THE LITTLE MERMAID

Music by Alan Menken
Lyrics by Howard Ashman & Glenn Slater
Book by Doug Wright


Originally Produced by Disney Theatrical Productions

DISNEY'S THE LITTLE MERMAID is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.MTIShows.com

May 7th-19th, 2019
Charles A. Brown Historic Ice House • Bethlehem

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Dear Teachers,

The following resource guide is designed for you and your students to facilitate the integration of the performing arts into core curriculum areas. The activities in this guide support the PA State Educational Standards in several areas, develop critical and creative thinking and enrich the live theatre experience for your students.

Pennsylvania Youth Theatre is proud to present *The Little Mermaid* performed at the Ice House on Bethlehem’s Sand Island.

Thank you and enjoy the show!

Jill Dunn Jones
Artistic Director

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**CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS**

Pennsylvania State Learning Standards: *The Little Mermaid, the Musical* Resource Guide covers the following areas:

- Academic Standards for Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening:
  - 1.1 Learning to Read Independently
  - 1.2 Reading Critically in All Content Areas
  - 1.3 Reading, Analyzing and Interpreting Literature
  - 1.4 Types of Writing
  - 1.5 Quality of Writing
  - 1.6 Speaking and Listening
  - 1.7 Characteristics and Function of the English Language
  - 1.8 Research
- Academic Standards for Arts and Humanities
  - 9.1 Production, Performance and Exhibition of Dance, Music, Theatre, and Visual Arts
  - 9.2 Historical and Cultural Contexts
  - 9.3 Critical Response
  - 9.4 Aesthetic Response
- Academic Standards for History
  - 8.1 Historical Analysis and Skills Development
  - 8.2 Pennsylvania History
  - 8.3 United States History
  - 8.4 World History
- Academic Standards for Civics and Government
  - 5.1 Principles and Documents of Government
  - 5.2 Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship
  - 5.3 How Government Works
  - 5.4 How International Relationships Function

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**ABOUT PYT**

Pennsylvania Youth Theatre (PYT) is a professional, non-profit performing arts organization whose mission is to educate, entertain, and enrich the lives of young people through the art of theatre. By bringing literature to life with theatre, PYT enhances the Language Arts curriculum for 12,000 community school students annually. Founded with the belief that children deserve the very best, PYT’s Mainstage literature-based plays are professionally produced. Professional directors, choreographers, actors, dancers and musicians as well as lighting costume and set designers are hired to achieve the best possible presentation of children’s plays. To keep our Mainstage productions available to all, we continue to offer these professionally staged shows to school groups for approximately $.50 a ticket which is 57% below our break-even cost. PYT is happy to offer plays of this quality to the school children of our community for this reduced cost. We hope you and your class enjoy this performance!

123pyt.org
Our story begins as Prince Eric tirelessly searches the seas for the source of an enchanting voice, despite the protests of his guardian, Grimsby ("Fathoms Below"). Far beneath them, the crab Sebastian has prepared a concert for the merfolk to mark the singing debut of Ariel, King Triton’s youngest child ("Daughters of Triton").

However, the mischievous Ariel is nowhere to be found. Ariel has been spying on humans with her fish friend Flounder ("The World Above") and listening to her seagull friend Scuttle lecture about the objects she’s found ("Human Stuff"). In a deep, dark corner of the ocean, the sea witch Ursula and her lackey eels, Flotsam and Jetsam, bemoan their exile and plot to regain power from Triton using Ariel as bait ("I Want the Good Times Back").

After Triton criticizes her for going up to the surface, Ariel retreats to her grotto where she stores her beloved collection of human objects ("Part of Your World"). Ariel swims to the surface to see the ship and admire Prince Eric on deck. When thunder rips through the sky and lightning strikes the ship ("Storm at Sea"), Eric falls overboard and begins to drown. Ariel saves the unconscious prince and brings him to shore ("Part of Your World" Reprise).

