

## Three Pigs Remix

**The Ensemble Theatre**

**K-7**

### About the Performance

*Step into the spotlight with “Three Pigs Remix,” the hottest play to hit Fairway (that’s Broadway for fairy tale actors)! This musical extravaganza is packed with star-studded fairy tale characters all vying for the perfect role. Mama Polar Bear needs patience as Little Red Riding Hood, the Prince, and Gymnastic Jenny auditions to be part of the pig-tastic cast. Will they show the acting chops needed to land their dream roles? There’s no business-like show business in this whimsical and energetic production!*

### TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills):

	Theater	Language Arts	Social Studies	The Students Will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate appropriate etiquette during live performances.</li> <li>• Practice listening and speaking.</li> <li>• Practice ways to deal with negative emotions.</li> <li>• Write/tell stories to express ideas and feelings about real or imagined people, events, and ideas.</li> </ul>
<b>K</b>	1, 2, 4, 5	1, 6, 8, 11	11, 13, 14	
<b>1</b>	1, 2, 4, 5	1, 6, 7, 8, 12	14, 16, 17	
<b>2</b>	1, 2, 4, 5	1, 6, 7, 8, 12	12, 14, 15	
<b>3</b>	1, 2, 4, 5	1, 6, 7, 8, 12	10, 12, 14, 15	
<b>4</b>	1, 2, 4, 5	1, 6, 7, 8, 12	17, 19, 20	
<b>5</b>	1, 2, 4, 5	1, 6, 7, 8, 12	20, 21, 22, 23	
<b>MA</b>	2, 4, 5	1, 5, 6, 7	13, 16, 19, 21, 22	

### STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness)

Reading Comprehension skills in Grades 3, 4, and 5  
Writing skills in Grade 4, 7

### Academic Vocabulary:

Fairy tale	A children’s story about magical and imaginary beings and places.
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Three Little Pigs	A tale with the moral: "Hard work and dedication pay off"
Red Ridinghood	A tale with the warning not to trust strangers.
Acting chops	Acting skills
Remix	A new and changed version of a song, story or other piece of art

## CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS:

### *Before the performance*

- What children's stories do you know?

### *After the performance:*

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

### Language Arts:

- Read (or watch the video) of one or more of these traditional stories and draw, act out, rap about, or otherwise express your favorite parts: Three Little Pigs, Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, Snow White, Sleeping Beauty, Rapunzel, Jack and the Beanstalk, Hansel and Gretel, Three Billy Goats Gruff, Rumpelstiltskin, or Beauty and the Beast.

### Math:

- Read and act out stories with math concepts, such as *The King's Chessboard* by David Birch, *The Sir Cumference Series* by Cindy Neuschwander, or *Seven Blind Mice* by Ed Young.

### Social Studies:

- Read one or more of these variations on traditional stories and draw, act out, rap about, or otherwise express your favorite parts:
  - Cinderella: Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters (Zimbabwean), The Rough-Face Girl (Algonquin), or Yeh Shen (Chinese).

- Three Little Pigs: The Real Story of the Three Little Pigs (Wolf's perspective, The Three Little Javelinas (Southwestern USA).
- Red Riding Hood: Lon Po Po (Chinese)
- Write new versions of old stories with cultural biases, such as change Goldilocks and the Three Bears to Ebonilocks and the Three Rappers.  
<https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=change+traditional+fairy+tale+s+with+biases&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8>
- Study folktales from different cultures, such as *Legend of the Bluebonnet* retold by Tomie DePaola, *Anansi the Spider* retold by Gerald McDermott, *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears: A West African Tale* by Verna Aardema and *Pajaro-Cu* from Mexico. (Retold below.)

### The Pajaro-Cu

A Mexican tale retold by Cynthia Herbert

In ancient times in Mexico, the birds had their own kingdom. This was before they had feathers and so they went around as naked as a plucked chicken. The Eagle, who was King, made a new decree.

