Learn a little more about the play from the playwright herself below.

Q: Why did you write this play?

LP: Adaptation is my favourite form of playwrighting and I love the creepy, scary, macabre stories of Edgar Allan Poe. I thought it was a perfect marriage.

Little did I know. This play was actually a huge challenge to write. Taking a piece of literature from one medium and transforming it into another, is not easy. Poe writes in a way where it's the single reader's imagination that takes charge of the interaction. The story lives in the mind of the reader. In a play, we can't be inside everybody's head at the same time. We need action and theatricality to do the work. It took over a year to find the right balance of staying true to Poe's intention and creating a theatrical experience, but I'm really happy with the outcome.

Q: Describe the theme in one or two sentences.

LP: Death, Morality, Revenge, Jealousy, come to life from the page like corpses from the grave.

Q: What's the most important visual for you in this play?

LP: The Shudders. They are Poe's specters, ghosts and ghouls staring you down from every corner of the stage.

Q: Why is this play great for student performers?

LP: I'm often told by teachers and students that this play is a challenge. It's not easy stuff. But it's a rewarding challenge. It's creepy and cross-curricular which makes it great for classroom study. There is also a number of different of storytelling styles that offers student performers a wide variety of challenges. There's even a humourous story! (Did you know Poe wrote comedies?)



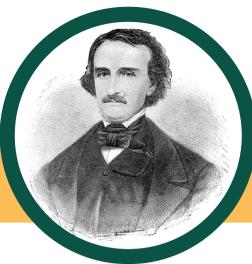
PLAYWRIGHT LINDSAY PRICE

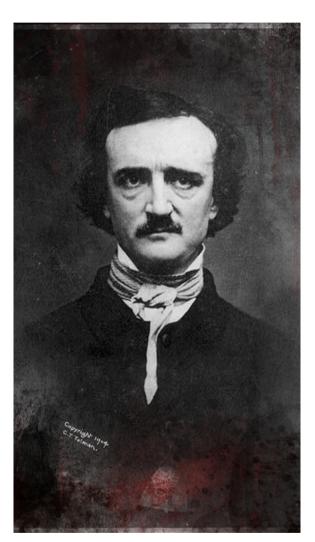
Did you know?

A Playwright is the author of the play. This may be one person or a team. It may take many years for a Playwright to perfect their work through readings, workshops and productions.

BLOGRAPHY: Edgar Allan Poe

Use this brief biography of Edgar Allan Poe to learn more about the author of some of the most popular stories ever written!





Edgar Allan Poe was an American writer, poet, and author celebrated for his dark and mysterious poetry and short stories. He is best known for his tales of suspense and the macabre, which have captivated readers for generations. Poe is widely regarded as a central figure in the Romanticism and Gothic fiction movements in the United States, and his works are considered cornerstones of American literature. His ability to weave intricate plots with haunting themes has left a permanent mark on the literary world, cementing his legacy as a master of eerie and thought-provoking storytelling.

His dedication to refining the craft of writing and his commitment to exploring the boundaries of genre have made him a timeless figure in literature. Poe's work continues to inspire countless adaptations, reinterpretations, and scholarly studies, ensuring that his haunting presence endures in the cultural and literary imagination.

Poe's death, much like his life and works, is shrouded in mystery, adding to the enduring fascination with his tragic and fascinating legacy. On October 3, 1849, Poe was found delirious and in distress on the streets of Baltimore, Maryland, wearing clothes that were not his own. He was taken to the hospital, where he drifted in and out of consciousness, unable to explain how he came to be in such a state. Over the next few days, his condition worsened, and on October 7, 1849, at the age of 40, Edgar Allan Poe passed away under mysterious circumstances. The exact cause of his death has never been positively determined, leading to various theories, including foul play.

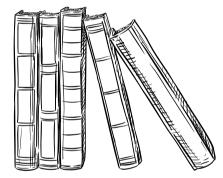
THE WORKS: Shuddersome

SHUDDERSOME is a collection of short stories and dramatized poems by Edgar Allan Poe. They range from some of his most famous to more obscure works. Learn more about these "Tales of Poe" below.

The Tell-Tale Heart

"The Tell-Tale Heart" is a gripping short story by Edgar Allan Poe that delves into the mind of an unnamed narrator who insists on their sanity while describing their master plan to murder an old man. Despite the narrator's repeated claims of sanity, it quickly becomes evident that they are deeply unhinged. The narrator is obsessed with the old man's "vulture-like" eye, which drives them to commit the horrific act. Poe portrays the narrator's descent into madness, using vivid descriptions and a chilling narrative to explore themes of guilt, paranoia, and the fragile nature of the human mind.





