

The Grigri Tree

Manning Mpinduzi-Mott & JAWAD

Grades: K-5

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

The Grigri Tree is a dilemma tale, a story in which the audience provides the ending. Manning Mpinduzi-Mott tells the tale of 3 brothers who encounter a magical hunter and learn that a grigri can be many things, good and bad. Brother Jawad and his gourd banjo create a magical land and give voice to the grigri man. Together, these two griots take you on a journey through long ago African jungles where magic is the norm and only those who listen to the story can say what happens next.

TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills):

	Music	Theater	Science	Lang. Arts	Math	Social Studies	The Students Will: * Demonstrate appropriate concert etiquette during live performances. * Identify, discuss, and investigate sound energy. * Write stories and poems that express their ideas and feelings about real or imagined people, events, and ideas.
K	K.3, 4	K.4, 5	K.6	K.1, 10, 11	K.1	K.11, 12	
1	1.5, 6	1.4, 5	1.6	1.1, 11, 12	1.1	1.15	
2	2.5, 6	2.4, 5	2.6	2.1, 11, 12	2.1	2.15, 16	
3	3.5, 6	3.4, 5	3.6	3.1, 11, 12	3.1	3.14, 15	
4	4.5, 6	4.4, 5	4.6	4.1, 11, 12	4.1	4.19	
5	5.5, 6	5.4, 5	5.6	5.1, 11, 12	5.1	5.21, 22	

STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness):

Writing	Grade 4	Reporting Category 1	The Students Will: * Demonstrate an ability to compose a variety of written texts with a clear, central idea; coherent organization; sufficient development; and effective use of language and conventions. * Demonstrate an understanding of force, motion, and energy and their relationships.

Academic Vocabulary:

Griot	* A member of a class of traveling poets, musicians, and storytellers who maintain a tradition of oral history in parts of West Africa.
Dilemma tale	* Dilemma tale, also called Judgment Tale, typically African form of short story whose ending is either open to conjecture or is morally ambiguous, thus allowing the audience to comment or speculate upon the correct solution to the problem posed in the tale.
djembe	* a rope-tuned skin-covered goblet drum played with bare hands, originally from West Africa.

Gri-gri	* tropical American feather palm having a swollen spiny trunk and edible nuts. Acrocomia aculeata, grugru, grugru palm, macamba. grugru nut - nut of Brazilian or West Indian palms.
ancient	*Belonging to the very distant past; very, very old
magic	* The power to use supernatural forces to make impossible things happen
oral tradition	*A form of human communication wherein knowledge, art, ideas and cultural material is received, preserved and transmitted orally from one generation to another. The transmission is through speech or song and may include folktales, ballads, chants, prose or verses

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS:

Before the performance

- Who do you know that tells great stories?
- What are some of your favorite stories?

After the performance:

- What did you learn from the presentation?
- Write, draw, tell, sing, dance, or act out your favorite part.

Language Arts:

- Write or retell one of the stories you remember from the presentation.
- Draw or construct a “magical” creature and make up a story about it.

Math:

- Make up and solve math problems related to the presentation.

Social Studies:

- Interview older adults about stories they heard when they were growing up.
- Learn more stories about Africa, or about another historical or geographical area you are studying.



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS GUIDE
MANNING MPINDUZI-MOTT & JAWAD
Performance

Science:

- Learn more about how musical and other sounds are created.

Resources:

Drums: <https://www.andnextcomesl.com/2016/02/music-activities-for-kids-using-drums.html>

African tales: <https://africa.mrdonn.org/fables.html>

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

For more than twenty years, Manning Mpinduzi-Mott has been a Houston actor and director. Mr. M. has delighted and enlightened audiences across the country. He has worked locally at Stages, Main Street Theatre, the Ensemble, and A D Players. He directed *River Niger*, *Sundiata: The Lion King*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Buses* by Denise Nicholas and the world premier of Thomas Meloncon's *The Laws of Storms*. Notable stage performances include: *The Author in Valley Song* at Stages, "the Player" in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* at Actors Theatre, and *The Father in The Yellow Boat*. Film and video credits include the movies *Rushmore*, *Space Cowboys*, and *Red Ink*; multiple episodes of *Walker, Texas Ranger*, and numerous radio and TV commercials.

Guitarist, banjo player, vocalist, songwriter and poet, JAWAD has been performing professionally for over twenty years. Virtually self-taught, he has opened for national and international artists such as Dizzy Gillespie, Paul Taylor, and the Manhattans. He has also performed and collaborated on educational offerings extensively in the Houston area and throughout the U.S. Featured on television and radio, JAWAD has also received congressional recognition from Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee and has been awarded an Individual Artist Grant for his work.