Shakespeare for Kids: Macbeth

Relaxed Performance
Pre-Visit Stories
Team Shakespeare

Team Shakespeare is a group of people who love the plays that were created by the writer William Shakespeare.

Arrianna, Dane, and Brandon are part of Team Shakespeare.

Special Delivery MJ is a mail carrier who delivers the mail every day and joins team Shakespeare in telling the story of Macbeth.
super secret assignment

Team Shakespeare has a super secret assignment.

A super secret assignment is something that Team Shakespeare needs to do during the play.

The team's super secret assignment is to act out the play *Macbeth*.
Macbeth

*Macbeth* is a play written by a famous man named William Shakespeare. The play is about being jealous of people, wanting what others have, and how being mean doesn't get you what you want.

The actors Dane, Arrianna, and Brandon act out the play by using different props and puppets, with the help of MJ.
Plays that can be sad are called tragedies. Tragedies are important because they tell us something about what it means to be alive even though sometimes bad things happen to characters in the play. These things are pretend and aren't really happening to the actors on stage.

Plays that are funny are called comedies. We can laugh at jokes and silliness even though sometimes bad things happen to characters in the play.
A king is a leader of people.

In the play, Duncan is the king but Macbeth wants to be king.
A superstition is when someone believes certain phrases or actions can cause bad luck. In the play, saying “Macbeth” in the theatre is a superstition, and Team Shakespeare thinks it might bring bad luck.
During the play the actors will use props.

Props are something that actors hold or wear on their bodies. A hat can by used as a prop. Sometimes props look like a real object, but they are fake like the swords you will see during the play *Macbeth*.

Props help explain the scene that is being acted out.
Team Shakespeare puts on different costumes to play different people in the play *Macbeth*.

Costumes are how we can tell the characters apart.
During the play the actors will play musical instruments and sing.

The musical instruments in the play that I will hear are the drums and the guitar.

If the music is loud, I can cover my ears.
During the play the actors will put puppets on their hands and make the puppets talk and act. This is called being a puppeteer.

When a puppet is placed on the actors hand, he or she is pretending to be a different character.
Team Shakespeare takes a few breaks from acting and teaches everyone a sing-along song.

A sing-along song is a song that both the actors and the audience member all sing together as a group throughout the show. If I do not want to participate, I do not have to. I can just watch others.
Super secret Shakespearean word of the day

Brandon asks for a volunteer to pick the super Shakespearean word of the day.

Whenever the word that is picked is said during the play, you can wiggle and make noise.
audience participation

During the play the actors will teach the audience members different songs and dances. The audience will be asked to join the actors in performing the songs and dances that they have learned.

The actors will also walk around the audience and ask people sitting in the chairs to join them on stage for part of the play. If I do not want to participate, I do not have to. I can just watch others.
The actors use props as weapons during the play and sometimes argue or fight with each other. They are not real and the actors are pretending to fight.
The three witches can see the future and tell Macbeth that he will be king. They speak in riddles which means that their messages are hard to understand.

The ghost of Banquo visits Macbeth but only Macbeth can see him. Dane plays the ghost of Banquo by putting on a costume.
Showbot enters to help Team Shakespeare do the Shakespearean Hokey Pokey, which is a fun dance.

Dane, MJ, and Brandon lead the dance with the audience. If I do not want to participate, I do not have to. I can just watch others.
Showbot

Showbot is a robot that helps Team Shakespeare put on their play.

Showbot is an actor wearing a costume and a mask who helps Team Shakespeare lead the Shakespearean Hokey Pokey.
Brandon apologizes to Arrianna for not including all of Team Shakespeare in the story of *Macbeth*.

Arrianna forgives Brandon and they all continue telling the story together as a team.
Credits

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