The Oval Portrait

"The Oval Portrait" by Edgar Allan Poe delves into the complex relationship between art and life, depicting art and the obsession with it as ultimately destructive. The story centers on a young artist who becomes so consumed with painting a portrait of his beautiful bride that he fails to notice her deteriorating health. His relentless pursuit of perfection in his art ultimately leads to her death. Through this tragic tale, Poe illustrates how the addiction to art can blur the lines between creation and reality, highlighting the devastating consequences of valuing artistic passion over human life.

The Raven

In "The Raven," Edgar Allan Poe masterfully uses symbolism to deepen the haunting atmosphere of the poem and explore themes of grief and despair. Key symbols such as the enigmatic talking raven, the bust of Pallas, and the somber setting of the narrator's chamber collectively enhance the narrative. These elements enrich the story and embody the narrator's intense struggle with his grief over a lost love. The poem unfolds as the raven, perched ominously on the bust of Pallas, repeatedly murmurs "nevermore," driving the narrator towards madness by reminding him that he will never overcome his sorrow or reclaim the happiness lost with his beloved. Through these potent symbols, Poe vividly conveys the debilitating power of grief and the pervasive sense of doom that can accompany it.

THE WORKS (cont.): Shuddersome

"Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered weak and weary." -Edgar Allan Poe, The Raven



Lionizing

"Lionizing" tells the story of a vain young man who, aware that his large nose will make him the talk of the country, revels in the attention he receives from the rich and the royalty, who are utterly captivated by his appearance. He basks in the spotlight, enjoying the whispers and stares that follow him everywhere. However, he goes too far when, during a duel, he shoots off his opponent's nose. The scandal erupts, and the young man quickly learns that a man without a nose will always be more fascinating than a man with a big nose. Stripped of his unique charm, he finds himself overshadowed and forgotten, a cautionary tale of vanity taken to extremes.



The Masque of the Red Death

"The Masque of the Red Death" by Edgar Allan Poe centers on Prince Prospero's desperate attempts to escape a deadly plague known as the Red Death by secluding himself in his fortified abbey. Inside, he hosts a lavish masquerade ball for other wealthy nobles, creating an atmosphere of false security and revelry. The ball takes place across seven distinctively decorated rooms, each adorned in a different color, adding a vivid, almost surreal quality to the setting. This opulent setting contrasts sharply with the grim reality outside, underscoring themes of mortality, denial, and the futility of trying to escape death. As the story unfolds, the chilling inevitability of the plague infiltrates even the prince's carefully curated sanctuary, leading to a haunting conclusion.

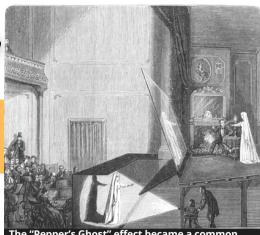


SCARY STORIES: Why do we love them?

"Fear has a large shadow, but he himself is small"
-Author/Artist Ruth Gendler

Authors have been writing terrifying tales for centuries.

Ancient Romans wrote letters about eerie encounters with ghosts and the sound of rattling chains at night.



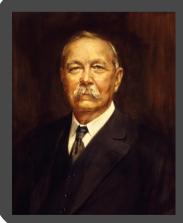
The "Pepper's Ghost" effect became a common illusion in victorian theatres. It works by reflecting a hidden object onto a transparent sheet of glass oplastic, making it look like the object is in the room with the audience.

Centuries later, King Henry VIII claimed to see the ghosts of his five deceased wives, each haunting him with their tragic pasts.

These stories blend historical events with supernatural elements, captivating audiences with a connection to the past and an atmosphere of dread.

The tradition of scary stories endures, drawing readers into a world where the line between the living and the dead is blurred.

But why do we keep telling them? The sour feeling in your stomach, the chills that race up your spine, and the rush of wondering "what will happen next?" all contribute to an adrenaline-fueled excitement that is both unsettling and exhilarating. That excitement is called Adrenaline Rush, the fear response triggers the release of adrenaline, heightening our senses and creating a natural high that can be both thrilling and addictive.



FUN FACT: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the infamous mystery author (Sherlock Holmes, A Study in Scarlet, The Hound of the Baskervilles) was a passionate spiritualist (someone who believes in the existence of ghosts and the ability to communicate with them)!

