



STG's Broadway Inclusion Program Summer 2020 Quarter musical theatre classes includes acting, characters, music, and movement inspired by the 1997 animated film and Broadway musical *Anastasia*.

This document is designed to serve as supplemental curriculum for participants and their families and caregivers to explore together and was developed by STG Education Manager and Teaching Artist, Amberlee Joers.

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Anastasia is set in Russia and France and uses words in the Russian and French languages. Learn vocabulary words and listen to music from Anastasia in multiple languages.

Activity: The Power of Stories Page 4-6

Reflect on what fairytales and popular stories you are familiar with and the identities that are represented in those stories. Is anyone excluded or missing from these stories? How we can use the power of storytelling to expand our connection to stories that reflect diversity and inclusion?

Activity: The Magic of an Heirloom Page 7-8

Discuss if your family has any special objects or heirlooms that are passed down to each generation. What stories are part of the meaning behind the object? If you picked something special of yours to share as an heirloom, what would it be and why?

Activities from the Broadway Study Guide Page 9

ACTIVITY: LANGUAGE & VOCABULARY

The story *Anastasia* takes place in Russia and Paris. Although the animated film and Broadway musical in North America use actors speaking and singing in English, the characters in real life would probably be speaking primarily in Russian and French.

1. Listen to some of the songs from *Anastasia* in Russian and French. What kinds of sounds do you hear that is different from the language you speak? What did you like or notice? Can you still feel the emotion behind the music and singing even if it's in a language you don't know?
 - [Once Upon a December in Russian](#)
 - [Once Upon a December compilation in English, Arabic, French, Russian](#)
 - [Paris Holds the Key \(to your Heart\) in French](#)

2. French Vocab Words

Below are some French vocabulary words that are used in the song "Paris Holds the Key (to your Heart)":

- joie de vivre - *phrase, pronunciation* [joie de vi·vre / \ ,zhwä-dä-'vëvrə \](#)
 - o Definition: *keen or buoyant enjoyment of life, zest for life*
- la rue - *noun, pronunciation* [lah roo](#)
 - o Definition: the street
- Le Moulin - *noun, pronunciation* [/lə /'mu:län](#)
 - o Definition: the mill
- très jolie – *adjective, pronunciation* [tray / joh - lee](#)
 - o Definition: very pretty, great

3. *Anastasia* Vocab Words

Below are some vocabulary words that are used in *Anastasia*:

- Dowager Empress – *noun, pronunciation* [/dou-uh-jeɪ/](#) [em-pruhs/](#)
 - o Definition: a ruler or spouse of a ruler who has an empire

- Czar/Tsar - *noun, pronunciation [/zär,\(t\)sär/](#)*
 - o Definition: an emperor of Russia before 1917
 - o Both Czar and Tsar are accepted spellings for this word

- Reliquary – *noun, pronunciation [/ˈreləˌkwɛrē/](#)*
 - o Definition: a container for holy relics

Interested in learning some more words in Russian?

You can watch this video titled [“Russian – Basic Words + Phrases for Travelers”](#) to learn how to say things like hello, goodbye, no, thank you, please, etc.

Interested in learning some more words in French?

You can watch this video titled [“Learn French 101”](#) to learn how to say things like hello, goodbye, good morning, how are you, thank you, please, etc.

ACTIVITY: THE POWER OF STORIES

While the story of *Anastasia* was inspired by true historical events surrounding the Romanov family in 1918, the animated film and Broadway musical are considered part of the fairy tale genre as they do not represent historical facts with accuracy.

- Fairy Tale (*noun*): a story about magical and imaginary beings and lands; an instance of a folklore genre that takes the form of a short story; a story in which improbable events lead to a happy ending.

Fairy Tales are popular stories that exist in many different versions, cultures, and languages.

1. Brainstorm a list of fairy tales you know

Work together as a family or on your own to brainstorm a list of fairy tales that you know or are familiar with, starting with *Anastasia*! Maybe you know them as books, movies, or stories that have been told to you throughout the years.

2. Reflect on similarities and what is not represented

Looking at and reflecting on your brainstorm list, think about what fairy tales you are familiar with and what version of that fairy tale you know. You could even look at pictures of the characters you know from your fairy tale books or movies as a visual guide.

Use words like "*I notice*" or "*I observe*" to point out similarities between these characters and stories. Your observations can include things like race, culture, language, gender, disability, etc. when reflecting on the different characters and identities that are included in these stories.

- What similarities did you find between those fairy tale stories?
Discuss as a group or reflect individually

Reflect on similarities and what is not represented (*continued*)

- Do you feel that these characters and stories represent a wide variety of identities? Were there any types of characters or stories you noticed were missing or excluded?

Discuss as a group or reflect individually

- To connect with new fairy tales, stories, or characters outside of what you already know, what identities and stories do you want to see more of?

Discuss as a group or reflect individually

Action: Find ways to connect with new stories and characters that represent identities outside of what you might already know.

A great place to start can be the fairy tales you already know! Many fairy tales have numerous versions around the world in different languages, cultures, races, genders, and more. You can also explore “fractured fairytales,” which are stories that make use of a traditional fairy tale but restructure and reimagine it from a new perspective or view.

