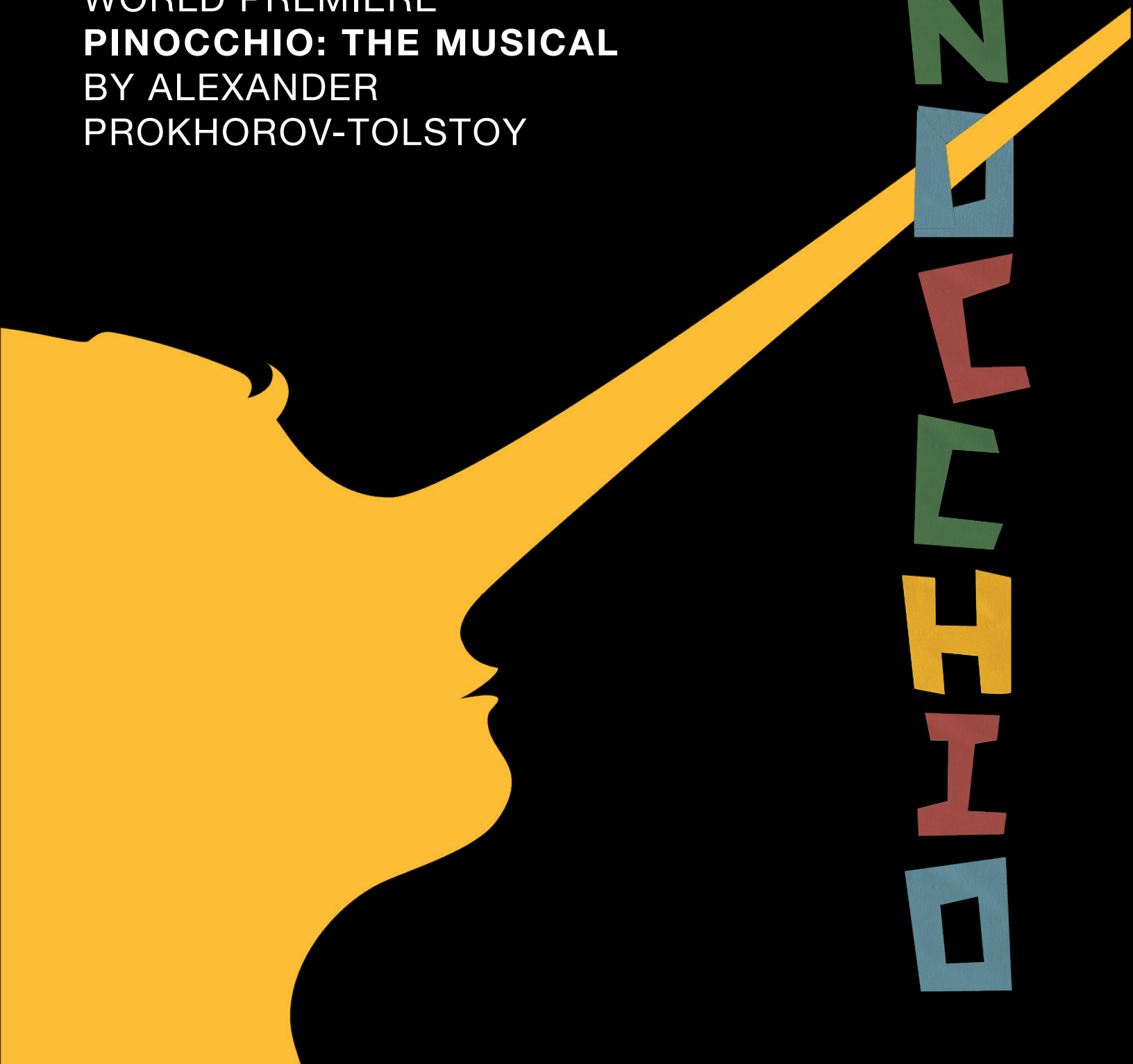


# SCHOOL STUDY GUIDE

WORLD PREMIERE  
**PINOCCHIO: THE MUSICAL**  
BY ALEXANDER  
PROKHOROV-TOLSTOY

P  
I  
N  
O  
C  
C  
H  
I  
O



# STUDY GUIDE TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

Cover Page .....	1
Table of Contents .....	2
About Commonwealth Lyric Theater & Our Composer .....	3
Plot Synopsis .....	4
Characters .....	5
<b>K-2nd Grade Study Guide</b>	
Pre/Post Show Class Discussion Questions .....	6
Pre Show Activity .....	7
Post Show Activities .....	8
Pinocchio Coloring Page .....	9
Geppetto Coloring Page .....	10
Good Fairy Coloring Page .....	11
Evil Fairy Coloring Page .....	12
Carrabas Coloring Page .....	13
Cat Coloring Page .....	14
Fox Coloring Page .....	15
Good Fairy's Choice Sheet .....	16
<b>3rd-5th Grade Study Guide</b>	
Pre/Post Show Class Discussion Questions .....	17
Pre Show Activity .....	18
Post Show Activity 1 .....	19
Post Show Activity 1 Continued .....	20
Post Show Activities 2 & 3 .....	21
Draw a Character Sheet .....	22
<b>6th-8th Grade Study Guide</b>	
Pre/Post Show Class Discussion Questions .....	23
Pre Show Activity .....	24
Post Show Activity 1 .....	25
Post Show Activity 1 Continued .....	26
Post Show Activities 2 & 3 .....	27
Drawing The Theme Sheet .....	28

WORLD PREMIERE

# PINOCCHIO

THE MUSICAL

## ABOUT COMMONWEALTH LYRIC THEATER

---

Commonwealth Lyric Theater (CLT) is a Boston-based, nonprofit performing arts organization dedicated to nurturing young artists and bringing high-quality musical and theatrical productions to diverse audiences. Founded with a strong educational mission, CLT places a special emphasis on mentorship, artistic integrity, and cultural storytelling. Over the years, Commonwealth Lyric Theater has become known for producing ambitious works that blend professional-level performance with meaningful opportunities for emerging performers. The organization frequently works with students and young artists, offering them hands-on experience alongside seasoned professionals in a supportive, educational environment.

CLT's productions are rooted in the belief that the performing arts are a powerful tool for education. Through music, storytelling, and live theater, the organization seeks to foster creativity, emotional awareness, critical thinking, and a lifelong appreciation for the arts.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Commonwealth Lyric Theater is committed to making theater accessible, inspiring, and relevant for everybody especially, young audiences experiencing live performance for the first time.

## ABOUT THE COMPOSER & CREATOR

### ALEXANDER PROKHOROV-TOLSTOY

FOUNDER & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF  
COMMONWEALTH LYRIC THEATER

---