After the death of several close family members, including his son, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle became very interested in spiritualism. He wanted to find comfort and answers, so he started attending séances (meetings where people try to contact spirits) and studying spiritualist practices. Doyle believed strongly in the possibility of communicating with the dead and wrote many books and articles on the subject, largely influencing other authors to begin writing ghostly tales.

DISCUSSION TOPIC. What is your favorite scary story to tell around the campfire?

HISTORY: The Time Period

Learn more about what the world looked like in Poe's time, the 1800s...





The 19th century was a time of big changes and exciting new stories in literature. Writers like William Wordsworth loved to write about nature, emotions, and how people connect with the world around them, especially as cities and factories were growing. Later on, authors like Charles Dickens and the Brontë sisters told stories about social issues and the challenges people faced, often highlighting the differences between the rich and the poor due to the Industrial Revolution.

Edgar Allan Poe was a famous writer from this time, known for his spooky and mysterious tales. Stories like "The Raven" and "The Tell-Tale Heart" explored themes of madness and the supernatural, adding a thrilling touch to the literature of the time. Realism became popular later, with authors like Leo Tolstoy and Gustave Flaubert writing about the real-life struggles of everyday people.

The 19th century was also when the novel became very popular, giving writers a chance to create more detailed stories and characters. Overall, this period was full of rich and varied stories, reflecting the many changes happening in society and the world.





EDGAR ALLAN POE: Dictionary

This author used words we rarely say nowadays. Use the dictionary below to help understand what Edgar wrote!

Acute (adj.): Very sensitive or sharp. *Ex: The old man had an acute sense of hearing.

Vex (verb): To annoy or bother someone. *Ex: The sound of the old man's heartbeat began to vex the narrator.

Sagacity (noun): Wisdom or good judgment. *Ex: The narrator thought he had great sagacity in planning the perfect crime.

Hearken (verb): To listen carefully. *Ex: The narrator asked the reader to hearken and listen closely to his story.

Stifled (adj.): Smothered or unable to breathe properly.

*Ex: The narrator described the old man's stifled groan when he was scared.

Vehemently (adv.):Doing something with intense emotion or passion.

*Ex: The narrator vehemently denied hearing the old man's heartbeat.

Derision (noun): Mockery or ridicule. *Ex: The narrator thought the police were looking at him with derision.

Hypocritical (adj.): Pretending to have virtues or beliefs that one does not actually have. *Ex: The narrator called the police hypocritical for pretending not to hear the heartbeat.

Guilt (noun): A feeling of having done something wrong.

*Ex: The narrator's overwhelming guilt made him confess to the crime.

Enraptured (adj.):Filled with great pleasure or

joy.
*Ex: The artist was enraptured by his painting and couldn't stop working on it.

Immortalize (verb): To make someone or something last forever, especially in memory. *Ex: The artist wanted to immortalize his wife's beauty in the portrait.

Eerie (adj.): Strange and frightening. *Ex: The chateau had an eerie atmosphere that made the narrator feel uneasy.

Chamber (noun): A large room, especially a bedroom.

*Ex: The narrator was sitting alone in his chamber.

Ember (noun): A small, glowing piece of coal or wood from a dying fire.

*Ex: The embers from the fire were slowly fading.

Wrought (verb): Shaped or formed, especially in a detailed way.

*Ex: The narrator's emotions were wrought with sadness.

Bust (noun): A sculpture of a person's head, shoulders, and chest.

*Ex: The raven perched on the bust of Pallas above the door.

Quaint (adj.):* Attractively old-fashioned or unusual.

*Ex: The narrator found the raven's speech quaint and strange.

Craven (adj.):Lacking in courage, cowardly. *Ex: The narrator felt craven fear as he spoke to the raven.

Plutonian (adj.): Relating to the underworld or the god Pluto.

*Ex: The raven seemed like a messenger from the Plutonian shore.

Melancholy (noun): Deep sadness or gloom. *Ex: The narrator was filled with melancholy as he remembered Lenore.

Plague (noun): A deadly disease that spreads quickly.

*Ex: The Red Death was a terrible plague that caused many deaths.

ACTIVITY #1:

PAPER RAVENS

This activity is best suited for our preschool through second grade students!

