



HAPPILY EVER AFTER

FAIRYTALES in Opera



Characters from fairy tales face enormous obstacles and show endless bravery to reach their dreams. What does it mean to be brave and find your happily ever after?

This series of videos explores connections in opera to objectives found in SEL curriculum and Language Arts Fairytale units. Each can be explored individually, or as a collective unit.

We hope you and your students enjoy this new opera program created by Austin Opera. Our goal is to provide useful and meaningful arts-rich curriculum for educators and students. If you have feedback or would like to see more materials created like this, let us know.

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HAPPILY EVER AFTER *FAIRYTALES in Opera*



What is Opera?

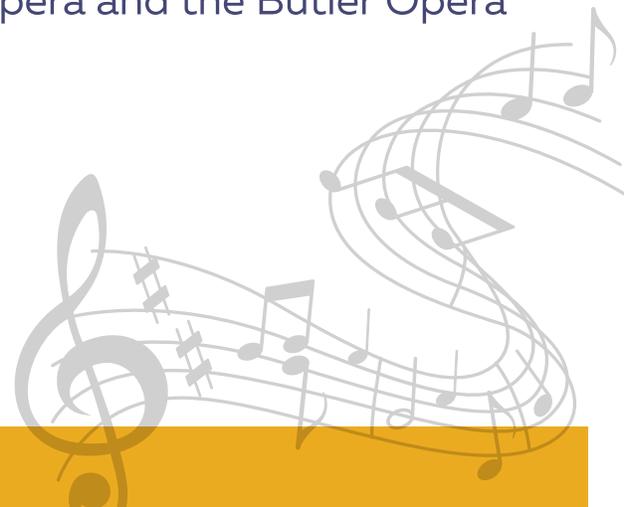
OVERVIEW: In this video, we will dispel some of the stereotypes and misconceptions people have about opera. Students will be introduced to opera by participating in a fun and interactive Opera Quiz.

MATERIALS: Video #1: What is Opera? The Opera Quiz
Chart Paper or White Board to create T Chart (opt.)

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

After viewing Video #1: What is Opera?, extend your learning with one of the following:

1. Create a T-Chart answering the following questions:
What did we learn about opera from watching the video?
What are we still curious to learn about opera?
2. Learn more about the organizations that produce opera in your area. In Austin, for example, there are several opera companies and programs, including Austin Opera, LOLA, One Ounce Opera and the Butler Opera Center at the University of Texas.
3. Go to www.austinopera.org/education and explore opera by checking out one of Austin Opera's Animated Listening Maps or other online resources.





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Be Brave!

OVERVIEW: In this video, students will be invited to explore the question "What Does Bravery Mean to You?"

MATERIALS: Video #2: Be Brave!
paper, pencil, art supplies (for optional extensions)

QUESTIONS, ACTIVITIES AND EXTENSIONS

After viewing Video #2: Be Brave!, extend the lesson with one or more of the following:

1. Invite students to respond to the following questions individually, with a partner or as a group.

Q1: Who is one of your heroes and why?

Q2: What are some ways kids can be everyday heroes?

Q3: Why are everyday heroes important?

Q4: Describe a time when you were courageous.

What was the situation and how were you brave?

How did you feel during and after the experience?

What did you learn about yourself?





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Be Brave!

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

After viewing Video #2: **Be Brave!**, extend the lesson with one or more of the following:

2. Write a short story in first person about a time when you were courageous. Add drawings of scenes throughout to create your own storybook.
3. Create a short film or trailer re-enacting a story that includes a brave character or hero. Invite friends or family members to be characters in your story.
4. Write a poem expressing what being brave means to you.
5. Create a piece of art using the medium of your choice to explore your ideas about bravery.





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Be Brave!

Bravery in our day and age may not always mean defeating a witch or rescuing the princess. Bravery and heroism today might look a bit different than how it looks in a fairy tale, but no less significant and just as extraordinary.

Here are some ways we might exhibit courage and examples of what that bravery might look like for you and me:

Courage to have hope

Contagious diseases and weather disasters can give all of us lots of reason to despair. Holding onto hope during dark and challenging times is courageous

Courage to have an opinion and make your voice heard

When a group of peers are creating a game to play on the playground, you muster up the courage to use your voice and share your idea with the group.

