The Snow Queen

Study Guide for grades 3-5

The Snow Queen by Hans Christian Anderson

1. Illustrated by George and Doris Hauman and published by the Macmillan company in 1946.

Before you go:

Explain to your students that they are going to see a live, on-stage production of The Snow Queen. Encourage them to actively participate and respond to the actors on stage.

Optional vocabulary words: frost, clatter, poultice, divot, ravens, corridors, dungeon, prisoner, barricade, and club.

Things to think about:

What do the costumes tell you about the characters? Who wears the bright colored costumes? Who wears the dark colored costumes? What mood do these costumes set for the play?

How does the audience help the play by participating instead of simply watching?

What do you think Hans Christian Anderson is trying to reveal through his theme?

Why do you think the actors use props? What props did Grandma use? Redhead? Cobweb? Snow Queen?

Questions for Discussion:

1. In the first scene of Act One, which two characters set the theme of the play with their confrontation between good and evil?

2. What is the Snow Queen's wish?

3. How would you describe the relationship between Kay and Gerda? Gerda and Grandma? Kay and Grandma?

4. Who does Gerda meet when she gets lost in the woods? How do these characters help her?

5. In Act Two, what does the Robberwoman trade with Cobweb for money?

6. Who is Redhead's pet? Where is his home?

7. How does Kay show the Snow Queen how clever he is?

8. What do the Ice Ghosts warn Gerda about?

9. How does Gerda break the evil spell that Kay was put under?

10. How does Gerda beat the Snow Queen?

Fun Projects:

Pick a person in the class to be the reindeer and interview him.

Have the children in the class act out their favorite scene in The Snow Queen.