Back in Triton’s court, Ariel’s sisters have noticed her preoccupation and grill Flounder for the scoop ("She’s in Love"). On shore, Eric scans the waters for his savior ("Her Voice"). Thus Grimsby suggests a contest to find the owner of the mysterious voice. King Triton, furious about Ariel’s contact with a human, destroys all the precious objects in her grotto ("The World Above" Reprise). Feeling sorry for his new charge, Sebastian tries to cheer up Ariel with the wonders of the ocean ("Under the Sea").

Unconvinced, Ariel leaves home and is greeted by Flotsam and Jetsam ("Sweet Child"), who escort her to the sea witch’s lair. Ursula opens up her octopus tentacles – and her dark powers – granting Ariel’s wish to be human, but at a high price: in exchange for her voice, Ariel has three days in human form to get Prince Eric to kiss her ("Poor Unfortunate Souls").

Discouraged without a voice or the ability to control her new legs, Ariel is quickly “reorientated” by Scuttle and the rest of the seagulls ("Positovivity"). While out for some exercise, Eric stumbles upon the helpless Ariel and carries her back to the palace. Overwhelmed by the splendor around her – and the proximity to the object of her affection – Ariel finds a melody for her thoughts ("Beyond My Wildest Dreams").

Preparing a seafood spread in the kitchen, Chef Louis discovers Sebastian, a crustaceous intruder ("Les Poissons"). Ariel entertains Eric and Grimsby with her naive antics then joins the mêlée as Louis and his coterie of chefs chase Sebastian around the dining room ("Les Poissons" Reprise). While walking her to her room, Eric teaches Ariel to communicate without words - through the language of dance ("One Step Closer"). Ursula sends her eels to interfere with Ariel’s rapid progress after only one day ("I Want the Good Times Back" Reprise).

Late in the second day, Eric takes Ariel for a boat ride on the lagoon, where Sebastian leads the animals in a romantic serenade ("Kiss the Girl"). Flotsam and Jetsam spoil the mood by sending a jolt of electricity through the boat, blocking the near kiss ("Sweet Child" Reprise). Later, Sebastian laments the poor girl’s situation, and Triton worries about his missing daughter ("If Only" Quartet). With their options running out, Sebastian and Flounder return to Triton’s court and reluctantly tell the king the king of Ariel’s circumstances.

On the third day, Grimsby gathers princesses from across the land to sing for Prince Eric, but none possess the enchanting voice ("The Contest"). With the sun setting, Ariel desperately steps forward and… “dances” for Eric, who is smitten. But before they can kiss, Ursula storms the palace and takes Ariel back to the depths of the sea as a mermaid. When Triton appears and demands Ariel’s release, Ursula forces him to trade his power for his daughter’s life ("Poor Unfortunate Souls" Reprise). Ariel ultimately overcomes and destroys Ursula. Finally witnessing Ariel’s determination and Eric’s good nature, Triton uses his power to make her permanently human to be with Prince Eric ("If Only" Reprise). Triton unites the mer-world and the human world together for one day to celebrate Ariel and Eric’s happy marriage.
BEFORE THE SHOW: PAGE TO STAGE