Alexander Prokhorov-Tolstoy is the composer and stage director of Pinocchio: The Musical and the founder and artistic director of Commonwealth Lyric Theater. He is a multifaceted musician and theater artist, working as a composer, conductor, pianist, vocal instructor, and stage director.

Alexander was raised in a family deeply connected to literature, music, and the arts. His great-grandfather, Alexey N. Tolstoy, was a renowned Eastern European writer whose adaptation of the Pinocchio story (The Golden Key, or the Adventures of Buratino) became a beloved classic for generations of children. This literary legacy plays an important role in Alexander's artistic connection to Pinocchio and informs the musical's themes of identity, morality, and transformation.

Educated in both Europe and the United States, Alexander studied piano performance at the Moscow State Tchaikovsky Conservatory Academic Music College, choral conducting at Moscow State Pedagogical University, and opera performance at institutions including the Longy School of Music and the Boston University Opera Institute. His work has been recognized by organizations such as the National Opera Association and praised by major publications for its ambition and artistic depth.

With Pinocchio: The Musical, Alexander honors his family's literary heritage while creating a new, original work designed to speak to modern audiences (especially young people) through music, imagination, and storytelling.

## SYNOPSIS

---

**Pinocchio: The Musical** tells the story of a puppet brought to life and the choices that shape who he becomes. Long ago, Geppetto ran a thriving children’s theater filled with music, imagination, and young performers. His former friend and assistant, Carrabas, stole the theater and, with the help of the Evil Fairy, used dark magic to turn the actors into puppets. They were trapped in puppet strings and forced to perform under Carrabas’s power and control.

Years later, on a rainy night, a mysterious pine log appears, and Geppetto decides to carve it into a puppet. As he works, he remembers a **magical golden key** once given to him by the Good Fairy long ago. When his theater was taken, Geppetto hid the key so it could not be used for harm. When the puppet is finished, two Fairies arrive to shape Pinocchio’s character. The Good Fairy endows him with kindness, passion, and creativity, while the Evil Fairy gives him traits such as lying and impulsiveness. When Pinocchio awakens, he is full of energy and curiosity, but he struggles to think before he acts, and trouble soon follows. The next morning, Geppetto proudly sends Pinocchio off to school, but the music and excitement of a traveling puppet theater pull him off course. In the town square, Geppetto realizes that the theater is the very one Carrabas stole from him. Pinocchio promises his father that he will go to school, but instead sneaks away to the theater. During the show, Pinocchio is drawn onto the stage and disrupts the performance.