Courage to stand up for others and what you believe in

Be an ally for those with less privilege, such as defending a classmate who is bullied for stuttering.

Courage to take the road less traveled

Create your ideal life rather than following the life society tells you to lead

Courage to start something new

Learn a new skill, organize a community service project, start a new club, write a song, creating a piece of art, etc.





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Be Brave!

Courage to put yourself out there and being willing to fail

Try out for the basketball team, perform a piano solo, create a song and share it with others, etc.

Courage to admit you're wrong or made a mistake

Apologize to your sibling or a friend if you hurt their feelings.

Courage to change your perspective

The ability to listen to the thoughts, feelings and opinions of others that may think differently than you do and the willingness to be open to these new ways of thinking.

Courage to show others and yourself empathy

Sit with a friend who is hurting and share that you have felt that way too; not fixing their problem, but being with them with your heart.

Show compassion to yourself even when you've made mistakes or experienced failure.

Courage to have a growth mindset

Feed your brain with positive thoughts rather than negative ones like "I did my best and I'm proud of myself" vs "I am such a failure and I knew I'd blow it."

Courage to embrace your differences

Love what makes you unique.





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Hansel & Gretel

OVERVIEW: In this video, students will hear a reading of the fairytale *Hansel & Gretel*, with selections performed from the opera *Hansel & Gretel*, composed by Engelbert Humperdinck.

OBJECTIVES: The student will

*MUSIC 2.5.A - identify music from various periods of history and culture

*MUSIC 2.5.C - identify relationships between music and other subjects

*ELAR.2.9.A - distinguish characteristics of well-known children's literature such as folktales, fables and fairytales

MATERIALS: Video #3: *Hansel & Gretel*

Device connected to the internet (for optional extensions)

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

*View Austin Opera's SING OPERA! video series and learn to sing a selection from the opera *Hansel & Gretel*.

* Read some interesting facts about the opera *Hansel & Gretel* by reading "HANSEL & GRETTEL: At a Glance"

* <http://classicalkusc.org/kids/opera/> - Learn how to stage this German fairytale opera in an interactive classical music education game using Humperdinck's most famous opera. (requires FLASH)





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At a Glance – *HANSEL & GRETEL* by Engelbert Humperdinck (1854-1921)

OPERA BACKGROUND

- *Hansel & Gretel* is an opera based on the Grimm brothers' fairy tale of the same name.
- The libretto was written by Humperdinck's sister, Adelheid Wette, who originally commissioned her brother to write music for some songs for a children's play she had written.
- The opera was first performed in the Hoftheater in Weimar on December 23, 1893, conducted by Richard Strauss.
- The role of the witch can be sung by a mezzo-soprano or a tenor. Sometimes the roles of the Mother/Witch are sung by the same singer.
- *Hansel & Gretel* was the first complete Metropolitan Opera radio broadcast performance, on Christmas Day in 1931. It was also the first opera to be broadcast in its entirety on television in December of 1943.

MAIN CHARACTERS

- Hansel, mezzo-soprano – the son; brother of Gretel
- Gretel, soprano – the daughter; sister of Hansel
- The Gingerbread Witch, mezzo-soprano
- Peter and Gertrud – the broom maker and his wife; parents of Hansel & Gretel
- Sandman – the Sleep Fairy

WHAT HAPPENS?

- Hansel & Gretel are at home and tired of doing their chores. Mother is furious to find them playing and dancing around. In her anger, she knocks over a jug of milk, then sends Hansel & Gretel into the forest to look for some berries for supper.
- Hansel & Gretel eat all of the berries that they have picked, and as the sun sets realize they are lost in the forest. The frightened children are calmed by the Sandman, who puts sand in their eyes to make them drowsy. Gretel reminds Hansel that they should say their evening prayer, and they fall asleep in the forest.
- When they wake, they notice a big gingerbread house. The hungry children begin to nibble on the house when the witch appears...
- Hansel & Gretel find themselves in an unfortunate situation and will have to be very clever to outwit the witch!