Alan Menken's music and lyrics have become an integral part of the fabric of our lives since his first works were produced nearly 40 years ago. His stage musicals include God Bless You Mr. Rosewater, Atina: Evil Queen of the Galaxy, Real Life Funnies, Little Shop of Horrors, Kicks, The Dream on Royal Street, Beauty and The Beast, A Christmas Carol, Weird Romance, King David, The Little Mermaid, Sister Act, Leap of Faith, Newsies, Aladdin, The Hunchback of Notre Dame and The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz. Song and score credits for film musicals include The Little Mermaid, Beauty and The Beast, Newsies, Aladdin, Pocahontas, The Hunchback of Notre Dame, Hercules, The Shaggy Dog, Home on the Range, Enchanted, Tangled and Mirror Mirror. Individual songs for film include Rocky V - “The Measure of a Man”, Home Alone 2: Lost in New York – “My Christmas Tree”, Life With Mikey – “Cold Enough to Snow”, Noel – “Winter Light” and Captain America: First Avenger – “Star Spangled Man”. Television credits include writing songs for Sesame Street, the ABC miniseries Lincoln, a musical episode of The Neighbors and the ABC series Galavant. His chart topping songs have included “Beauty and the Beast”, “A Whole New World”, “Colors of the Wind” and “Go the Distance”. Winner of the 2012 Tony and Drama Desk awards for his score for Newsies, he has won more Academy Awards than any other living individual, including eight Oscars for Best Picture and 4 for Best Song; 11 Grammy Awards (including Song of the Year for “A Whole New World”); 7 Golden Globes; London's Evening Standard Award; the Olivier Award; the Outer Critics Circle Award and the Drama Desk Award. Other notable achievements include induction into the Songwriters Hall of Fame, Billboard's number one single (“A Whole New World”) and number one album (Pocahontas). In 2001 he received the distinction of being named a Disney Legend. Awarded two doctorates in Fine Arts from New York University and the North Carolina School of the Arts. In 2010 he received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Howard Ashman (Lyrics) Best known as a pivotal creative mind behind the renaissance of Disney animation and his work on The Little Mermaid, Aladdin and Beauty and The Beast (which is dedicated to, "Our friend, Howard Ashman, who gave a Mermaid her voice and a Beast his soul...") Ashman's first love was theater. Ashman was a founder of off off Broadway's renowned WPA Theater, where he conceived, wrote and directed God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater, as well as the classic musical, Little Shop of Horrors (both music by Alan Menken). In 1986, he wrote and directed the Broadway musical Smile (music by Marvin Hamlisch). Lamented as a lost treasure of the 1980's theater scene, Smile remains popular on High School and College campuses throughout the country. Howard Ashman died in 1991 at the age of 40.

Glenn Slater (Lyrics) co-created Disney's 2010 worldwide smash Tangled (2011 Grammy Winner, 2010 Oscar and Golden Globe nominee), as well as the Broadway and international hit musicals Sister Act (2011 Tony nominee - Best Score) and The Little Mermaid (2008 Tony nominee - Best Score, Grammy nominee - Best Cast Album), and, most recently School of Rock (2015). With longtime collaborator Alan Menken, he is Executive Producer and Lyricist for the ABC-TV musical comedy series Galavant, and has also written songs for the Disney animated film Home On The Range (2004) and the Broadway musical Leap of Faith (Tony nominee - Best Musical, 2012). In the West End, Glenn provided both book and lyrics for Andrew Lloyd Webber's Love Never Dies (2010 Olivier nominee - Best Musical), the sequel to Phantom of the Opera. Other work includes an Emmy-nominated song for the ABC-TV comedy The Neighbors (2013), and the stage revue New Yorkers at The Manhattan Theatre Club (Lucille Lortel, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle nominations). Glenn is the recipient of the prestigious Kleban Award for Lyrics, the ASCAP/Richard Rogers New Horizons Award, and the Jonathan Larson Award. He is an alumnus of the BMI Musical Theatre Workshop, and a member of both ASCAP and the Dramatists' Guild.

