

Fort Wayne youth theatre

*Education
Guide*



2024-25 SEASON

2024-2025 Arts Education Sponsors



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Fort Wayne youtheatre

About Us...

As the fifth oldest active children's theatre in the nation, Youtheatre is dedicated to its mission to "educate, engage and entertain" through quality theatrical experiences. In 1934, Dr. Clive McAllister, president of the Old Fort Players (now the Civic Theatre), appointed a committee to create a junior or children's theater branch of the organization. The committee established the philosophy that the new "Children's Theatre" would develop poise, better diction, and self-esteem for children through dramatic instruction. They would give at least one play a year, and awaken enthusiasm in children for beauty in art and integrity in dramatic literature.

The first class began with an enrollment of a whopping 40 students, each of which paid just \$1.00 for 8 classes! The first production, "The Steadfast Tin Soldier," was performed at the Majestic Theatre in Fort Wayne and had a cast of 75 young people. Tickets were only 10 cents for children and 25 cents for adults.

In 1954, the Majestic Theatre was deemed unsafe for children by the fire department and so the Children's Theatre spent the next 10 years at various locations in the city. By the time it rejoined the Civic Theatre at the Old Palace Theatre, it had a new name, the "Fort Wayne Youtheatre." In 1973, both organizations moved to their current home in the Arts United Center on E. Main Street in downtown Fort Wayne. The Youtheatre became autonomous in 1984.

In 1978, Broadway star Harvey Cocks became the Executive Director of Youtheatre. Even after retiring from that position, Harvey remained as our Artist in Residence; inspiring young artists for over forty years until his death in 2022. In 2010, Leslie Hormann took the reins, serving as Executive/Artistic Director until 2018, followed by Todd Espeland (2018-2024).

Today, Youtheatre is led by Executive Director Heather Closson, Artistic Director Christopher J. Murphy, and a staff of outstanding local artists who serve as teaching artists, directors, choreographers, music directors, designers, and more.

For over three quarters of a century, Youtheatre has produced classes, camps and theatrical productions for the artists and audiences of northeast Indiana. Our touring "Youtheatre-On-The-Go" troupe takes literature-based shows into the community, performing in hospitals, libraries, community centers and more. In 2018, our Linda L. Ruffolo "Young Heroes of Conscience" Series, which has spotlighted the likes of Anne Frank, Ryan White, Harriet Tubman and Ruby Bridges, won the "Mayor's Arts Award."



ELEMENTS OF A PRODUCTION

SETS

The scenery pieces that form the area in which the performers act out the play. Sometimes scenery is very realistic, making the audience think they are inside a real house, for example. Other times the scenery is quite fanciful or limited. What different sets can you name in the show? What time and place does it look like?

LIGHTS

The lighting instruments that help to create the right atmosphere on the stage. Lights direct the attention of the audience to specific areas of the stage or to a specific performer. The lights may be different colors to add special effects such as nighttime or a storm. How do the lights in this production show changes in the time and place?

PROPS

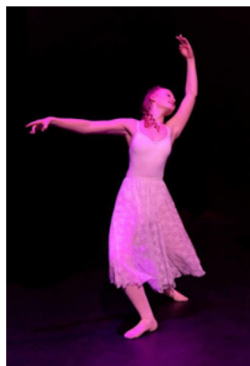
The objects performers carry to help them act out the story. Look for important props that help define character or place. Can you name a few?

MAKE-UP

The cosmetic bases, blushes, lipsticks, mascara and eye liners which helps the performer physically become the character he/she is playing. Make-up is also used so that the performers facial features can be seen clearly under the bright stage lights from a distance. Do you notice any special make-up in the show?

COSTUMES

The clothing the performers wear. Depending on the story being acted out, this clothing may be what a character of the time would have actually worn. It may also be very exaggerated or fantastic in the case of a dream or a fairy-tale. Costumes help the audience know what a character is like or where and when he/she lived. Are the costumes drab or colorful? Do they look realistic? What do they tell you about the time and place?



BEHIND *the* SCENES



Terrence McNally



Lynn Ahrens



Stephen Flaherty

TERRENCE McNALLY, BOOK

Recipient of the Dramatists Guild of America Lifetime Achievement Award, Tony Awards for his plays *Master Class* and *Love! Valour! Compassion!* and his musical librettos *Kiss of the Spider Woman* and *Ragtime* and an Emmy Award for *Andre's Mother*. In 1996 he was inducted into the American Theatre Hall of Fame. An anthology of his plays, *Terrence McNally: A Memoir In Plays*, was recently published by Grove Press. He has written the libretto for two operas, *Deadman Walking* and *Great Scott*, both with Jake Heggie. There was a celebration of his work at the Kennedy Center in 2010 including the world premiere of *Golden Age*. *ANASTASIA* is his third collaboration with Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty and his first with Darko Tresnjak.

