



Open Dream Ensemble

The Amazing Adventure of Anna Marie Classroom Study Guide **Kindergarten – 2nd Grade**

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Thomas S. Kenan Institute for the
ARTS



Open Dream Ensemble is a project of the Thomas S. Kenan Institute for the Arts, a privately funded program of the North Carolina School of the Arts.

Dear Educator,

This study guide provides suggestions for classroom activities and lessons that tie into our original production, *The Amazing Adventure of Anna Marie (AAAM)*. Included is a character list, questions for pre- and post-AAAM viewing, information and activities centered around AAAM characters and adventures, and an extensive bibliography.

Please send your comments and suggestions regarding this study guide to:
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The Amazing Adventure of Anna Marie – An original story that dramatizes the power of one child’s courage and imagination.

“Did Benjamin Franklin tie bifocals to his kite in his legendary experiment with electricity?” Asking this question leaves twelve-year-old Anna Marie flustered and mocked by her classmates. She resolves to never return to school. But then, through the magic of dreams, she embarks on an adventure that includes a storm at sea, a singing pirate, dancing crickets, a Mad Hatter’s riddle-filled tea party, a luck dragon, a magical doorway, and a final revelatory encounter with Benjamin Franklin.

Open Dream Ensemble

The Open Dream Ensemble (ODE) is comprised of professional artists trained in dance, drama, and music at the North Carolina School of the Arts. Using the diverse skills of ensemble members, ODE presents original performances that are tailored to meet requirements of the North Carolina Standard Course of Study (NCSOCS).

ODE’s educational outreach varies from single-session workshops to long-term residencies. Trained Teaching Artists, ODE members are dedicated to creating educational sessions that have a lasting impact. Workshops and residencies tie into the NCSCOS and can be tailored specifically to the needs of schools and classrooms.

Character list

Anna Marie - a twelve-year-old girl, bright, imaginative, curious, and kind. When she grows up she wants to be a scientist.

Scout – Anna Marie’s sidekick. He is an explorer and is resourceful and full of questions.

Father – Anna Marie’s helpful father.

Silver Sailfish - A fish that requires a great imagination to conjure.

Pirate Marcus Cannonblaster III – A seafarin’, sword carryin’, singing pirate.

Crick – A brave cricket who loves to jump, meet new creatures and engage in conversation.

Hop – A joyful cricket to whom friendship is very important.

Mad Hatter – The character from Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll. She loves to play and is very spontaneous.

March Hare – The character from Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll. She is best-friends with the Mad Hatter and likes to sing and dance.

Door Mouse – The character from Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll. She is always very sleepy and is a dreamer.

Luck Dragon – An angry and sad dragon. He was tied up by the King of Dreams to guard the door of dreams.

Benjamin Franklin – Curious, bold, passionate and tenacious, he is a scientist, inventor, writer and politician.

Pre-performance questions:

1. What is a play?
2. What is needed to create a play?
3. When have you seen dancing, acting and music together?
4. What is an adventure?
5. What is the difference between a movie and a play?

Post-performance questions:

1. Where did Anna Marie go on her adventure?
2. How are dancing, acting and music different when they are performed together then when they are performed alone?
3. What did the performers do to express how the characters felt (use of music, dance, gestures, facial expressions, language)?
4. What are some things in a play and what do they do to help create the overall effect of the drama (characters, movement, language, sound, lighting, costumes, set, props)?
5. How did the actors make the jungle visible?

PIRATE

Marcus Cannonblaster III is a funny singing pirate. Below is the text to the duet he sings with Anna Marie. Read it as a class and answer these questions:

1. How would you know if you met Marcus Cannonblaster?
2. What does Anna Marie think the Pirate wants?
3. What did the Pirate's mother do?
4. Would the Pirate make a good classmate or neighbor? Why or why not?