Doug Wright, (Book) attended and graduated from Highland Park High School, in a suburb of Dallas, Texas, where he excelled in the theater department and was President of the Thespian Club in 1981. He earned his bachelor's degree from Yale University in 1985 and earned his Master of Fine Arts from New York University. He is a member of the Dramatists Guild and serves on the boards of Yaddo and New York Theatre Workshop. He is a recipient of the William L. Bradley Fellowship at Yale University, the Charles MacArthur Fellowship at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, an HBO Fellowship in playwriting and the Alfred Hodder Fellowship at Princeton University. Doug's work includes: Interrogating the Nude (1988), Quills (1995), Unwrap Your Candy (2001), I Am My Own Wife (2003), Grey Gardens (book) (2006), The Little Mermaid (book) (2007), The Pavilion (2009). He has been award: the GLAAD Media Award, an Outer Critics Circle Award, a Drama League Award and a Lucille Lortel Award for I Am My Own Wife. His screen adaptation of Quills was named Best Picture by the National Board of Review and nominated for three Academy Awards. Doug was cited by the American Academy of Arts and Letters and awarded the Tolerance Prize from the Kulturforum Europa. Currently, he serves on the board of the New York Theatre Workshop and serves as Secretary on the Dramatists Guild Council.
The Little Mermaid is a fairy tale of Danish origin and was originally conceived by writer Hans Christian Andersen, who was best known for his riveting fairy tales. Andersen lived from 1805 to 1875. He published The Little Mermaid in 1837 as a part of a larger collection titled Fairy Tales Told for Children. The story would be reprinted in two other fairy tale collections between 1850 and 1862. Andersen's story The Little Mermaid begins under the sea. The Little Mermaid lives with her family in her father's kingdom. She has five older sisters and a grandmother. Each of her sisters were born one year apart. One of the first things the reader learns is that strict rules are imposed upon the mermaid princesses: they are not allowed to go to the ocean's surface until they turn fifteen.

Year after year, each sister swims to the surface to see the world above, and each year, the Little Mermaid listens to her sisters' stories about humans and the world on land. She longs to go to the surface and see the people.

At last, the Little Mermaid turns fifteen. When she swims to the surface, she watches a prince celebrate his own birthday. He is handsome, and without a second thought, the young mermaid falls in love with him. A storm hits his ship and she rescues him. The Little Mermaid takes him to shore, to a nearby temple. A woman and her servants find him before the prince wakes up, so he doesn't know it was the mermaid who saved him from drowning.

**PYT Quicktivity: Have you ever felt like a fish out of water?**

Although The Little Mermaid takes place in a magical undersea world, the story is grounded in real-life feelings and desires. It is a story about yearning: that feeling you get deep inside when you want something that's just out of reach. Ariel breaks away from her community and her family to follow her dreams. Everyone in her life – from her family to her friends – expects her to conform to a certain behavior. However, Ariel has to follow her heart. Prince Eric has a similar problem: he is expected to “settle down” and accept the responsibilities of the throne, but all he wants is a life of adventure at sea. Both Ariel and Prince Eric are outsiders, “fish out of water,” because their dreams go against their what is believed to be “normal” in their societies.

Whether learning new things or meeting new people, students have many opportunities to challenge themselves every day. By watching Ariel fearlessly follow her dreams, young people may be inspired to pursue their own.

Have students write about something they desire deep inside that seems just out of reach. Make sure they explain in detail their emotions & the obstacles that they feel are standing in the way of reaching their desires.
Ariel: A mermaid on the verge of maturity: innocent, headstrong, spirited and overflowing owing with feelings that are fathoms deep. She dares to dream about being in a different world, the world on land above the sea.

King Triton: The son of Poseidon, King of the Undersea World, and father to Ariel and her sisters. Triton has a profound belief that the Human World is dangerous and should be shunned.

Prince Eric: Beneath his easy charm, handsome face and instinctive courage, Prince Eric is a reluctant ruler who’d happily trade his crown for a life of adventure on the sea.

Grimsby: Prince Eric’s somewhat stuffy guardian. Without Grimsby’s advice, Eric would be lost.

Sebastian: The court composer to King Triton, this crab becomes Ariel’s unwilling protector.

Flounder: This fish is a faithful friend to Ariel. What Flounder lacks in courage, he makes up for in enthusiasm.

Scuttle: A seagull who fancies himself the ocean’s greatest living expert on humans and their “stuff.” Scuttle provides Ariel the latest information on the fascinating land-dwellers.

Flotsam and Jetsam: Ursula’s lackeys, these two electric eels are slippery and cruel.

Ursula: Sorceress of the Sea, Ursula is Triton’s sister. Banished forever for dabbling with “black magic,” she plots to claim the throne of the Undersea World for herself.