LYNN AHRENS, LYRICIST

Recipient of the Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle Award and two Grammy nominations for Broadway's *Ragtime*. Nominated for two Academy Awards and two Golden Globes for Twentieth Century Fox's animated feature film *ANASTASIA*. Inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame in 2015. Theater: *Once On This Island*, *Seussical*, *A Man of No Importance*, *Dessa Rose*, *The Glorious Ones*, *My Favorite Year*, *Lucky Stiff*, Madison Square Garden's *A Christmas Carol*, *Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life*, *Rocky*, *Little Dancer*. Film/TV: *A Christmas Carol* (NBC-TV), *Camp* (IFC Films), *Schoolhouse Rock* (ABC-TV). Honors: Emmy Award, Oliver Award, Oscar Hammerstein Award for Lifetime Achievement, Lilly Award. Council, Dramatists Guild of America, co-founder, Dramatists Guild Fellows Program. Third show with Terrence McNally and thirty-plus years of collaboration with Stephen Flaherty.

STEPHEN FLAHERTY, COMPOSER

Stephen Flaherty composed the music for the Broadway shows *Ragtime*, *Once On This Island*, *Seussical*, *Rocky*, *Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life*, *Personals* and *My Favorite Year*. Other musicals include: *In Your Arms*, *Little Dancer*, *The Glorious Ones*, *Loving Repeating*, *Dessa Rose*, *A Man of No Importance*, *Lucky Stiff*. Awards for his work in the theater include the Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle and Olivier. He has been nominated for the Grammy three times. Film work includes Twentieth Century Fox's *ANASTASIA* (two Academy Award and two Golden Globe nominations.) Concert music: Carnegie Hall and others. Council, Dramatists Guild of America. Happy to be on this journey with Terrence McNally and Lynn Ahrens, his collaborator of thirty-plus years. Inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame in 2015.
AhrensAndFlaherty.com

BIOGRAPHY:

The Mystery of the Romanovs

Use this brief biography about the famous Romanov Family to learn more about the tragic fate of the royal family



The Romanov family was the last royal family to rule Russia, from 1613 until 1917. The most famous members of the family were Tsar Nicholas II, his wife Tsarina Alexandra, and their five children: Olga, Tatiana, Maria, Anastasia, and Alexei.

Nicholas II became Tsar in 1894 and tried his best to lead Russia, but it was a very challenging time with many problems. His wife, Alexandra, was very close to a mysterious man named Rasputin, who many people didn't trust. Rasputin claimed he could help their son Alexei, who was very sick with a disease called hemophilia that made him bleed excessively.

In 1917, a big revolution happened in Russia because many people were unhappy and wanted change. Nicholas II had to step down as Tsar, and the family was put under house arrest. They were moved to a place called Ekaterinburg. Sadly, in 1918, they were all killed by a group called the Bolsheviks.

The story of the Romanov family is very famous and has been told in many books and movies. People remember them for their bravery during a very difficult time. There are even stories and legends about the youngest daughter, Anastasia, and some people believed she might have escaped. The Russian Orthodox Church made them saints, and they are remembered with respect and love.



BIOGRAPHY: *The Lost Princess*

Learn more about the mystery of Grand Duchess Anastasia Nikolaevna of Russia

After the tragic end of the Romanov family in 1918, a mysterious and fascinating story emerged about Anastasia, the youngest daughter of Tsar Nicholas II and Tsarina Alexandra. Some people believed that Anastasia might have survived the terrible event that claimed her family's lives.

This belief was fueled by rumors and stories from people who claimed to have seen her or helped her escape. The most famous case was that of Anna Anderson, a woman who appeared in Germany in the 1920s and said she was Anastasia. She had scars and some knowledge about the royal family that made people wonder if she could really be the lost princess.

In the 1990s, the remains of the Romanov family were discovered and identified through DNA testing, which showed that all of Nicholas II's children had been killed in 1918. In 2007, more remains were found and confirmed to be those of Anastasia and her brother Alexei, finally solving the mystery.

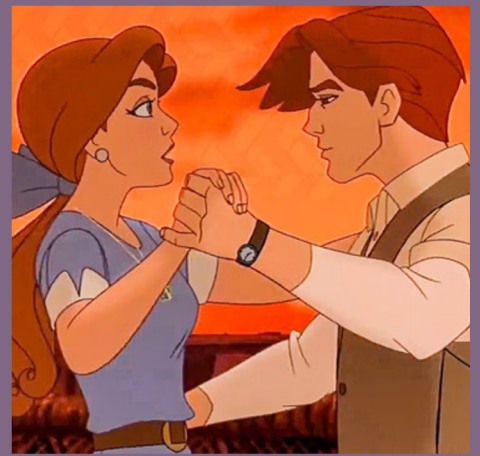
Despite the evidence, the story of Anastasia's possible escape remains a captivating tale of hope and mystery. It reminds us of the power of legends and how they can endure even in the face of facts.



FEATURES:

Adaptations

Read more about the intrigue of the mystifying story that has fascinated historians for generations!

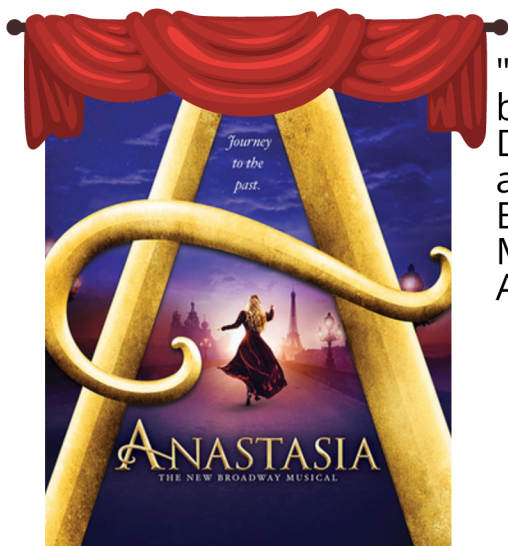


The mystery of Anastasia's fate captured the imagination of people around the world and inspired books, movies, and even a popular animated film.

