


TCT On Tour



SHOW COMPANION
ACTIVITY PACKET

ABOUT THE SHOW

Henny Penny's Adventure

Study Guide

About the Show

Henny Penny's Adventure is an immersive, “cluck-out-loud” one-person show. Audiences will be “heehawing” with barnyard charm and on-stage antics. You may even find members of your flock on stage as part of the action! Our storyteller, Henny, is enjoying a day of acorn-gathering when—WHAM!— somethin’ knocks them on their noggin! Convinced the sky is falling, Henny “flees the coop” on a journey to warn the farm with their fine-feathered crew: Ducky Lucky, Goosey Loosey, and Turkey Lurkey. But, uh oh... will the sly Foxy Loxy ruffle their plans?! *Henny Penny's Adventure* is a hilarious but cautionary tale of what happens when you horse-around with misinformation, all while teaching the importance of friendship, building confidence, and teamwork!

Story Origins

“Henny Penny”, also known as “Chicken Little”, “Chicken Licken”, or “Chicken Kluck” is a European **folktale** that was first recorded in 1823 by Just Mathias Thiele, a Danish librarian, who published an early version of the story based on a Scandinavian Folktale.

Although the story has many **iterations** and undergone a few name changes over the years, the story always remains untouched to time. Tales of this type were often used to teach valuable lessons, or morals, through the misadventures of their characters. Folktales were historically told orally and weren’t written down for many generations. Often being changed from their first telling with each new generation’s retelling. Stories that are created by an author that are made up are works of **fiction** – whereas stories about real life events, people, and places are non-fiction.

This fictional story follows around Henny Penny as they desperately try to warn their farm animal friends about the sky falling to Earth and crushing everyone. After an acorn, or leaf in some stories, falls from the sky and lands on Henny Penny’s head, they begin to believe the sky is about to fall. This belief immediately causes **hysteria** and Henny gets all their friends to believe this, too, and as they’re looking for a place to hide, a **sly** Fox enters they story and gets the entire group to go back to their den to try and eat them. Different iterations of the story sometimes end with the group finding a clever way to escape the Fox’s trap, but the moral of the story remains the same regardless, it serves to warn against believing everything one might hear.

The story has remained a classic throughout generations and still teaches what can go wrong when wrongful information is passed as truth.

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Vocab from the Reading

1. **Folktale (noun):** a story originating in popular culture, typically passed on by word of mouth.
2. **Iterations (noun):** a new version of a piece.
3. **Fiction (noun):** a.) literature in the form of prose that describes imaginary events and people. b.) something that is invented or untrue.
4. **Hysteria (noun):** exaggerated or uncontrollable emotion or excitement.
5. **Sly (adjective):** having or showing a cunning and deceitful nature.

Questions from the Reading

1. The first recorded version of the *Henny Penny* story was first published in what year?
 - a. 1923
 - b. 2023
 - c. 1823
 - d. 1832
2. In the story, what usually falls on Henny's head?
 - a. Tree or Log
 - b. House or Building
 - c. Cow or Horse
 - d. Acorn or Leaf
3. Just Mathias Thiele was a Danish _____?
 - a. Librarian
 - b. Explorer
 - c. Hunter
 - d. Ruler
4. A Fictional Story is always 100% true!
 - a. True
 - b. False
5. Who does Henny Penny warn about the falling sky?
 - a. Humans
 - b. A den of foxes
 - c. No one
 - d. Farm animal friends

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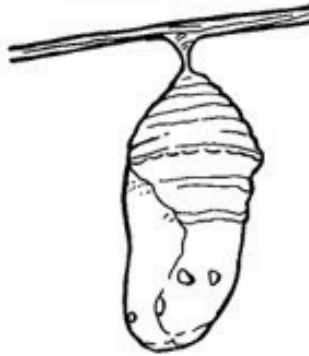
Story Sequencing

A story sequence is an element of a story that breaks the narrative into Beginning, Middle, and End. It's how we can organize a story to be able to understand it and identify the main parts of the story.

Beginning



Middle



End

Beginning

Middle



End



Beginning

Middle

End

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Moral of a story

Earlier in the packet, Morals were mentioned. The moral of the story refers to the lesson or lessons that can be learned from hearing or reading the tale. Read the summary of Aesop's Fable, *The Donkey and the Lion's Skin* and answer explain what the moral or lesson that is trying to be taught.

A donkey was traveling through the forest. He comes across a lion's skin left behind by a hunter. The donkey puts on the lion skin to see how life would be like as a lion. The donkey scared every animal he came across as he traveled home. The donkey felt proud and powerful like he was the king of the jungle. He opened his mouth and brayed a sound of victory. The braying sound immediately gave him away. The fox that was just avoiding the donkey approached the donkey and said, "you almost fooled me, too, but I heard your bray."

In the section below, explain what the moral of the story.

Don't Believe Everything That You Hear (Class Activity)

Henny runs around the farm telling everyone what happened and with each warning, the message starts to get more scary and small facts change each time. To show how something can change by repeating it over and over, read the instructions below for how to play the game, "TELEPHONE".

To play Telephone gather a group of people and have them sit or stand in a line or circle. One person starts by whispering a short phrase or sentence to the person next to them. That person then whispers what they heard to the next person, and so on. The last person in the line or circle announces the phrase they heard aloud. The original phrase is then revealed, and everyone compares it to the final message to see how much it changed!

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Teacher Guided Activity **“Fact or Fiction Newsroom Challenge.”**

Students will practice distinguishing between reliable and unreliable information, explore the effects of groupthink, and develop critical thinking skills by simulating a newsroom environment.

Set up for the activity:

1. **Divide the Class into Groups:** Split the students into small groups of 4-5, assigning each group to be a “newsroom/reporting team.”
2. **Introduce the Scenario:** Tell the students that, just like in “Henny Penny,” there’s a rumor spreading that “the sky is falling.” Each newsroom must decide whether to report the story, debunk it, or investigate further before making a decision.
3. **Provide Resources:** Give each group a mix of “news articles,” “social media posts,” “eyewitness accounts,” and “scientific reports.” Some of these sources are factual, while others are exaggerated, misleading, or entirely false.

It is up to each group to decide how to report the story, which they will write down and then one person from each group will read the broadcast to the class as if they were on the news.

ANSWER KEY

Answer Key

Questions from the Reading

1. C
2. D
3. A
4. B
5. D

Sequencing Activity

Sequence #1: A picture of a moth or butterfly.

Sequence #2: A picture of a seed or freshly planted seed.

Moral example from story excerpt

Be honest and sincere with who you are. People will always find out when you lie.

Standards

RI.1.1: Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.

RI.3.1: Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

RL.2.2: Analyze literary text development. a. Determine the lesson or moral. b. Retell stories, including fables and folktales from diverse cultures.

RL.2.5: Describe the overall structure of a story, including describing how the beginning introduces the story and the ending concludes the action.