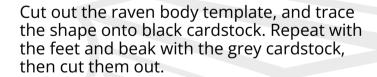


Materials needed:

- Raven craft template
- Black and gray cardstock
- White cardstock
- Black paint
- Sponge paintbrush
- Googly eye
- Scissors
- Glue stick

Instructions:

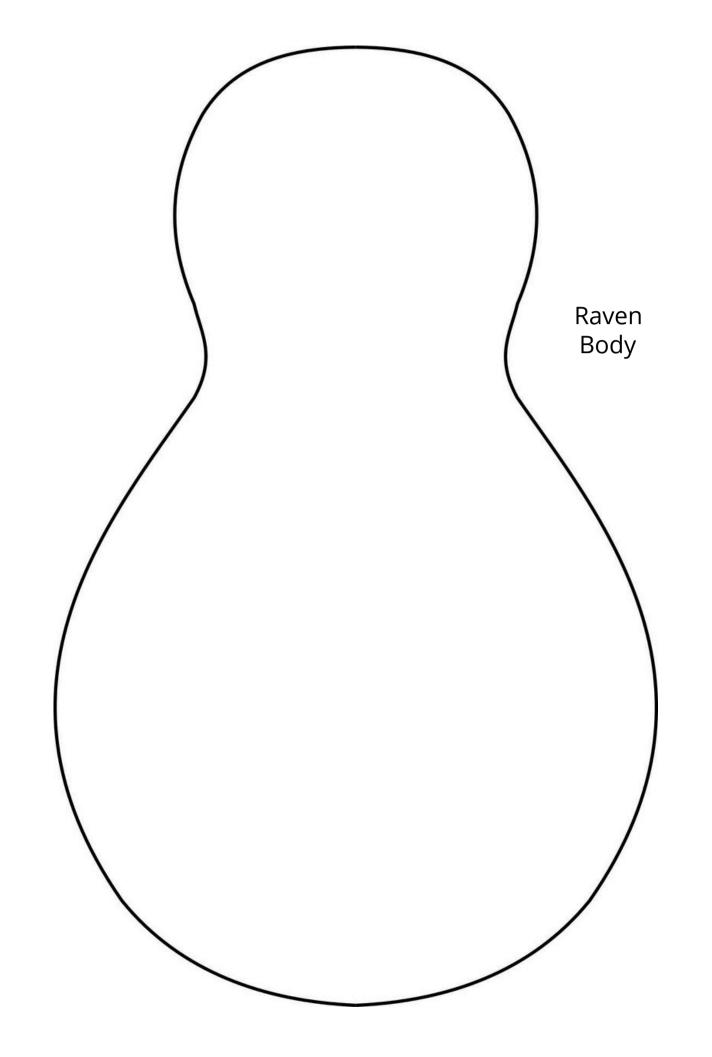
Use your sponge paintbrush to paint your child's hands with the black paint. Press each painted palm down onto a white piece of cardstock paper to make handprints. You will need three handprints in total. Let the handprints dry completely.

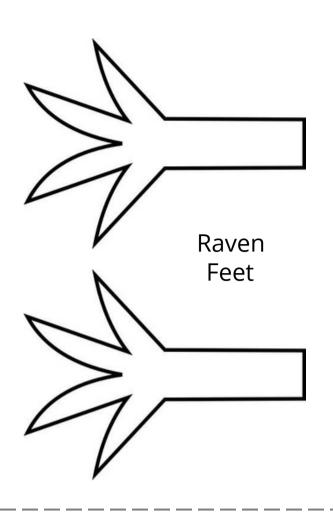


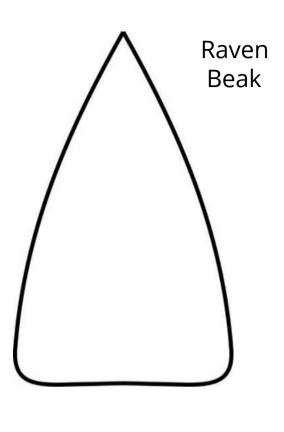
Glue the raven beak and legs onto the raven body. Then glue a googly eye on your raven. Cut out each of the handprints once the paint has dried completely. Glue two of them on the body for wings and one at the bottom and back of the raven for tail feathers.