The 1956 film "Anastasia," directed by Anatole Litvak, stars Ingrid Bergman as an amnesiac woman believed to be the Grand Duchess Anastasia Nikolaevna of Russia. In post-revolutionary Paris, Russian expatriates, led by General Bounine (Yul Brynner), groom her to claim an inheritance. The film explores her journey of self-discovery and the possibility of her true identity. Bergman's performance won an Academy Award for Best Actress.

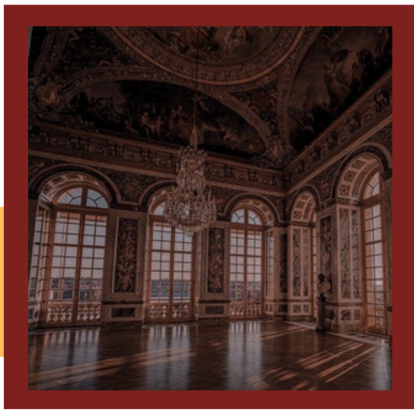
This animated film, simply titled "Anastasia," tells a fictionalized version of her story, where she grows up not knowing her true identity and later discovers her royal heritage, embarking on an adventure to reclaim her place as a princess.

The animated film became very popular and introduced many children to the legend of Anastasia. It portrayed her as a brave and kind young woman who overcame great obstacles, which made the story even more enchanting. The film's songs and characters made it a beloved classic.



"Anastasia: The Musical" is a Broadway production that brings the enchanting legend of the Russian Grand Duchess Anastasia to the stage. Inspired by the 1997 animated film "Anastasia," the musical opened on Broadway in April 2017, featuring a book by Terrence McNally, music by Stephen Flaherty, and lyrics by Lynn Ahrens.





Times of Trouble: *Tsarist Empire*

"Lord, save Russia and bring her peace"
-Tsar Nicholas II of Russia



Imperial Russia was a time in Russian history when the country was ruled by emperors and empresses, from the early 1700s until 1917. It all started with Peter the Great, who became emperor in 1721. He did many things to make Russia stronger and more modern, like building a big navy and creating new cities.

One of the most famous rulers after Peter was Catherine the Great. She ruled from 1762 to 1796 and was known for her love of art, education, and expanding Russia's borders. Under her rule, Russia grew bigger and became more powerful.

During this time, Russia became one of the largest empires in the world, stretching from Europe all the way across Asia to North America. It was a time of great cultural achievements too, with famous writers like Leo Tolstoy and Fyodor Dostoevsky, and composers like Tchaikovsky creating beautiful works.

However, life in Imperial Russia wasn't easy for everyone. Many people, called serfs, were very poor and had to work hard for wealthy landowners. Even after serfdom ended in 1861, many people still struggled. This led to a lot of unrest and unhappiness among the people.



The last emperor, Nicholas II, faced many problems, including wars and angry citizens who wanted change. In 1917, he had to step down from power, which marked the end of Imperial Russia. After this, the country went through a big revolution and eventually became the Soviet Union.

Imperial Russia is remembered for its grand achievements in art, literature, and expansion, but also for the tough times many people faced. It's a fascinating part of history that shows both the greatness and the struggles of the past.

2024-25 SEASON SCHOOL SHOWS

Just in time for Halloween season, Youtheatre is digging up the original master of horror himself. For nearly 100 years, Edgar Allen Poe's tales of murder, madness and the supernatural have delighted readers of all ages. Now, *The Tell-Tale Heart*, *The Masque of the Red Death*, *The Raven* and more of his spine-tingling stories come to life in this vivid theatrical adaptation from the author of last season's *The House*. Audiences will be on the edge of their seats as Poe's words rise like corpses from the grave. So get your tickets and miss the spooky fun...**NEVERMORE**.

Performance: October 21, 2024 | 10:00 AM | First Presbyterian Theater

Shuddersome Tales of Poe



"Once upon a December..." and just in time for the holidays comes this thrilling musical for the whole family. Her past is a mystery. Her future is an adventure. Inspired by the beloved film, *Anastasia* transports us from the wintry twilight of the Russian Empire to the euphoria of Paris in the 1920s as a brave young woman sets out to discover if she's the legendary Russian Princess. Pursued by a ruthless Soviet officer determined to silence her, Anya enlists the aid of a dashing conman and a lovable ex-aristocrat. Together, they embark on an epic adventure to find home, love, and family. Featuring favorites from the hit animated film, "Journey to the Past" and "Once Upon a December," *Anastasia* is a spectacular musical about discovering who you are and defining who you're meant to be.