Aquata, Andrina, Arista, Atina, Adella, Allana: Ariel’s older sisters who sing at the celebrations their father King Triton throws for the undersea kingdom.

Chef Louis: The Royal Chef, whose specialty, and great love, is seafood.

Carlotta: Headmistress of the palace.
Humans have always been in awe of the sea. We have always needed the sea – for navigation, trade and food – but we have always feared it. Traveling on the ocean is quite safe today, but in ancient times, a sudden storm or lack of wind could mean a death sentence. Because the sea was so vast yet so necessary, many myths and legends sprung up around its watery mysteries. From the ancient Biblical story of Jonah and the whale to the legends of the Bermuda Triangle, from stories such as 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea to movies such as “Jaws,” the sea continues to flood our imaginations with hope and fear.

Below find information about the different myths of the sea you’ll encounter in the Little Mermaid:

TRITON

Triton was a Greek god of the sea. The son of Poseidon and Amphitrite, god and goddess of the ocean, Triton was usually shown with a powerful upper body of a human and the tail of a fish. Triton’s weapon of choice was his trident, a three-pronged spear. The sound of his twisted conch shell could calm the waves or raise mighty storms.

MERMAIDS

Throughout history, sailors have spoken of mysterious creatures – with the head and torso of a human and the tail of a fish – who live in beautiful cities beneath the waves. Famous explorers like Christopher Columbus and Henry Hudson wrote about encounters with mermaids in their logs. Hudson wrote, “One of our company, looking overboard, saw a mermaid...her body as big as one of us; her skin very white and black hair hanging down behind...they saw her tail, like the tail of a porpoise...” (from The New York Times, November 4, 1888).

Mermaids were known for their great beauty and their love of song. Sailors told of mermaids sunning themselves on rocks, while ships passing by would hear their sweet-sounding melodies. Their songs could make men fall in love, or drive them mad. Over the centuries, many countries and cultures have created their own mermaid myths:

* **Mami Wata**, an African water spirit often shown as a mermaid, can bring good luck, or if crossed, may cause fatal drowning!

* The Aboriginal people of Australia told tales of the **Yawkyawks**, mermaids who would grow legs and walk among humans at night.

* The Native American Shawnee people believed that a half-man, half-fish with two tails had led their ancestors across the water from Asia to North America.

* Irish mermaids, called **merrows**, were able to live underwater by wearing magical caps.
There have been many different beliefs about mermaids around the world. In Ireland, some people used to think that on St Patrick’s Day old women were turned into mermaids and thrown into the sea. Another idea was that if humans and mermaids had children together, their children would find it hard to sleep at night and were haunted by the sound of the sea. It was widely believed that if you looked at a mermaid you would have bad luck. If however you managed to get something that belonged to a mermaid then you would share their magic powers. These are some of the names that have been given to mermaids throughout the centuries from stories and films in different parts of the world. Using the map below, pair each mermaid with her homeland. How long would it take you to travel to each of the Mermaid’s homelands?

There have always been tales of Mermaids. Long ago Mermaids were known as Morgans, people thought they were dangerous & lived in castles under the sea. Hans Christian Andersen, was one of the first writers to change this image of mermaids when he wrote the book, 'The Little Mermaid'.

Today many believe that what sailors saw were not mermaids but manatees, huge marine mammals also known as sea cows. While it may seem strange to imagine these creatures mistaken for beautiful women with the tails of fish, put yourself in a sailor’s shoes. At sea for months, or years, sailors who were hungry, thirsty, and certainly lonely were ripe for fantastic stories of ladies of the ocean and water spirits. Suddenly looking out at the ocean, they may see a head peak out of the water with soulful eyes and a body with a huge tail. Perhaps the creature’s head is covered with seaweed, resembling long hair. Under these circumstances, it’s understandable that the myth of the mermaid was born. Manatee NOAA’s Estuarine Research Reserve Collection Location: Jobos Bay, Puerto Rico

SEA MONSTERS

In The Little Mermaid, Ursula is a monster octopus and threatens Prince Eric’s ship. For ancient sailors, the sea could be a deadly place. Myths of horrific sea monsters were formed to explain ship wrecks and disappearances.