"All birds must have feathers," said he. "Call every bird in the kingdom to come and choose their feathers. Que asi sea!"\*\*

So, the hawks went out and brought in all the birds. Each bird chose their favorite colors. The Cardinal chose red. The Canary chose yellow. The Jay chose blue. The Swan chose white, and the Crow chose black. The Flamingo asked for pink feathers and the parrot asked for green. Some birds, like the Peacock, choose more than one color. The little Dove was happy with grey, and the Owl preferred brown.

Finally, all the birds had glorious feathers. To celebrate they did loops in the air, flapping their wings and chirping with happiness.

But one bird came late. He was the Pajaro-Cu. There were no feathers left! What could they do?

The Eagle was angry, "We must dress this new bird with feathers!" he demanded. "Tell me how!"

Well, all the birds tweeted and squawked and warbled, trying to think of how to solve the problem. ¡Chirrido! ¡Pío! ¡Graznido!\*\*\*

Finally, the little Dove stepped forward.

"I have an idea," she whispered.

"Speak up!" growled the Eagle.

"If each of us gives one feather to the Pajaro-Cu, he will have plenty of feathers. None of us will mind losing one little feather."

"I think that's a fine idea," said the Owl. "I can spare one of my brown feathers!"

But one bird was not happy.

"No, no, no," croaked the Peacock. "If we each give this bird a feather, he will wear all the colors. He will think he is better than the rest of us birds. No, no, no! It's a terrible idea!"

"You are just jealous!" The Owl laughed.

"Silence!" commanded the Eagle. "I decree that every bird should give a feather to the Pajaro-Cu. Que asi sea!"

Each bird stepped forward to give a feather to the new little bird. The Cardinal gave a red feather. The Canary gave a yellow one. The Jay shared one of his blue feathers. The Swan donated a white feather and the Crow a black one. The Flamingo presented a pink one and the parrot presented a green one. The Peacock found a small ugly feather to contribute.

The Pajaro-Cu went to look at his reflection in the lake.  
“I’m beautiful,” he said in amazement. Then he flew up in the sky and did the dance of joy.  
When he came back to the other birds, he gushed, “Thank you! Muchisimas gracias!”  
“De nada,” chorused the other birds. “We like to share!”

\*“Pajaro-Cu” is pronounced “PAH-ha-row-ku.”

\*\*“Que asi sea” is pronounced, “KAY ah-SEE SAY-ah.” It means, “Let it be so!”

\*\*\*¡Chirrido! ¡Pío! ¡Graznido! means Chirp! Tweet! Squawk! “Chirrido” is pronounced, Chi-REE-doh.” “Pío” is PEE-oh.  
“Graznido” is grahs-NEE-doh.

### Science:

- Compare stories to scientific explanations. Ideas:
  - How the groundhog lost his long tail  
<https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=how+the+groundhog+lost+his+tail&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8>
  - Why we have seasons: Persephone’s descent into the Underworld.
  - What causes earthquakes and volcanoes: Maori legend about Ruaumoko.
  - Movement of the sun: Iroquois legend that a charioteer pulls the sun across the sky.

### Resources:

#### Fairy tales:

<https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=fairy+tales&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8>  
<https://www.storynory.com/archives/fairy-tales/>

### ABOUT THE ARTIST:

The Ensemble Theatre was founded in 1976 by the late George Hawkins to preserve African American artistic expression and enlighten, entertain and enrich a diverse community. Forty years later, the theatre has evolved from a touring company operating from the trunk of Mr. Hawkins’ car to being one of Houston’s finest historical cultural institutions. The Ensemble is one of the only professional theatres in the region dedicated to the production of works portraying the African American experience, the oldest and largest professional African American theatre in the Southwest and holds the distinction of being one of the nation’s largest African American theatres owning and operating its facility and producing in-house. The Ensemble Theatre has fulfilled and surpassed the vision of its founder and continues to expand and create innovative programs to bring African American theatre to a myriad of audiences. Through its varied programs, The Ensemble reaches over 60,000 people annually.