Performance: December 21, 2024 | 10:00 AM | First Presbyterian Theater

Friendships challenged, a world changed, and two young people trying to make sense of it together. Neighbors Josh and Emma are best friends. But something has happened in their town. When a black man is killed by a police officer, Emma and Josh have questions—real questions that deserve real answers. With so much going on, the two don't know how to keep their friendship from being pulled apart. Layered with compassion and humor, this play invites you into the living rooms of these two families (one black and one white) as they wrestle with how to help their children make sense of what happened. Playwright Cheryl D. West invites you to walk alongside Josh and Emma as they confront uncertainty within their own town and seek to plant the seeds of change in their community.

Performance: March 3, 2025 | 10:00 AM | Embassy Theatre



Youtheatre and the Allen County Public Library team up again for more Stories from the Stacks: Theatre for Young Readers. Aimed at Pre-K through 3rd Graders (but with plenty to enjoy for all ages), this year's selection is Adam Rubin's best-seller, *Dragons Love Tacos*. You know what Dragons REALLY love? Tacos of course! A boy and his dog are watching a TV show about dragons when they unexpectedly get caught up in the 'Dos and Don'ts' of what to serve dragons to eat. Dragons love tacos, but if they accidentally eat spicy salsa...watch out! This show is a playfully funny treat for the whole family.

Performance: April 28, 2025 | 10:00 AM | Downtown ACPL Theater

For more information and resources for your classroom,
visit our website at fortwayneyouthetheatre.org/school-shows-resources

4 shows
to
choose
from

**Theatre is a
great gateway
to reading.**

American academic
Madeleine Grumet,
in writing about the
importance of
integrating arts
into the literature
curriculum, says:

**"When children
understand literature
as something
meaningful
and complex, they
sense its capacity to
inform their lives.
This is the kind of
literacy that influences
reading scores..."**

only
5 dollars
per
ticket

**Study guides and fun
curricular activities**
will be emailed
to you prior to the
performance, making
it easy to incorporate
shows and themes
into your curriculum!

Can't make it to one of our shows?

Ask us about how we can bring Youtheatre
to your school with our **On-the-Go performances**
and **Virtual Tours!**

Visit <https://www.fortwayneyouththeatre.org/school-shows-resources> for more information!

Fort Wayne
youtheatre

invites you to attend

**LIVE THEATRE
FOR KIDS BY KIDS**



Name:

Date:

ANASTASIA THE MUSICAL - PERSONAL RESPONSE

1.) **Overall connection:** How did this musical make you feel? Were there specific moments or characters that resonated with you emotionally? Why?

2.) **Character connection:** Is there a character in the musical with whom you strongly identified or connected? What aspects of their personality or journey spoke to you personally?

3.) **Musical Highlights:** Reflect on the songs and music in the musical. Which song was your favorite, and why?

4.) **Themes & Messages:** Consider the themes and messages conveyed in the musical. Were there any lessons or insights that you found particularly meaningful or thought-provoking? How do you relate these to your own experiences or values?

5.) **Artistic elements:** Discuss the artistic elements such as costumes, set design, and choreography. How did these aspects contribute to your overall enjoyment of the performance?

ACTIVITY #1:

NESTING DOLLS

This activity is best suited for early elementary through upper elementary students.



Supplies needed:

- Nesting doll cutout on a piece of cardstock (below)
- Safety scissors
- Crayons or markers

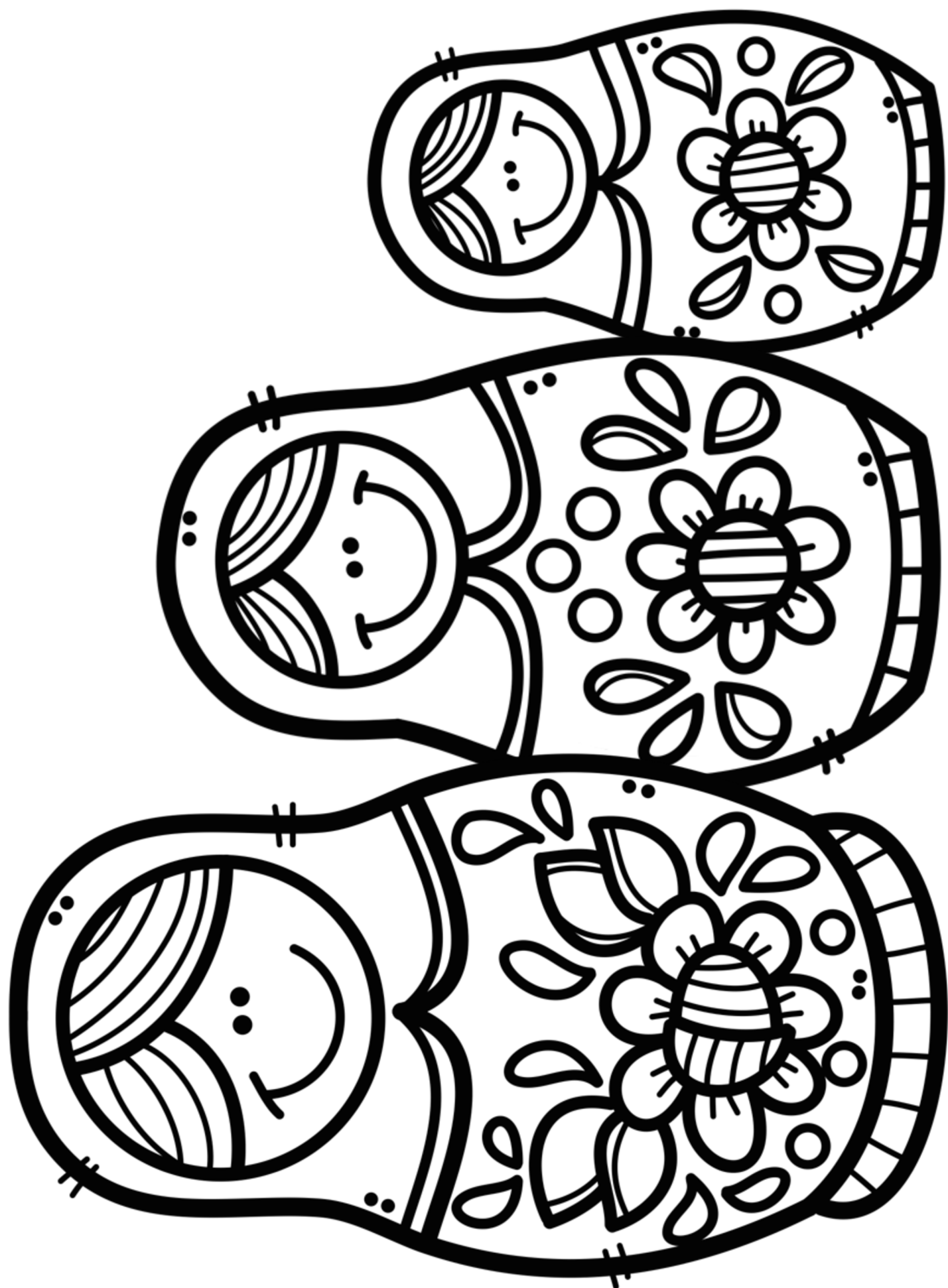
Instructions:

- Color the nesting dolls.
- Cut around the solid lines. Do not cut apart.
- Fold between each doll, so it stands vertically.



Russian nesting dolls, also known as Matryoshka dolls, are a fun and colorful toy that originated in Russia over a hundred years ago. These dolls are made of wood and painted by hand. They come in sets, with each doll fitting inside a larger one. The largest doll is called the "mother" and the smallest one is often a baby.

Matryoshka dolls are known for their bright and cheerful designs, often featuring traditional Russian dress and folk art. They are not just toys but also pieces of art that tell a story. Kids love them because they can open each doll to find another one inside, making it a surprise every time!



ACTIVITY #2:

ROYAL CROWNS

This activity is best suited for
preschool through early elementary
students

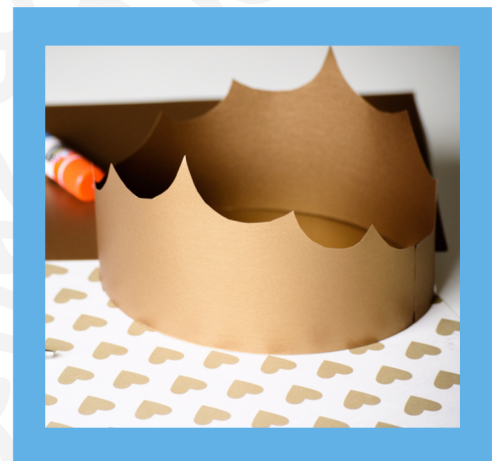
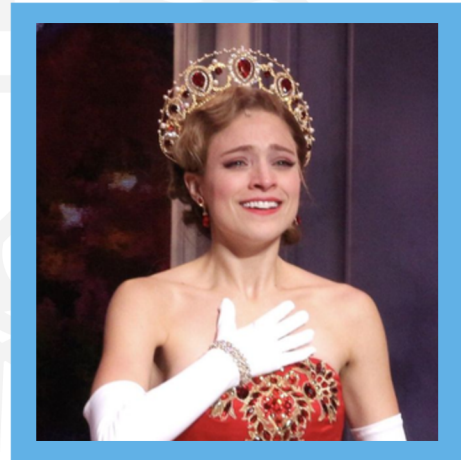


