

The Czech Fairy Tales

Joanne Schroeder

PK-6

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

Step into the enchanting world of The Czech Fairy Tales, a heartwarming and whimsical puppetry performance rooted in traditional folklore. Follow the story of a little girl spins yarn in the woods while caring for her goats - and loves to dance. When a magical woods fairy offers to help with her chores, there's just one rule: no grumbling. With gentle humor and a magical twist, this tale explores themes of gratitude, kindness, and the gift of friendship, as the girl learns to balance joy and responsibility.

TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills):

	Music	Theater	Language Arts	Social Studies	The Students Will: • Demonstrate appropriate etiquette during live performances. • Practice listening and speaking. • Practice reading comprehension skills. • Practice ways to deal with negative emotions. • Write/tell stories to express ideas and feelings about real or imagined people, events, and ideas.
K	2, 3, 4	1, 2, 4, 5	1, 6, 8, 11	11, 13, 14	
1	3, 5, 6	1, 2, 4, 5	1, 6, 7, 8, 12	14, 16, 17	
2	3, 5, 6	1, 2, 4, 5	1, 6, 7, 8, 12	12, 14, 15	
3	3, 5, 6	1, 2, 4, 5	1, 6, 7, 8, 12	10, 12, 14, 15	
4	3, 5, 6	1, 2, 4, 5	1, 6, 7, 8, 12	17, 19, 20	
5	3, 5, 6	1, 2, 4, 5	1, 6, 7, 8, 12	20, 21, 22, 23	
MS	4, 5	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, 5, 6
Writing skills in Grade 4

Academic Vocabulary:

Czech	Person from the Czech Republic or (formerly) Czechoslovakia, or a person of Czech descent.
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Gratitude	A feeling or attitude of thankfulness for the good things in one's life.
Friendship	Liking, supporting and caring for another person. Feeling trust, respect, and honesty with them.
Kindness	Being friendly, helpful and generous with others.
Joy	Happiness; pleasure.
Responsibility	A duty one is expected to fulfill.
Puppet	A model of a person or animal that can be moved (to look more realistic) with the hand, strings, or other means.
Marionette	A puppet worked from above with strings attached to its limbs.
Ventriloquism	"Throwing" one's voice. Speaking without moving one's lips in a way that seems to come from a dummy or other source.
Hand and rod puppet	A large hand puppet whose limbs are controlled by rods.

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS:

Before the performance

- What stories do you know from other countries?
- Do you know any Czech stories?

After the performance:

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

Language Arts:

- Find the meaning of one or more of these English words that came from the Czech language and use in a poem, song, rap, skit, or other piece of writing:

Robot
Pistol
Polka

Kolache

- Read more Czech tales and create songs, raps, poems, drawings, dances, skits or other forms around them.

Longshanks, Girth, and Keen

A Folktale from Czechoslovakia
(Summary)

A Prince wants to marry a Princess who is being held captive by an evil Magician. If he can guard her for three nights without falling asleep and letting her escape, the Magician will let her go. His three servants have talents that help him find her. Longshanks can stretch his body into any length and his long legs can carry him miles at a step. Girth can make his body so wide that he can drink an entire body of water. Keen's eyesight is so good, he can find tiny things at far distances. After helping the Prince, the three go away to help others who need their talents.

Math:

(Younger students)

- Learn to count to 10 in Czech.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AyUBswGUXTQ&t=121s>

(Older students)

- Investigate famous Czech mathematicians such as Bernard Bolzano, known for his contributions to mathematical analysis and logic, and Eduard Čech, a topologist.
- Study topology:
<https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=topology+for+kids&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8>
- Study logic: <https://www.mathplayground.com/logic-games.html>

Social Studies:

- Write about, act out, draw, sing about or otherwise express Czech history.
- Create a Czech festival with food, dances, clothes, and other Czech traditions.
Easy Czech dance: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kLmQpENcQ84>

Science:

- Discover Czech inventors and share what you find through dance, song, writing, skits, drawing or other forms. <https://www.expats.cz/czech-news/article/top-10-czech-inventors>

Resources:

Czech history:

https://kids.kiddle.co/Czech_Republic

Czech traditions:

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

Czech Fairy Tales:

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

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/52596/52596-h/52596-h.htm#ch1>

The Twelve Months:

<https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=text+of+a+czech+fairy+tale&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8>

Czech authors of children's books:

<https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=children%27s+books+by+czech.+authors&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8>

English words from Czech:

<https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=english+words+from+czech&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8>

Authors of multi-cultural books:

<https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=authors+of+childrens+multicultural+books&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8>

Patricia Polacco: <https://www.simonandschuster.com/authors/Patricia-Polacco/707080>

Gerald McDermott: <https://us.macmillan.com/author/geraldmcdermott>

Tomie dePaulo: <https://www.tomie.com/brief-bio>

Judy Sierra: *Nursery Tales Around the World*

Latin American Children's Books:

<https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=authors+off+latin+american+children%27s+books&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8>

Puppetry:

<https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=puppetry&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8>

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Throughout her career as a librarian in both public libraries and elementary schools, Joanne Schoeder discovered the powerful role puppetry could play in inspiring children to read. By combining storytelling with performance, she brought books to life in a way that captured young imaginations and encouraged literacy through play. As an active member of the Greater Houston Puppetry Guild, Joanne has continued to refine her craft, using the art of puppetry to create engaging and educational performances. Her shows draw from beloved children's books, classic tales, and familiar songs, featuring a lively cast of marionettes, ventriloquist dummies, and hand and rod puppets. She is also the author of *Fun Puppet Skits for Schools and Libraries*, a resource that helps educators and librarians use puppetry to spark creativity and joy in young audiences.