Carrabas storms in, interrogates him, and learns about Geppetto and a mysterious hidden door in his home. Suspecting that the missing golden key can unlock wealth and power hidden behind the door, Carrabas releases Pinocchio and sends him back with five gold coins, planning to follow him home and take whatever lies inside.

On his way home, Pinocchio meets the clever Cat and Fox, two tricksters who quickly discover that he has money. They lure him with promises of easy riches and lead him to an imaginary place called Moneyland, where money is said to grow on trees. They convince Pinocchio to plant his coins and wait for them to grow overnight, planning to steal the money while he sleeps. Their deception spirals into chaos, leaving Pinocchio hurt and frightened and forced to face the consequences of trusting the wrong voices and acting without thinking.

Pinocchio is eventually guided back to the Good Fairy, who helps him recover and reminds him that the golden key may still exist. Wanting to fix his mistakes, Pinocchio searches for the key and finds that it was hidden to keep it safe from Carrabas. When Pinocchio returns home, Carrabas, the Cat, and the Fox arrive as well, and everyone races to reach the hidden door first. In the end, the Good Fairy stops the villains and helps Pinocchio open the door. Inside, the theater is restored, the puppets are freed, and music fills the space once again. Geppetto’s theater becomes a place of joy and creativity, and Pinocchio learns that being “real” means making honest, thoughtful choices.

WORLD PREMIERE

# PINOCCHIO

THE MUSICAL

## MEET THE CHARACTERS

---

### ◆ PINOCCHIO

A curious puppet brought to life who must learn how his choices affect himself and others. Throughout the story, Pinocchio struggles with lying and acting impulsively but grows by learning honesty and responsibility.

### ◆ GEPPETTO

A kind and thoughtful craftsman who creates Pinocchio and believes in the power of music, imagination, and storytelling. He once ran a joyful children's theater and hopes to restore it through creativity and love.

### ◆ GOOD FAIRY

A magical guide who encourages kindness, creativity, and positive growth. The Good Fairy helps Pinocchio understand right from wrong and supports him in making better choices.

### ◆ EVIL FAIRY

A dark influence who encourages lying, impulsiveness, and poor judgment. The Evil Fairy represents the negative traits Pinocchio must learn to overcome.

### ◆ CARRABAS

A controlling puppet master who stole Geppetto's theater and turned actors into puppets to gain power. Carrabas believes art should be used to control others rather than inspire them.

### ◆ CAT

A clever trickster who pretends to be helpful while secretly planning to steal Pinocchio's money. Cat uses charm and deception to take advantage of others.

### ◆ FOX

Cat's sneaky partner, who helps trick Pinocchio with false promises of easy riches. Fox encourages Pinocchio to make impulsive choices that lead him into trouble.

# PINOCCHIO: THE MUSICAL

## K-2 STUDY GUIDE

---

### PRE-SHOW DISCUSSION

(Ask the class 3-4 of these questions)

- ? Who is Pinocchio, and what do you think he might learn in the story?
- ? What is a good choice? Can you give an example?
- ? What should we do if we are not sure what the right choice is?
- ? What are some rules we follow when we watch a live show?

### POST-SHOW DISCUSSION

(Ask the class 5-7 of these questions)

- ? What was one good choice Pinocchio made in the story?
- ? What was one bad choice Pinocchio made?
- ? How did Pinocchio feel when he made a bad choice?
- ? Who helped Pinocchio make better choices?
- ? What happened when Pinocchio told a lie?
- ? What lesson did Pinocchio learn at the end of the story?
- ? What can we do if we make a mistake like Pinocchio?

# PINOCCHIO: THE MUSICAL

## K-2 PRE-SHOW ACTIVITY

---

### PINOCCHIO SAYS!

A Theater Etiquette Game

#### TEACHER SCRIPT (READ ALOUD)

“Before the show starts, we’re going to practice being a great audience. We’ll play a quick game called Pinocchio Says. If I say ‘Pinocchio says,’ you do what Pinocchio says. If I don’t say Pinocchio Says, you freeze like a statue. Ready?”