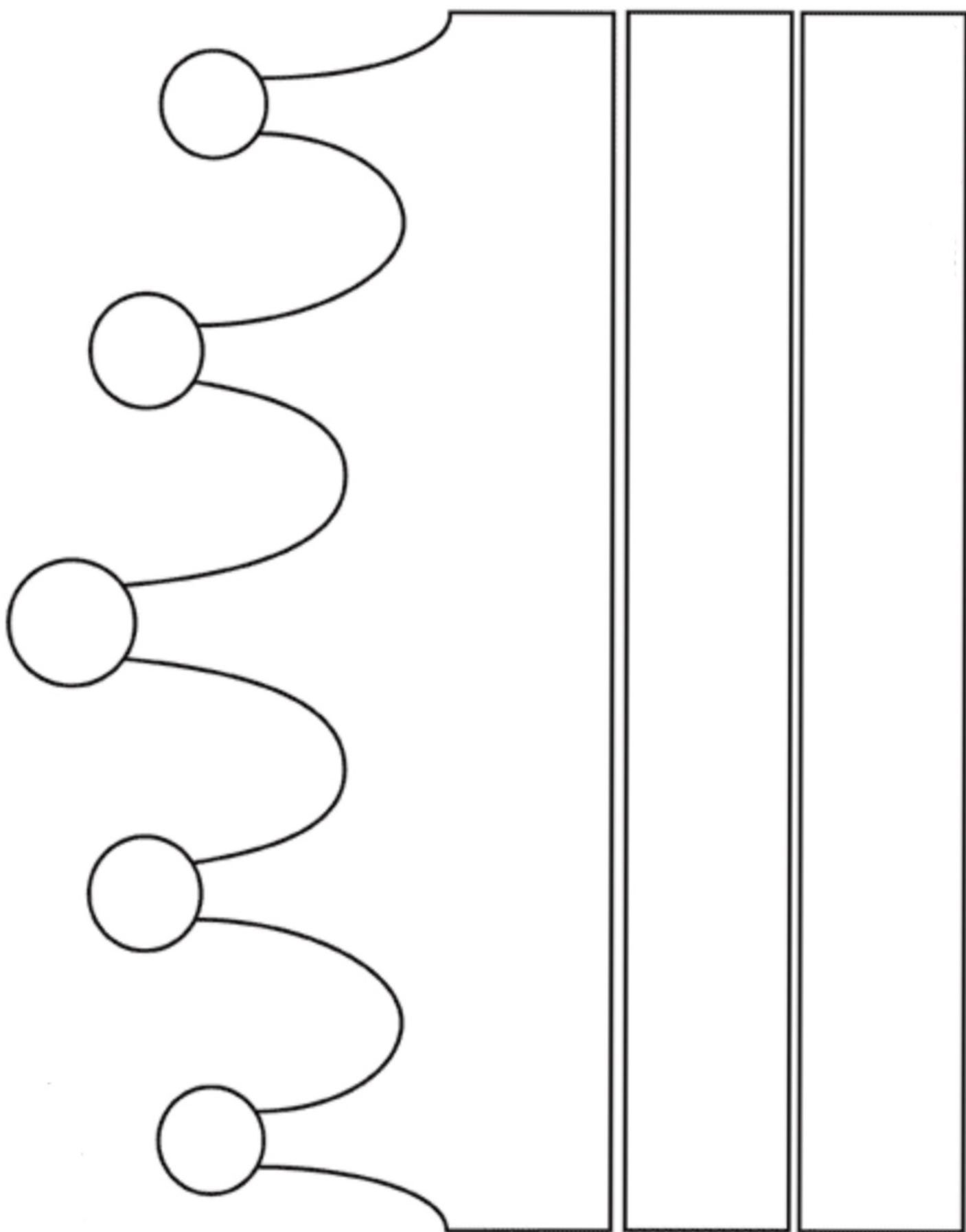
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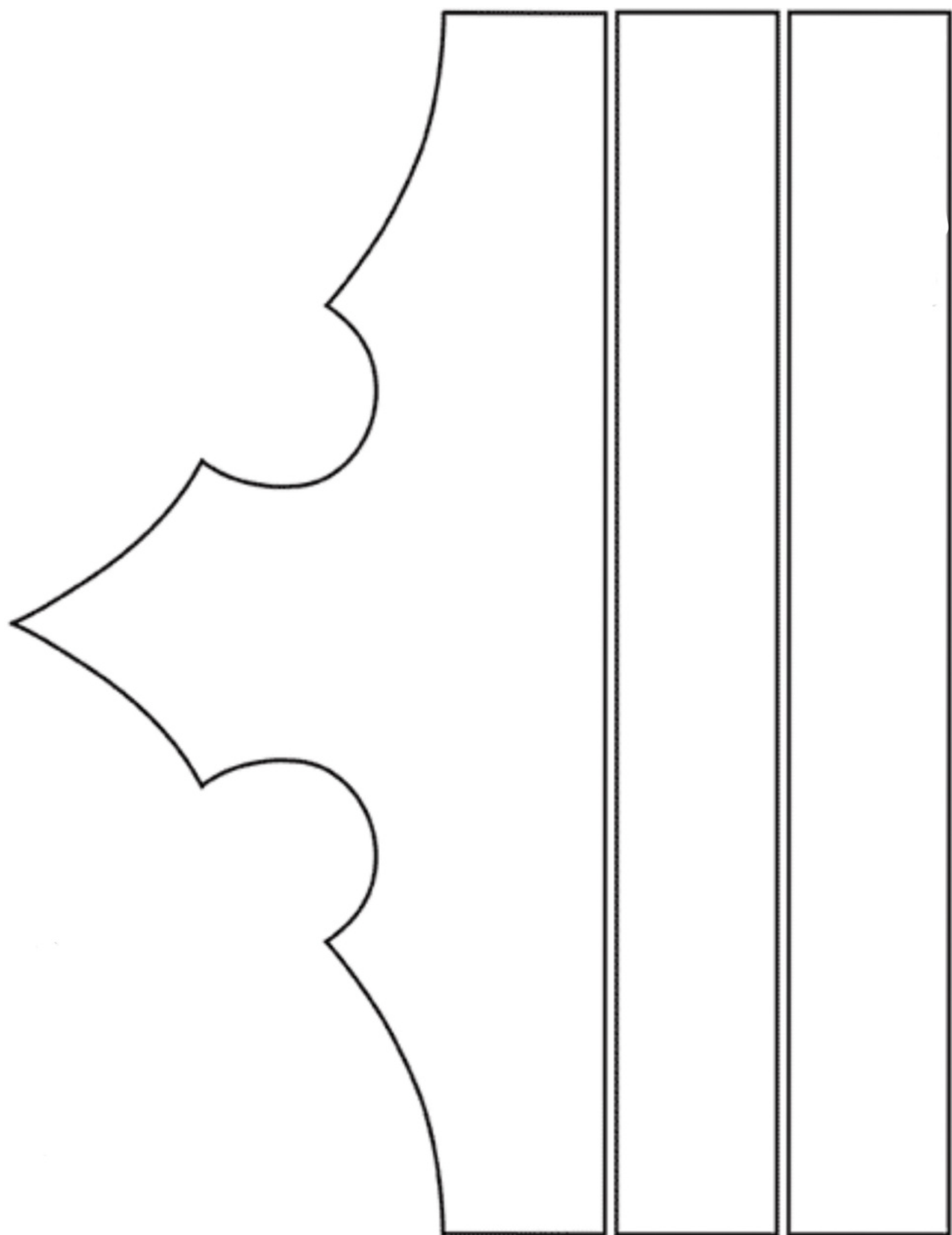
- Crown printouts
- Safety scissors
- Crayons or markers
- Tape

