

ARTIST/ENSEMBLE: Ron Anglin-"Quite A Catch"

PROGRAM : Jongleur de Notre Dame

GRADE LEVEL(S)*: PK-2 3-5 6-8

TYPE OF PROGRAM: Assembly

MAIN IDEA: *The Best Way to Find Yourself is to Lose Yourself in the Service of Others-* Mahatma Gandhi

KEY CONCEPTS:

- 1. Rags to Riches is one of the 7 Major Plot Types.**
- 2. A Foreign Language, such as French, is more readily learned by Children.**
- 3. Jongleurs had 3 main jobs during the end of the Dark Ages and during the Renaissance.**
- 4. Everyone has at least one talent or special skill that can be enjoyed by others!**
- 5. Miracles are all Around Us!**

BRIEF PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

This Story Comes from a 13th Century French Medieval Legend by Gautier de Coincy, It was first written down in a book in 1901 by Anatole France, who won the Nobel Prize in Literature 20 years later. It was also a 3 Act Opéra first performed in Paris in 1902. In this performance the Juggler, dressed as a Jester tells the story of a young orphan named Jaque (Jean originally), who after a very hard life becomes the King of the Fools and gives his only gift-his Talent, to others! It has been adapted numerous times, one of the most popular was by Tomie dePaola in 1976 with his children's book The Clown of God.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

Program benefits from the highest ceiling possible. A gym is usually best, but a cafeteria or theater will do. The sides of the performance area need to be kept clear for safety and visual purposes, as well as a 6 foot buffer in front of the first row. On stages, I request front spots no brighter than 50% and the house and stage lights to be on, if possible.

EQUIPMENT/PROPS/COSTUMING:

I will supply my own sound system to play my music on. I will also bring my own prop table and all juggling props. My costume will be a black top with white polka dots, black pants, and a Jester Hat. I sometimes wear an elastic red nose briefly when I talk about hospital clowning, but I never wear clown make-up.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION/ PRE ACTIVITIES:

Students may want to learn about the circus and/or vaudeville. The teacher can also incorporate geographical concepts utilizing Tonga (women jugglers), China (diabolos), New Zealand (poi), and Japan (kendama). Finally, using the internet, students may want to learn about past jugglers such as W.C. Fields, Enrico Rastelli, Francis and Lottie Brunn, Trixie, and Bobby May. Current Jugglers that can be easily researched are Ivan Pecel, Neils Dunker, Josh Horton, Tony Frebourg, Ryo Yabe, & the Flying Karamazov Brothers. Students can also find several jugglers based in Georgia online including Dan Thurmon, Dan Berg, Todd Key, Adam Boehmer, Bronkar Lee, and the Atlanta Jugglers Association. Adam's brother Casey Boehmer is a Juggler who only has one Arm!

RESOURCES:

Books: The Clown of God by Tomie dePaola, The Little Juggler by Barbara Cooney, The Complete Juggler by Dave Finnigan, The Diabolo Book by Todd Strong

Websites: French: <http://www.thirdculturemama.com/2017-top-french-language-resources-for-kids/#.Wi3opKZOmfo>

Juggling: www.atlantajugglers.org

Circus: www.cirquedusoleil.com www.bigapplecircus.org http://www.circopedia.org/SHORT_HISTORY_OF_THE_CIRCUS

Tomie dePaola: http://archive.boston.com/ae/books/articles/2007/12/10/he_simply_knows_his_audience/?page=full

Vaudeville: <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/vaudeville-about-vaudeville/721/>

POST ACTIVITIES:

1. Teach the Students to Count to Five in French and to say a few simple Fruits in French!

UN, DEAUX, TROIS, QUATRE, CINQ

Apple- Une Pomme, Lemon- Un Citron; Orange- Une Orange, Lime- Un Limon

2. Teach the Cascade Juggling pattern using nylon scarves or plastic grocery bags. (Your PE teacher may already incorporate juggling in the curriculum) For kids who want to advance, here is how I learned: I used my rolled-up socks and practiced over my bed!

3. Ask the Students to Compare this Story to *The Little Drummer Boy*. Older Students might like to talk about Victor Hugo's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* which also incorporates The Festival of Fools into its Story.

4. Encourage your students to attend the Groundhog Juggling Festival, held annually in Atlanta the first weekend in February.

5. Read a feed of the other 200 plus works by Tomie dePaola, Strega Nona is his most famous character!