Scylla and Charybdis – As described in Homer’s epic poem, The Odyssey, these two monsters would haunt the Strait of Messina leading into Sicily, Italy. Scylla was a six-headed man-eating monster. Charybdis was a huge whirlpool that could swallow a ship whole. Sailors had a hard time navigating between these two sea monsters.

The Kraken – the horrible squid-like creature that hunted Captain Jack Sparrow in the Pirates of the Caribbean movies originated from an old sea legend of a huge tentacled monster that would rise out of the sea to bring ships down to the deep.

The Sirens – In The Little Mermaid, Prince Eric is enchanted by Ariel’s beautiful singing voice, but in Greek mythology, the Sirens – half-birds, halfwomen – would use their seductive songs to distract sailors, causing them to run their ships against jagged rocks.
PYT QUICKTIVITIES

This activity can be done BOTH before and after the show. If you are able to, find a copy of the book or film to show your students before PYT’s production. Compare and contrast those to each other, then to the play you will see at the Ice House!

The ROLE ON THE WALL outline is drawn on a piece of chart paper around an important character. Information and feelings about the character are written into the shape. It can also be enriched by being written from different perspectives, for example, the space outside the outline can contain comments about the character as they are seen from an observer’s viewpoint and the interior space can contain the characters own thoughts and point of view. This is useful for building a deeper understanding of a character and the play. Use this outline below to record information about each character. This can be done with both older and younger students. With older students, you can assign a different character to groups and they can collaborate and share their work with the class.

ARIEL, PRINCE ERIC, KING TRITON, URSULA, ETC: How does he/she see him/herself? (Record these traits on the inside of the Role on the Wall.) How do other people view him/her? (Record these descriptions on the outside of the character.

You may do this activity before the show, based on your students prior knowledge, then compare and add to after the show. Hand out the outline below and have your students begin the process.
WRITE A REVIEW

After the show, write a review and send it to PYT!

I liked *The Little Mermaid* because:
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________

My favorite part was:
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________

The scene I remember most was:
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________

The character I liked best was because:
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________

The character I did not like was because:
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________

Overall, I think *The Little Mermaid* was:
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________

DRAW A REVIEW! We love seeing your creations!

Teachers, you can mail these reviews to: PYT 25 W 3rd St, Bethlehem, PA 18015
ATTENTION TEACHERS

When you check in at the Ice House on Sand Island, you will be given a packet with a Performance Evaluation Form. Your feedback is very important to us, and we hope that you will take a few minutes to complete the form and return it to the PYT office. Thank you for bringing your students to this PYT production!

PYT’s SUMMSTAGE

2019

THEATRE ETIQUETTE

The audience is a very important part of any live theatre performance. Without the audience, there would be no one to laugh when the show is funny, to gasp when it is scary or to applaud in the end.

- Enter the theatre quietly. Listen to the directions from the ushers and sit where they direct you.
- There is no intermission, so you may want to use the bathroom before the show begins.
- You will help others enjoy the show when you keep your feet on the floor and your hands to yourself.
- Save your comments or questions for later in class. Do no talk during the show.
- Food and drinks are NOT allowed in the theatre. Enjoy your snacks, gum or candy after the show.
- A live play is different than a movie or a football game. Talking to the actors is not appropriate and can be distracting.
- Please turn off your cell phones, and no texting during the show.
- No photographs or video taping, please. This is for the actor’s safety.
- Show your appreciation by applauding at the end of the show.
- When the show is over, our ushers will give you directions to leave the theatre in an orderly manner.
- Enjoy the show! We’re glad you came to a production by Pennsylvania Youth Theatre!

Thank you for bringing your students to this PYT production!