Pirate:

I'm yer typical, despicable, unrestrictable pirate guy
With a peg for a leg and a patch on me eye
My body is covered in piratey stank
And if you twist'a me sails
You'll be walkin' the plank

I've sailed seven seas in search of me treasure
And I'll steal all your gold no matter the measure
With me musket and cutlass and crew of 17
We sail far and wide on our ship, The Open Dream....Ohhhhhhhhh....

Chorus:

I'm a seafarin' sword carryin' pirate
A ship navigatin' landlubber hatin' pirate
I'm wicked and cruel and I pity the fool
Who crosses this ship sailin', gold stealin', parrot shouldered, dirty-odored,
deck swabbin'* , Nasty ol' pirate

Anna Marie:

Your role as a pirate you want to defend
But I think what you really want is a friend.
And I don't believe that you're really so vicious

Pirate: (spoken) Watch out little girl or you'll be feeding the fishes

Anna Marie:

Threatening others is no way to act
If you're nice to others then they'll be nice back
And what would your mother say about what you do?

Pirate: (spoken) You leave me mum out'a this! She was a pirate too! Ohhhh

Chorus: *(above and) cannon shootin', treasure lootin', patch wearin', sailor
scarin', sword wavin', ocean bravin', nasty ol' pirate

CRICKETS*

Hop and Crick are dancing and rhyming crickets. Here are some facts about crickets:

- The Snowy Tree Cricket chirps at a rate that changes according to the temperature. To calculate the temperature in Fahrenheit, count the number of chirps in 15 seconds and add 40.
- Crickets have different chirps for courtship, fighting and warning calls.

- In order to find an appropriate mate, each species of cricket has an individual chirping sound.
- Crickets chirp by rubbing the sharp edge at the base of one front wing with the bottom side of their other front wing.
- Different insects have different types of life cycles. The cricket life cycle category is incomplete metamorphosis. This means that immature crickets, or nymphs, have the same appearance as adults.
- Every time a cricket molts it grows in length.
- Crickets are omnivores and are found throughout the world.

Science/biology

1. What is the life cycle of crickets?
2. What do crickets need in order to live?
3. There are many types of crickets. How and why are they different (size, habitat, behavior)?
4. How do crickets chirp?

Social Studies

1. In many areas of Asia the cricket is kept as a pet. Why?
2. Research cricket lore and cricket stories from around the world.

Math

1. If a snowy tree cricket chirps 10 times in fifteen seconds, what is the temperature?
2. Cricket A jumps 1 foot every ten seconds. Cricket B jumps 2 feet every thirty seconds. Cricket C jumps 1 foot every twenty seconds. If the three crickets were in a race for one minute, which would win?

English Language Arts

1. In *The Amazing Adventure of Anna Marie*, Crick and Hop speak in rhyme. Write a rhyming poem about crickets or another insect.
2. Write a short story about life as a cricket.

Activity

Divide the class into groups. Have each group research a different aspect of crickets; how does the information connect with different elements of a play such as character, setting and story? Have them write a play using that information and have them perform the play for their classmates.

DRAGONS*

The Luck Dragon on Lightning Island lives in a cave and guards a magical doorway. Dragons play a role in legend, lore, and history throughout the world.

English Language Arts

1. The Dragon in *The Amazing Adventure of Anna Marie* is scary and angry because he is tied up. Write about an experience you have had when you have been scared. Did you sing a song like Anna Marie and Scout to help you through your fear? How were you able to overcome being scared?
2. Write a story about a dragon that has been guarding a treasure for one thousand years. Address these issues in your story: What is the treasure? Why is it being

guarded? Where does the dragon live? How does the dragon feel? What are some of the things that have happened to the dragon during the thousand years? Is there something the dragon would rather do?

Activity

Gather the students in a circle. Have a small ball (or other soft object) that the students will toss to one another. Start with the line, “Sylvester the dragon lived in a cave... “ Have the students build the story with each student adding a sentence as they catch the ball.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN*

When Benjamin Franklin appears in *The Amazing Adventure of Anna Marie*, he is trying to figure out how to attract lightning to his kite. Like all successful scientists, he knows that the only way to achieve the desired outcome is to ask questions, work hard, and keep experimenting.

