

Core Skills Analysis

Literature and Drama

- Gained an understanding of narrative structure by experiencing a live storytelling performance through a well-known musical's plot.
- Observed character development and emotional expression conveyed through acting, music, and stagecraft, enhancing empathy and interpretative skills.
- Recognized the integration of different art forms (music, dialogue, set design) to create a cohesive dramatic experience.
- Developed an awareness of historical and social themes reflected in the story's setting and characters.

Music and Performing Arts

- Experienced how music supports storytelling by conveying mood, theme, and emotion in a theatrical production.
- Noted the role of vocal performance and orchestration in enhancing the impact of scenes.
- Appreciated the complexity of live performance, including timing, coordination, and the skill of performers on stage.
- Understood the importance of audience engagement and how live theatre creates a shared experience.

Tips

To further develop understanding of literature and performing arts, parents or educators can encourage discussions about the plot, characters, and themes immediately after the show, helping the child to articulate their impressions. Exploring the original novel, excerpts of the script, or related historical context can deepen comprehension. To engage creatively, children could write a diary entry or letter from the perspective of a character, or attempt a short scene reenactment at home. Additionally, exploring behind-the-scenes aspects such as set design, costume, or makeup can provide insight into the production process and foster artistic appreciation.

Book Recommendations

- [Les Misérables \(Adapted for Children\)](#) by Kathleen Olmstead: A simplified version of Victor Hugo's classic novel, presenting the story of Les Misérables in a way accessible to younger readers while retaining the emotional depth.
- [The Musical Theatre Survival Guide](#) by Dale Brown: Provides insights into musical theatre, explaining how productions are created and what audiences can look for to appreciate performances.
- [The Art of Theatre: A Director's Guide and Glossary](#) by William Missouri Downs: An engaging introduction for young readers to the terminology and creative components that go into making a theatrical production.

Learning Standards

- ACELA1476 – Understanding narrative structures and character development through literary texts.
- ACAMUM087 – Appreciating and interpreting music in live performances.
- ACADRM039 – Recognising the use of dramatic elements to create meaning in theatre.

Try This Next

- Worksheet: Create a character map for Jean Valjean or Cosette that explores their traits, motivations, and changes throughout the story.

- Writing Prompt: Compose a short journal entry from the perspective of a theatre audience member describing their favorite scene and why it impacted them.