#### REAL DIRECTIONS:

- “Pinocchio says, make binoculars with your hands and look at the stage.”
- “Pinocchio says, put one finger on your lips for to show that we are being quiet.”
- “Pinocchio says, put your hands around your ears to show how you listen carefully.”
- “Pinocchio says, clap quietly with just your fingertips.”
- “Pinocchio says, clap loud to show to say thank you to the actors.”
- “Pinocchio says, put your hands on your lap and sit tall.”
- “Pinocchio says, freeze like you’re a puppet.”

#### TRICK DIRECTIONS (NO "PINOCCHIO SAYS"):

- “Wave your hands.”
- “Stand up and stretch.”
- “Jump up and down.”
- “Talk to your neighbor.”

(Praise students who freeze.)

#### WRAP-UP LINE (READ ALOUD)

“Great job. Now, your hands, eyes, and ears are ready for the show.”

# PINOCCHIO: THE MUSICAL

## K-2 POST-SHOW ACTIVITIES

---



(Choose 1-3 activities based on time and classroom needs)

### 1. PINOCCHIO'S CHOICES

Reflect on the story by sorting actions.

**How it works:** Teacher reads actions. Students signal with Thumbs Up (Good Choice) or Thumbs Down (Bad Choice).

**Student Signals:**

 **Thumbs up = Good Choice**      **Thumbs down = Bad Choice**

**Teacher Script:**

“Let’s help Pinocchio decide if the choices he makes are good or bad. If the choice I say is good, put your thumbs up. If the choice is bad, put your thumbs down”

- Pinocchio tells the truth
- Pinocchio goes to school
- Pinocchio fixes his mistake
- Pinocchio sneaks away
- Pinocchio asks for help
- Pinocchio shares with others
- Pinocchio trusts tricksters
- Pinocchio apologizes to his dad
- Pinocchio learns from mistakes
- Pinocchio listens to his dad Geppetto
- Pinocchio thinks before acting
- Pinocchio lies about what he did
- Pinocchio follows Cat and Fox
- Pinocchio ignores good advice
- Pinocchio helps free puppets
- Pinocchio listens to Good Fairy
- Pinocchio stops and thinks
- Pinocchio saves the day

### 2. COLORING IN A CHARACTER

Reflect on the story through creativity. (*Coloring Sheets for each character provided in the following pages*)

**Instructions:** Students choose one character to color in and write their name at the bottom of the page in the small box.

- Pinocchio
- Geppetto
- Good Fairy
- Evil Fairy
- Carrabas
- Fox
- Cat

### 3. GOOD FAIRY CHOICE

Connect the story’s lesson to students’ real lives.

(*Good Fairy Choice Sheet provided in the following pages*)

**Purpose:** Connect story lessons to real life.

**How it works:** Students write and draw one good choice they made this week that the Good Fairy would be proud of (e.g., telling truth, sharing, helping).















WORLD PREMIERE

# PINOCCHIO

THE MUSICAL

MY GOOD CHOICE

Three sets of handwriting practice lines, each consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.

# PINOCCHIO: THE MUSICAL

## GRADES 3–5 STUDY GUIDE

---

### **PRE-SHOW DISCUSSION**

(Ask the class 3–4 of these questions)

- ? Who is Pinocchio, and what kinds of challenges do you think he will face in the story?
- ? What does it mean to act impulsively? How is that different from thinking things through?
- ? Why do people sometimes ignore good advice, even when it's meant to help them?
- ? How can one small choice lead to bigger consequences?
- ? What responsibilities do audience members have during a live performance?

### **POST-SHOW DISCUSSION**

(Ask the class 5–7 of these questions)

- ? What choice Pinocchio made had the biggest impact on the story?
- ? How did Pinocchio's impulsiveness cause problems for himself or others?
- ? How did Cat and Fox take advantage of Pinocchio's decisions?
- ? Which character had the strongest influence on Pinocchio's choices? Why?
- ? What lesson did Pinocchio learn by the end of the story?
- ? How did Pinocchio change from the beginning to the end?
- ? What do you think becoming "real" means in this version of the story?

# PINOCCHIO: THE MUSICAL

## GRADES 3–5 PRE-SHOW ACTIVITY

---

(Before attending the performance)

### EMOTIONAL REASONING ACTIVITY: RESPONSIBLE OR RISKY?

A Movement & Reasoning Activity

#### **PURPOSE**

Help students practice identifying responsible decision-making by evaluating real-life choices they may face, using context and consequences to guide their thinking.

#### **HOW IT WORKS**

Designate one side of the room as “Responsible Choice” and the other as “Risky Choice.”