Benjamin Franklin (1706 – 1790) was born in Boston, Massachusetts, the 15th of 17 children. As a boy he learned the soap and candle-making trade from his father. When he was twelve, Benjamin became an apprentice to his older brother and learned to be a printer.

Even though Benjamin was only able to attend school for two years, he loved to learn and taught himself many subjects including: algebra, geometry, navigation, logic, grammar, Latin, French, Italian, Spanish, and German. He also loved music and played the violin, guitar and harp. He even invented an instrument called the glass armonica (sometimes referred to as glass harmonica).

In 1723 Benjamin Franklin moved to Philadelphia where he pursued printing as his profession. By 1730, at the age of 24, he was able to open his own print shop. His business printed *The Pennsylvania Gazette*, one of the most popular newspapers in the colonies. He also wrote and printed *Poor Richard’s Almanac*, which contains many of his most witty and widely quoted sayings.

In addition to his work as a printer, Benjamin Franklin began his career as a civic leader in 1736 when he became clerk of the Pennsylvania Assembly. He served as deputy postmaster general for the colonies and helped the postal system become more efficient. He also helped establish the world’s first subscription library, America’s first fire insurance company, a public hospital for the poor and mentally ill, and an academy for higher education that became the University of Pennsylvania. In 1788, Franklin became president of the first anti-slavery society in America. His last public act was to sign an appeal to Congress urging the abolition of slavery.

Although he was never elected to government office, Benjamin Franklin was active and respected in politics. He served the colonies as a diplomat in London where he negotiated with the British government in attempts to avoid war. Although Franklin was well respected by the British, the negotiations failed and he returned to Philadelphia as the Revolutionary War began. He was later sent to France where he was able to persuade

the French government to aid the colonies in the fight against Great Britain. Benjamin Franklin is the only person to have signed all four of the major documents that were key to building the United States: the Declaration of Independence, the Treaty of Alliance with France, the Treaty of Peace with Great Britain and the Constitution of the United States.

Benjamin Franklin was also a scientist and inventor. His most famous experiment proved that lightning is electricity. This discovery led to his invention of the lightning rod. He also invented bifocals and the Franklin Stove.

Questions to ask about Benjamin Franklin:

Where was he born?

What kind of music did Ben like? Could he play an instrument?

What is *Poor Richard's Almanac*? How is it connected to Ben?

Can you name two of Ben's inventions?

How was Ben involved in the birth of America?

Science

Questions about inventors:

1. What are some differences and similarities between invention and discovery?
2. What are some character traits important to being an inventor?
3. What is something you can see in the room that had to be invented?
4. What would you invent? Why? How would it be used?

RESOURCES

*sources for the information presented in this study guide

PIRATES

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/pirates/>

<http://www.ability.org.uk/pirates.html>

<http://www.atozkidsstuff.com/pirates.html>

<http://cybersleuth-kids.com/sleuth/History/Pirates/index.htm>

Fiction

How I Became a Pirate, Melinda Long and David Shannon

Let the Good Times Roll with Pirate Pete and Pirate Joe, Ann Edwards Cannon and Elwood Smith

The Kingfisher Treasury of Pirate Stories, Tony Bradman and Tony Ross

Nonfiction

The Great Pirate Activity Book, Deri Robins and George Buchanan

CRICKETS

www.uky.edu/Agriculture/Critterfiles *

<http://insected.arl.arizona.edu/cricketinfo.htm> *

Fiction (listed from younger to older readers)

The Very Quiet Cricket Board Book, Eric Carle

Quick as a Cricket, Audrey Wood

Old Cricket, Lisa Wheeler

The Cricket in Times Square, George Sheldon

Chester Cricket's New Home, George Sheldon

The Cricket Warrior: A Chinese Tale, Margaret Chang

The Cricket's Cage, Stefan Czernechi (a legend from the Forbidden City)