On the next page is a list of suggestions as a starting place for inspiration. Keep in mind that this is just a starting place, and there is so much more wonderful content out there to explore!

The books listed below include versions of fairytales and other stories with different races, cultures, languages, countries, ethnicities, LGBTQ+, and disabilities represented.

**Please note that individuals and families should research what books and content are most appropriate in regards to age, needs, etc.*

[Brothers of the Knight](#) by Debbie Allen

[Cendrillon: A Caribbean Cinderella](#) by Robert D. San Souci

[Dan and Diesel](#) by Charlotte Hudson

[Featherless/Desplumado](#) by Juan Felipe Herrera

[Kami and the Yaks](#) by Andrea Stenn Stryer

[La Princesa and the Pea](#) by Susan Middleton Elya, Juana Martinez-Neal

[Little Red Gliding Hood](#) by Tara Lazar

[Lon Po Po](#) by Ed Young

[Looking after Louis](#) by Lesley Ely

[Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale](#) by John Steptoe

[My Pal, Victor/Mi amigo, Victor](#) by Diane Gonzales Bertrand

[Princess and the Peas](#) by Rachel Himes

[Princess Princess Ever](#) After by Katie O'Neill

[Promised Land](#) by Adam Reynolds, Chaz Harris

[Rapunzel](#) by Chloe Perkins

[Rubia and the Three Osos](#) by Susan Middleton Elya

[Saltpie: A Choctaw Journey from Darkness into Light](#) by Tim Tingle, Karen Clarkson

[The Blind Hunter](#) by Kristina Rodanas

[The Ghanaian Goldilocks](#) by Tamara Pizzoli

[The Korean Cinderella](#) by Shirley Climo

[The Prince and the Dressmaker](#) by Jen Wang

[The Royal Heart](#) by Greg McGoan

ACTIVITY: THE MAGIC OF AN HEIRLOOM

Heirloom (noun): a special object that has belonged to a family for several generations; something special handed down from one generation to the next

In the animated film and Broadway musical *Anastasia*, the music box is an heirloom that the Grandmother Empress Dowager passes down to Anastasia. Even though Anya has amnesia and doesn't remember who she is, holding the music box and hearing it play music brings back special memories and feelings that help her remember her family and past. It isn't important to Anya how much the music box might be worth in money, because it's a treasure that reminds her of memories of her family and gives her comfort.

1. A family member's heirloom

Choose someone you know to interview and ask if they have an heirloom. It could be a family member, caregiver, etc.

- Ask if they have anything special that was passed down to them from previous generations. It might be a special family recipe or maybe it's something tangible like a scarf or photograph or an old stuffed animal.
- Ask them to tell you why that thing is special or important to them and the family.
- Ask them how it makes them feel when they hold it, use it, or look at it.

2. Select an heirloom that represents you

Think about some of your own favorite things. If you picked something that is already yours to represent who you are or a special memory in your own life, what would that object be? Remember that it can be anything and it doesn't need to have monetary value- it could be a photograph, a drawing or letter, a recipe, a book, favorite toy, piece of clothing, etc.

After you pick what your own heirloom might be, think about the following things:

- What does it physically feel like to hold that object?
 - o Texture - Is it smooth, bumpy, silky, scratchy?
 - o Weight – is it light or heavy to hold?

- o Scent- does the object have a scent or smell to it? Does that scent make me feel calm, happy, excited, etc.?
- What memories do I have with this object?
 - o What stories could I tell someone about this object?
- What does it feel like emotionally when I hold that object?
 - o Does it make me feel safe, happy, excited, comfortable, cozy, joyous, brave, proud, etc.?
- What are ways that the object can be used or enjoyed by someone?

Action: Find a way to document what you've learned about heirlooms – whether it's someone else's heirloom, one you choose to represent you, or both!

- You could take a picture with your heirloom and/or a picture with the person you interviewed and their heirloom
- You could draw a picture of what you've learned and your heirloom
- You could write a story about what you've learned
- You could take a video of your interview with someone else and their heirloom or a video of you talking about what object you chose to represent you and why that object is special to you

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES WITH *ANASTASIA* STUDY GUIDE:

The Broadway musical *Anastasia* team created their own “study guide” of the musical that includes a couple of fun activities you can do on your own or with someone else. You can view/download a copy of the *Anastasia* Study Guide on our [Art Session webpage](#). Below are just a couple of the activities that their study guide includes.

- Study Guide (page 7-8) – “Lyric Writing” Activity

Listening to and/or reading different pieces of songs from a couple of musicals including *Once on this Island*, *Ragtime*, *Seussical*, and *Anastasia* and comparing similarities in their messages and feelings behind those specific lyrics

- Study Guide (page 14) – “Costume Creativity” Activity

Looking at the process of creating costumes in *Anastasia* (page 9-13) and sketching/drawing your own design for Anya’s 1920s Parisian gown (or a costume for another character) in groups or individually. Find fabrics or materials around your home to use in creating the costume and have a fashion show or costume parade.

- Study Guide (page 21) – “Family Tree” Activity

Reading about/looking at a family tree of Anastasia and the Romanovs and researching your family history and stories to make your own family tree.