#### **TEACHER SCRIPT:**

“I will read a situation where Pinocchio makes a choice. Your job is to decide whether that choice was responsible or risky, then move to the side that matches your thinking. Be ready to explain why.”

#### **SCENARIOS**

(Read slowly. Pause after each for students to move.)

- Pinocchio invites a classmate sitting alone to join his lunch table, even though his friends might make comments.
- Pinocchio rushes through homework to play, knowing he didn't check his work.
- A friend asks Pinocchio to lie for them, and he agrees.
- Pinocchio breaks something at school and chooses to tell an adult.
- Pinocchio makes a joke about his friend without thinking about how it makes his them feel.
- Pinocchio says no to his friend, who dares him to break a classroom rule.
- Pinocchio spends saved money on something fun when he was saving it for something important.
- Pinocchio sees his friend get teased and walks away instead of telling the other kids to stop or telling an adult.
- Pinocchio turns in homework after making sure he did it right.
- Pinocchio copies a classmate's work because you're confused.

#### **DISCUSSION PROMPTS (USE 1–2 AFTER EACH SCENARIO)**

What makes this choice responsible or risky?

Who might be affected by this decision?

What could happen next because of this choice?

What makes the risky choice tempting?

#### **TEACHER WRAP-UP (READ ALOUD)**

“As you watch Pinocchio: The Musical, pay attention to how choices (especially impulsive ones) change what happens next.”

# PINOCCHIO: THE MUSICAL

## GRADES 3-5 POST-SHOW ACTIVITY

(Choose 1-3 activities based on time and classroom needs)

### 1. Pinocchio on Trial (Grades 3-5)

A Role-Play & Critical Thinking Activity

#### PURPOSE

To help students analyze Pinocchio's choices by considering intentions, actions, and consequences, while practicing respectful discussion and critical thinking.

#### Teacher Framing (Read Aloud)

"This activity is not about punishing Pinocchio. It's about understanding why choices are made and what happens because of them."

#### ROOM SETUP (BEFORE YOU BEGIN)

Configure the classroom to resemble a courtroom.

- **Judge's Desk (Front Center):** Teacher desk/table placed at the front center of the room
- **Defense Desk (Front Left, facing Judge):** 1-2 desks or tables
- **Prosecution Desk (Front Right, facing Judge):** 1-2 desks or tables
- **Jury:** Students remain in their regular seats (no movement required)

#### RULES OF THE COURT (EXPLAIN CLEARLY)

- One person speaks at a time
- Disagree with ideas, not people
- Every opinion must include a reason
- Stay focused on Pinocchio's choices
- The Judge will make sure that everyone takes turns
- The Judge may pause or redirect discussion at any time

#### ROLE DESCRIPTIONS (EXPLAIN TO STUDENTS)

##### Judge (Teacher)

- Keeps the discussion fair and respectful
- Decides who speaks and when
- Makes sure students stay on topic
- Asks clarifying questions when needed

##### Teacher Script

"As the Judge, my job is to listen carefully and make sure everyone gets a fair chance to speak."

##### Prosecution "Consequence Team" (2-3 students)

- Explain what happened because of Pinocchio's choices
- Describe how his actions affected other characters
- Focus on consequences, not punishment

##### Teacher Script

"The Prosecution explains what happened because of Pinocchio's choices and how others were affected."

##### Defense "Pinocchio's Team" (2-3 students)

- Explain why Pinocchio made his choices
- Describe what he might have been thinking or feeling
- Help others understand his intentions

##### Teacher Script

"The Defense explains Pinocchio's reasons. They help us understand what Pinocchio was thinking or feeling when he made his choices."

##### Jury (Rest of Class)

- Listens carefully to both sides
- Thinks about intentions and consequences
- Decides whether Pinocchio's choice was mostly responsible or risky
- Explains their reasoning respectfully

##### Teacher Script

"The Jury listens closely and decides what they think about Pinocchio's choices."

# PINOCCHIO: THE MUSICAL

## GRADES 3-5 POST-SHOW ACTIVITY (CONTINUED)

---

### How the Trial Works (Step-by-Step)

#### Step 1: Present the Case

The Judge briefly reminds the class of one important choice Pinocchio made in the story. Judge may either create their own case or choose from the following cases (run through the trial step by step with as many cases as time allows):

- Pinocchio chooses to skip school and go to the puppet theater instead.
- Pinocchio steals money to buy a ticket to the theater.
- Pinocchio tells lies, even after seeing what happens when he lies.
- Pinocchio trusts Cat and Fox, even though he does not know them well.
- Pinocchio believes Cat and Fox's promise that money will grow if it is buried.
- Pinocchio shares personal information with Carrabas, not realizing the danger.
- Pinocchio accepts gold coins from Carrabas without fully understanding why.
- Pinocchio chooses to help free the trapped puppets, even though it is dangerous.
- Pinocchio uses the golden key to open the door, not knowing what will happen.