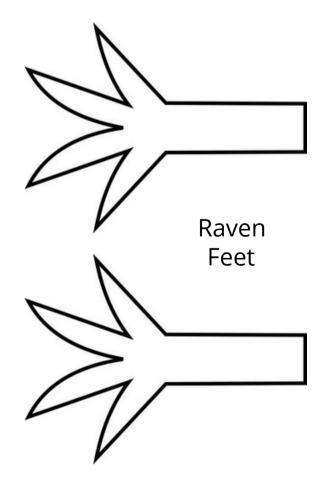


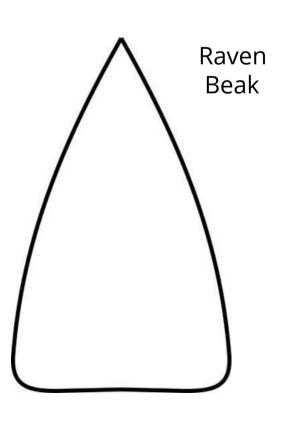












ACTIVITY #2: POE-TRY

Use this word bank to write your own Poe-try!



Midnight		Dreary	1 hha
The	Storm	Love	Abbey
Groaned	Shadow		Heart orm
Brazen	Hideous My	Path I	Yore
Spirit	Abyss	Lost	Sustain
Soul		Crypt App:	arition Thy
Madness	Lenore F	ell Yonde	r Into
Sullen	Brick	Quoth Flev	y Hour
Decorum <i>F</i>	Wood	Manor G	rotesque
Dread	Accos Door	t Visage	Gothic
Aghast		Implore Chapel	Waning

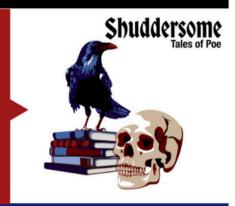
This activity is best suited for late elementary through high school students.



2024-25 SEASON SCHOOL SHOWS

Just in time for Halloween season, Youtheatre is digging up the original master of horror himself. For nearly 100 years, Edgar Allen Poe's tales of murder, madness and the supernatural have delighted readers of all ages. Now, *The Tell-Tale Heart*, *The Masque of the Red Death*, *The Raven* and more of his spine-tingling stories come to life in this vivid theatrical adaptation from the author of last season's *The House*. Audiences will be on the edge of their seats as Poe's words rise like corpses from the grave. So get your tickets and miss the spooky fun...**NEVERMORE**.

Performance: October 21, 2024 | 10:00 AM | First Presbyterian Theater





"Once upon a December..." and just in time for the holidays comes this thrilling musical for the whole family. Her past is a mystery. Her future is an adventure. Inspired by the beloved film, Anastasia transports us from the wintery twilight of the Russian Empire to the euphoria of Paris in the 1920s as a brave young woman sets out to discover if she's the legendary Russian Princess. Pursued by a ruthless Soviet officer determined to silence her, Anya enlists the aid of a dashing conman and a lovable ex-aristocrat. Together, they embark on an epic adventure to find home, love, and family. Featuring favorites from the hit animated film, "Journey to the Past" and "Once Upon a December," *Anastasia* is a spectacular musical about discovering who you are and defining who you're meant to be.

Performance: December 21, 2024 | 10:00 AM | First Presbyterian Theater

Friendships challenged, a world changed, and two young people trying to make sense of it together. Neighbors Josh and Emma are best friends. But something has happened in their town. When a black man is killed by a police officer, Emma and Josh have questions—real questions that deserve real answers. With so much going on, the two don't know how to keep their friendship from being pulled apart. Layered with compassion and humor, this play invites you into the living rooms of these two families (one black and one white) as they wrestle with how to help their children make sense of what happened. Playwright Cheryl D. West invites you to walk alongside Josh and Emma as they confront uncertainty within their own town and seek to plant the seeds of change in their community.







Youtheatre and the Allen County Public Library team up again for more Stories from the Stacks: Theatre for Young Readers. Aimed at Pre-K through 3rd Graders (but with plenty to enjoy for all ages), this year's selection is Adam Rubin's best-seller, Dragons Love Tacos. You know what Dragons REALLY love? Tacos of course! A boy and his dog are watching a TV show about dragons when they unexpectedly get caught up in the 'Dos and Don'ts' of what to serve dragons to eat. Dragons love tacos, but if they accidentally eat spicy salsa...watch out! This show is a playfully funny treat for the whole family.

Performance: April 28, 2025 | 10:00 AM | Downtown ACPL Theater

For more information and resources for your classroom, visit our website at fortwayneyoutheatre.org/school-shows-resources



Theatre is a great gateway to reading.

American academic Madeleine Grumet, in writing about the importance of integrating arts into the literature curriculum, says:

"When children understand literature as something meaningful and complex, they sense its capacity to inform their lives.
This is the kind of literacy that influences reading scores..."