Cricket Never Does: A collection of Haiku and Tanka, Myra Livingston

The Cricket on the Hearth, Charles Dickens

Nonfiction

Big Book of Bugs, DK Publishing *

Insects, DK Publishing (also available in e.guide version)

Insects: Life Cycles and the Seasons, John Brackenbury

Grasshoppers and Crickets, Melvin Berger

Crickets and Grasshoppers, Ann O. Squire

Listening to Crickets: A Story about Rachel Carson, Candice F. Ransom

Music

The Four Seasons, Spring, final section, Vivaldi

El Grillo (The Cricket), Josquin des Prez (Flemish Renaissance music)

DRAGONS

<http://www.dragnix.net/Basic/> *

A history of dragon lore.

<http://www.colba.net/~tempest/> *

site with many links dedicated to dragon studies, lore, the physics of dragon design, etc.

<http://www.crystalinks.com/chinadragons.html> *

Dedicated to the role of dragons in Chinese culture

<http://www.chinapage.com/dragon1.html> *

Links to visual images of dragons throughout Chinese history (drawings on vases, sculpture, etc.)

<http://webtech.kennesaw.edu/jcheek3/dragons.htm>

Extensive site with activities, information and crafts suitable for students 1-6

<http://www.cdli.ca/CITE/dragons.htm>

Extensive site designed especially for elementary students 1-6

http://www.abcteach.com/directory/theme_units/funkids/dragons/

Site filled with many activities related to dragons, suitable for K-2

Books

The Knight and the Dragon, Tomie De Paola

The Tale of Custard the Dragon, Ogden Nash

Custard the Dragon and the Wicked Knight, Ogden Nash

My Father's Dragon, Ruth Stiles Gannett

Elmer and the Dragon, Ruth Stiles Gannett

The Dragons of Blueland, Ruth Stiles Gannett
Saint George and the Dragon, Margaret Hodges
A Friend for Dragon, Dav Pilkey
Dragon Gets By, Dav Pilkey
Dragon's Fat Cat, Dav Pilkey
Sir Cumference and the Dragon of Pi: A Math Adventure, Cindy Neuschwander
The Book of Dragons, Michael Hague

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

<http://sln.fi.edu/franklin/rotten.html> *

The Franklin Institute site. Includes timelines, quotes, factoids and a short movie. Also links to electricity and science information related to Ben Franklin.

<http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/B/bfranklin/frankxx.htm> *

Focuses on his life and role in American history.

<http://www.ushistory.org/franklin/> *

Good source of information about all aspects of Ben's life. Includes links to his experiments, quotes and games for students based on Ben's life and science, and short video with Ben.

<http://bensguide.gpo.gov/benfranklin/> *

Specific site for students K – 12, with sites for parents/teachers (Check out the kites at the top of the web page) Ben's guide to the U.S. government and more

<http://library.thinkquest.org/22254/home.htm?tqskip1=1> *

Site for older students with links to Franklin's written works, biography, etc.

<http://www.incwell.com/Biographies/Franklin.html> *

site designed for students

http://www.quotationspage.com/quotes/Benjamin_Franklin/ *

quotes by Ben

Bibliography for Extended Readings (listed in order of difficulty)

Ben Franklin and His First Kite, Stephen Krensky

Ben Franklin and the Magic Squares, Frank Murphy

Shh! We're Working on the Constitution, Jean Fritz

What's the Big Idea, Ben Franklin?, Jean Fritz

How Ben Franklin Stole the Lightning, Rosalyn Schanzer

Ben and Me, Robert Lawson

The Story of Benjamin Franklin, Margaret Davidson

Ben Franklin of Old Philadelphia, Margaret Cousins

The Ben Franklin Book of Easy and Incredible Experiments, Franklin Institute Science Museum