#### Step 2: Defense Speaks

Defense students explain:

- Why Pinocchio made the choice
- What he was feeling or thinking

#### Step 3: Prosecution Speaks

Prosecution students explain:

- What happened because of the choice
- Who was affected

#### Step 4: Judge Clarifies

The Judge may ask:

- "Can you explain that more clearly?"
- "What evidence from the story supports that?"

#### Step 5: Jury Discussion

Jury members discuss from their seats:

- Was the choice responsible or risky?
- Did Pinocchio learn from it?
- What could he have done differently?

#### Step 6: Jury Shares Their Thinking

Several Jury members share their decision and one reason supporting it.

(No voting required focus on explanation.)

#### Guiding Questions (Use as Needed)

- Should Pinocchio be blamed for his mistakes?
- Do good intentions excuse poor choices?
- Did Pinocchio learn from what happened?
- How could the situation have gone differently?

#### Teacher Wrap-Up (Read Aloud)

"In real life, we all make mistakes. What matters is learning to think before acting and learning from the choices we make."

# PINOCCHIO: THE MUSICAL

## GRADES 3-5 POST-SHOW ACTIVITIES

---

### 2. DRAW A CHARACTER FROM THE SHOW

Encourage recall, interpretation, and creative expression.

#### PURPOSE

Encourage students to interpret the story's deeper meaning through creative expression.

#### INSTRUCTIONS

Students choose one character and draw them from memory.

#### CHARACTER OPTIONS

- Pinocchio
- Geppetto
- Good Fairy
- Evil Fairy
- Carrabas
- Cat
- Fox

#### RECOMMENDED WRITTEN EXTENSION (2-4 SENTENCES)

*May be written on a separate lined sheet of paper/notebook*

- One personality trait of the character
- One important choice the character makes in the story

---

### 3. REWRITE THE CHOICE

A Creative Writing & Cause-and-Effect Activity

#### PURPOSE

Help students understand how different choices lead to different outcomes.

#### HOW IT WORKS

Students choose one moment when Pinocchio makes a poor or impulsive choice and rewrite it.

#### PROMPTS

- What choice did Pinocchio make?
- If you were Pinocchio, what choices would you change?
- How would this new choice affect the story?

#### FORMAT OPTIONS (STUDENT CHOICE)

*May be written/drawn on a separate blank sheet of paper/notebook*

- Write a short paragraph
- Draw a short comic strip
- Write a short dialogue between Pinocchio and other character(s)

WORLD PREMIERE

# PINOCCHIO

THE MUSICAL



# PINOCCHIO: THE MUSICAL

## GRADES 6–8 STUDY GUIDE

---

### **PRE-SHOW DISCUSSION**

(Ask the class 3–5 of these questions)

- ? When someone makes a bad choice, how much responsibility do they have if they didn't fully understand the consequences?
- ? Why do people sometimes trust others even when there are warning signs?
- ? How can power or authority be used to control people?
- ? What does it mean to “be real” beyond just turning from a wooden puppet to a human?
- ? What responsibilities do audience members have during a live performance?

### **POST-SHOW DISCUSSION**

(Ask the class 5–7 of these questions)

- ? Which of Pinocchio's choices was the most ethically complex? Why?
- ? How does Carrabas use power and control over others?
- ? In what ways are Cat and Fox manipulative rather than simply “evil”?
- ? Which characters try to guide Pinocchio, and why does he listen to some but not others?
- ? How does the idea of “freedom” appear in the story?
- ? How does Pinocchio's understanding of himself change?
- ? What does “becoming real” symbolize in this version of the story?

# PINOCCHIO: THE MUSICAL

## GRADES 6–8 PRE-SHOW ACTIVITY

---

### ETHICAL SPECTRUM: JUSTIFIED OR UNJUSTIFIED?

A Values-Based Movement & Discussion Activity

#### PURPOSE

Help students practice evaluating complex choices by weighing intention, pressure, power, and outcome.

#### HOW IT WORKS

Designate one side of the room as “Justified” and the other as “Unjustified.” The middle can be “Uncertain/Depends.”