Fort Wayne theatre invites you to attend

LIVE THEATRE FOR KIDS BY KIDS



Study guides and fun curricular activities

will be emailed to you prior to the performance, making it easy to incorporate shows and themes into your curriculum!

Can't make it to one of our shows?

Ask us about how we can bring Youtheatre to your school with our **On-the-Go performances** and **Virtual Tours**!

TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT KIMEE GEARHART AT (260) 422-6900 EXT. 4





Suggested Reading...

Elementary: Edgar and the Tattle-Tale Heart by Jennifer Adams, Nevermore! by Kate Coombs, Bruce and the Legend of Soggy Hollow by Ryan T. Higgins, The Tell Tale Start by Gordon McAlpine

Middle School: *Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark* by Alvin Schwartz, *Room of Shadows* by Ronald Kidd, *Hide and Don't Seek* by Anica Mrose Rissi, *Goosebumps by* R.L Stine

High School: *His Hideous Heart* edited by Dahlia Adler, *A Multitude of Dreams* by Maria Rutherford, *Edgar Allan Poe: Illustrated Tales* by Edgar Allan Poe and illustrated by Harry Clarke



Test Your Memory

See how much you remember from the performance of SHUDDERSOME: TALES OF POE with this brief quiz on the play, the plot, and characters.



- 1. Why does Young murder Old?
 - a. The deed to a house
 - **b.** Revenge
 - c. A vulture-like eve
 - d. Old's voice
- 2. How does Young act when the police arrive? 7. How does the sickness invade the abbey?
 - a. They hide in the basement
 - **b.** They confess immediately
 - c. They confidently show them around
 - d. They bribe them
- 3. What happens to the subject of the portrait?
 - a. She becomes famous
 - h. She becomes ill and deteriorates
 - c. She paints her own portrait
 - d. She demands money
- 4. What captivates the painter about his muse?
 - a. Her outfit
 - b. Her dancing
 - c. Her eyes
 - d. Her hair
- 5. Who is the narrator mourning?
 - a. Beatrice
 - **b.** Edith
 - c. Auguste
 - d. Lenore

- 6. What is the only word the Raven says?
 - a. Dread
 - **b.**Lenore
 - c. Nevermore
 - d. Nothing, it says silent
- - a. Through an open window
 - b. By force through the gate
 - c. It disguises itself as a guest
 - d. It disguises itself as a masked figure
- 8. What is the guests reaction when the clock chimes every hour?
 - a. They cheer and dance wildly
 - **b.**They ignore it
 - c. They feel uneasy
 - d. They leave the room to avoid it
- 9.What does Robert study?
 - a. Marine Biology
 - **b.** Noseology
 - c. Anthropology
 - d.Archeology
- 10 The Flector is
 - a.German
 - **b.** Swedish
 - c.italian
 - d. British



LANGUAGE ARTS

STANDARDS

Most Youtheatre productions are literature-based and on the recommended reading list of the Library of Congress.

Language Arts Standard: Perceive, identify, describe and analyze the distinguishing characteristics of form, structure and style of story.

- Retell story identifying plot, theme, characters, and setting.
- Recall story plot utilizing chronological order.

Language Arts Standard: Evaluate Theatre/Literary work based on critical perception and analysis.

- Share perception of theatre experience in the area of voice, movement, mood and motivation.
- · Make suggestions for alternative endings.
- Analyze and critique story and performance through creative writing.
- Create a similar story through creative writing.

Language Arts Standard: Use Theatre /Literary work to develop affective areas of self-concept, problem solving and interpersonal skills.

- React to feelings of self and others within a production.
- Identify conflict within story as it relates to self and others.
- Compare and contrast problems and resolutions found in different stories and real life situations.
- Express personal attitudes, values, and belief systems as it relates to theatre piece.
- Interact freely in conversations, class discussions and dramatic activities.
- Contribute to the solving of problems through dramatization/improvisation.

Language Arts Standard: Examine Theatre /Literary work in a historical and multicultural context.

- Identify similarities and differences between characters from diverse cultures depicted.
- Identify historical differences/figures in different time frames depicted in story.
- Identify significance of historical aspects in story.

Exploring Aesthetics: A Philosophical Basis for Life!

- Attending live theatre helps children value its importance to the community and helps develop a lifelong commitment and love of Theatre and Literature. Students experience aesthetic growth through appreciation of Theatre.
- Students discover through experience that making art is an essential human activity. It requires collaboration, and enhances creative thinking.