#### TEACHER SCRIPT:

“I will read a situation where someone makes a choice. Your job is to decide whether the choice was justified, unjustified, or if it depends on the situation. Be ready to explain your reasoning.”

#### SCENARIOS

(Read slowly. Pause after each for students to move.)

- You break a rule because you believe the rule is unfair.
- You lie to protect someone you care about from serious consequences.
- You stay silent when you see something wrong because speaking up might make things worse for you.
- You take advantage of someone’s trust to get what you want.
- You make a risky decision because you feel pressured by people in authority.
- You ignore clearly good advice because you want to prove you can handle things on your own.
- You follow someone who promises success, even though you don’t fully understand their motives.
- You choose to take responsibility for a mistake, even when no one knows it was you.

#### DISCUSSION PROMPTS (USE 1–2 AFTER EACH SCENARIO)

What factors influenced this decision?

Who benefits from this choice? Who is harmed?

Does intention matter more than outcome?

Would your answer change if the result were different?

#### TEACHER WRAP-UP (READ ALOUD)

“As you watch Pinocchio: The Musical, pay attention not just to what choices are made, but who holds power, who is manipulated, and who learns from their mistakes.”

# PINOCCHIO: THE MUSICAL

## GRADES 6–8 POST-SHOW ACTIVITIES

(Choose 1–3 activities based on time and classroom needs)

### I. PINOCCHIO ON TRIAL: ETHICS COURT

A Structured Discussion & Debate Activity

#### PURPOSE

To help students analyze Pinocchio's decisions through the lens of ethics, responsibility, manipulation, and consequence; using evidence from the story and respectful debate.

#### TEACHER FRAMING (READ ALOUD)

“This is not about punishing Pinocchio. This is about ethical reasoning which means understanding choices, intentions, power, and consequences. Middle school is exactly the age where decisions get complicated, so we’re going to practice thinking deeply and using evidence.”

#### ROLES & DESCRIPTIONS

##### Judge (Teacher)

Keeps discussion fair, calls on speakers, pushes for evidence, summarizes arguments before Jury deliberation.

##### Teacher Script

*“As the Judge, I’ll make sure both sides are heard and that we support ideas with evidence.”*

##### Defense “Pinocchio's Team” (2-4 Students)

Argues choice is understandable/less blameworthy or ethically complex.

**Key Talking Points:** manipulation, lack of information, emotions, immaturity, good intentions, and evidence from the story explaining why Pinocchio made the choice being discussed.

##### Prosecution “Consequence Team” (2-4 Students)

Argues choice was harmful/irresponsible or unethical.

**Key Talking Points:** foreseeable consequences, broken trust, harm to others, patterns of poor decision making.

##### Jury (Rest of Class)

Listens, takes notes, evaluates arguments based on ethical reasoning, evidence, and fairness. Makes final judgment based on ethics/evidence.

##### Teacher Script

*You are not deciding if Pinocchio is ‘good’ or ‘bad.’ You are deciding if the choice was ethically defensible.”*

##### Court Reporter (1 Student)

Tracks key arguments and evidence by writing important points on the board.

#### RULES OF ETHICS COURT

- One speaker at a time
- Disagree with ideas, not people
- Use evidence from story whenever possible
- No “just because” answers (always explain reasoning)
- Judge makes sure people are taking turns

#### ROOM SETUP

- **Judge:** Front Center (Teacher)
- **Defense:** Front Left (1-2 desks)
- **Prosecution:** Front Right (1-2 desks)
- **Jury:** Regular seats

# PINOCCHIO: THE MUSICAL

## GRADES 6–8 POST-SHOW ACTIVITY (CONTINUED)

### HOW THE TRIAL WORKS (STEP-BY-STEP)

#### Step 1: Choose the Case

Judge may either create their own case or choose from the following cases (run through the trial step by step with as many cases as time allows):

- Pinocchio skips school to go to the puppet theater
- Pinocchio steals money to buy a ticket
- Pinocchio lies even after seeing consequences
- Pinocchio trusts Cat & Fox
- Pinocchio shares information with Carrabas
- Pinocchio accepts the gold coins from Carrabas without taking into account Carrabas’s intentions
- Pinocchio uses the golden key without knowing what’s behind the door

#### Teacher Script:

*“Today’s case: Was it ethically defensible for Pinocchio to \_\_\_\_\_?”*

#### Step 2: Quiet Prep Time

Defense and Prosecution prepare 2–3 key points each.

Optional teacher instruction:

- **Defense:** Identify why + what he knew
- **Prosecution:** Identify harm + what he should have considered

#### Step 3: Opening Statements

- Defense opening statement
- Prosecution opening statement

#### Teacher Script:

*“Tell us your main argument in one clear sentence, then one piece of evidence.”*

#### Step 4: Evidence Round

Each side presents 2–3 evidence-based points.

- **Defense focuses on:** intention, vulnerability, manipulation, limited knowledge, emotional state
- **Prosecution focuses on:** consequences, responsibility, patterns, harm to others, avoidable decisions

#### Step 5: Cross-Questioning

Teacher (Judge) facilitates 2 questions from each side.

Example question stems:

- “How do you explain...?”
- “What evidence supports...?”
- “Would your argument change if...?”

#### Teacher Wrap-Up (Read Aloud)

“Ethics isn’t about perfect choices. It’s about learning to think critically, notice manipulation, and understand consequences—before a decision becomes irreversible.”

#### Step 6: Jury Deliberation

Jury discusses from their seats using these prompts:

##### Core Jury Prompts (Use 2–3)

- Was Pinocchio manipulated, or did he have agency?
- Does being naive reduce responsibility?
- At what point should Pinocchio have known better?
- Did the choice harm others directly, indirectly, or not at all?
- Was there a better option available in the moment?
- Does intention matter more than outcome here?

#### Step 7: Verdict + Reasoning

No formal “guilty/not guilty” needed (it can get too punitive). Use one of these:

##### Verdict Options (Choose One)

- Ethically Defensible / Not Ethically Defensible
- More Justified / More Unjustified
- It Depends (Explain Conditions)

Jury members share: their verdict, one supporting reason, one piece of evidence (if possible)

#### Step 8: Judge Closing Summary

Teacher summarizes both sides fairly:

“Defense argued \_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_.  
Prosecution argued \_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_. The jury concluded \_\_\_\_, and the strongest evidence was \_\_\_\_\_.”

# PINOCCHIO: THE MUSICAL

## GRADES 6–8 ACTIVITIES 2 & 3

### 2. VISUAL METAPHOR: DRAWING THE THEME

A Creative & Symbolic Art Activity

#### PURPOSE

Encourage students to interpret the story's deeper meaning through symbolism.

#### INSTRUCTIONS

Instead of drawing a character realistically, students create a visual metaphor inspired by the show.

#### OPTIONS (STUDENT CHOOSES ONE)

- Draw a picture using the golden key as a symbol of power or freedom
- Draw a picture using puppet strings as a symbol of control
- Draw Pinocchio halfway between puppet and human
- Create a symbolic image representing truth vs deception

#### WRITTEN EXPLANATION (RECOMMENDED)

*May be written on a separate sheet of paper/notebook*

- What does your image represent?
- How does it connect to the story?

### 3. REWRITE THE MOMENT

A Choice-and-Consequence Writing Activity

#### PURPOSE

To help students understand how one specific choice can change what happens next in a story.

#### HOW IT WORKS

Pinocchio makes a choice in the show. Your job is to rewind that moment, change the choice, and show what happens right after. You are not rewriting the whole story; just one scene and its immediate outcome.

#### STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

##### Step 1: Choose the Moment

Pick one moment from the list below (or one your teacher approves): Pinocchio decides to skip school, steals money, agrees to trust Cat and Fox, shares info with Carrabas, accepts gold coins, or uses the golden key.

##### Step 2: Change the Choice

Decide one different choice Pinocchio could have made in that exact moment. Examples: He hesitates and asks a question, says no, walks away, tells the truth, or asks someone for help.

##### Step 3: Show What Happens Next

Show what changes immediately because of this new choice. Your response must include: What Pinocchio does, how at least one other character reacts, what problem is avoided, created, or changed.

#### CHOOSE ONE FORMAT

*May be written/drawn on a separate blank sheet of paper/notebook*

- **Option A: Comic Strip (Visual Story)** 4–6 panels. Each panel shows: An action, A line of dialogue or thought. Last panel shows the result of the new choice. (Stick figures are fine — clarity matters more than art.)
- **Option B: Paragraph Rewrite** Write one focused paragraph (5–8 sentences) that includes: The original choice, The new choice, What happens next, Why this choice changes the situation.
- **Option C: Student Choice** Student can create their own format with teachers approval.

#### Teacher Wrap-Up (Read Aloud):

“Stories change when choices change. What matters isn’t whether the new choice is perfect; it’s understanding what it changes.”

WORLD PREMIERE

# PINOCCHIO

THE MUSICAL