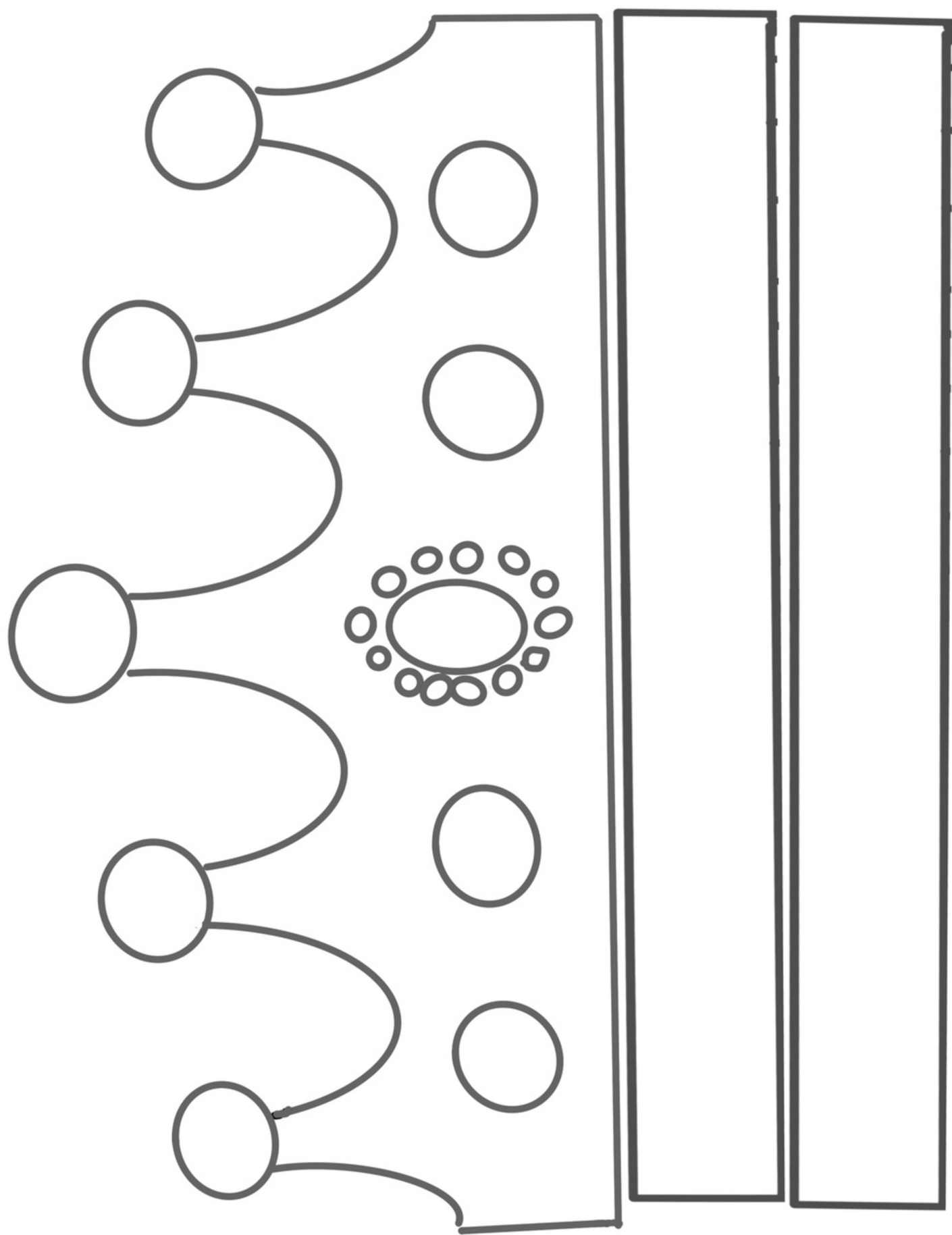
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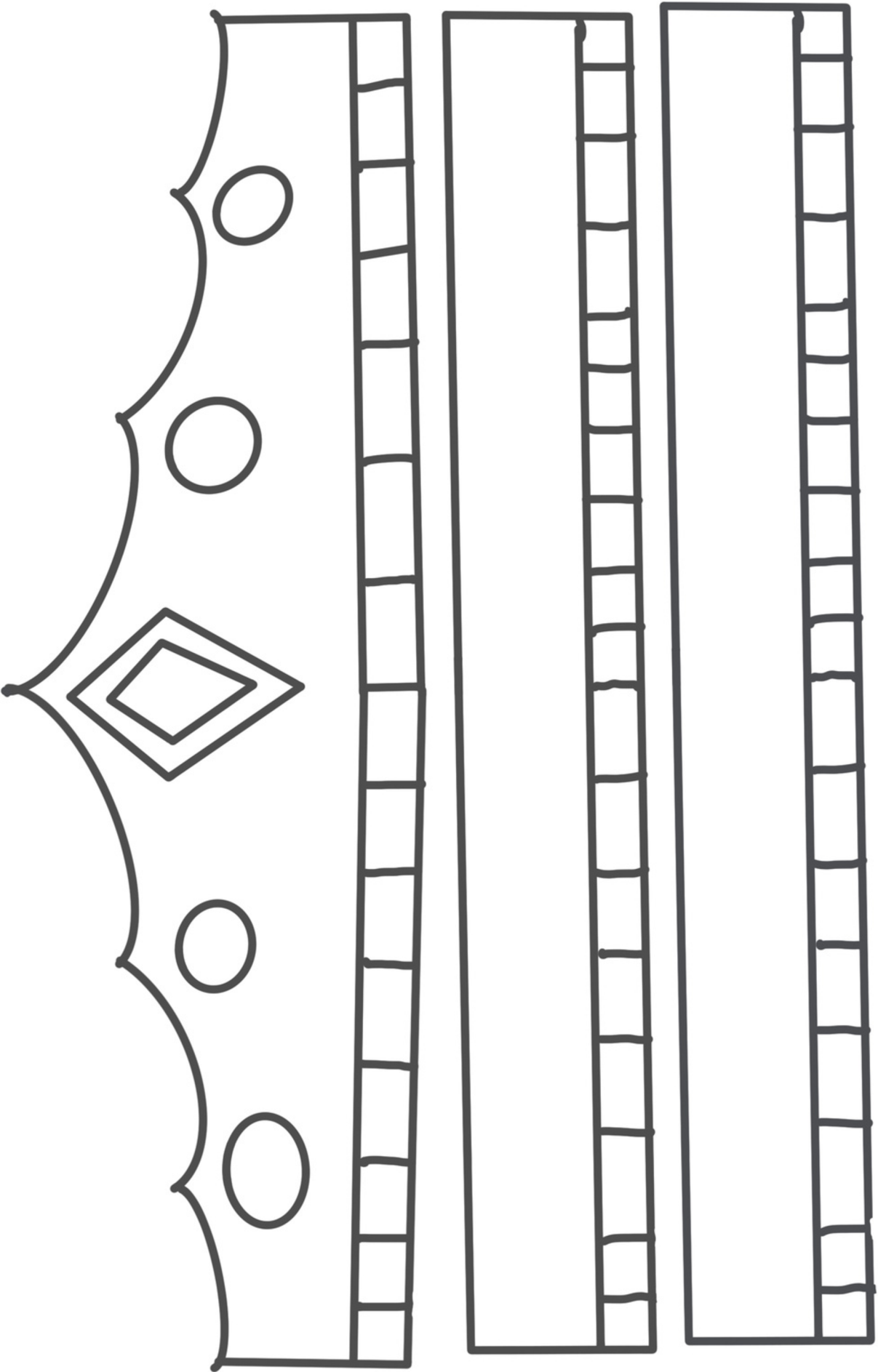
- Print out the royal crowns from the templates below
- Color the crowns, use every color of the rainbow, or your favorite color!
- Carefully cut out your crown
- Tape the straps to fit











Want to get involved?...

24-25 SEASON AUDITION DATES:

SHUDDERSOME TALES OF POE..... Sept. 9 & 10, 2024

ANASTASIA.....Sept. 30 & Oct 1, 2024

SOMETHING HAPPENED IN OUR TOWN.....Jan 6 & 7, 2025

DRAGONS LOVE TACOS.....March 3 & 4, 2025

Sign up at fortwayneyouththeatre.org/auditions

Suggested Reading...

Elementary: *Russia (DK Eyewitness Books Series)* by Kathleen berton Murrell, *Anastasia Romanov: the Last Grand Duchess #10 (The Treasure Chest)* by Anne Hood, *The Land and the People: Russia* by Cath Senker

Middle School: *Anastasia: The Last Grand Duchess (The Royal Diaries Series)* by Carolyn Meyer, *The Apartment: A Century Of Russian History* by Alexandra Litvina, *The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion & the Fall of Imperial Russia* by Candace Fleming

High School: *The Romanov Sisters: The Lost Lives of the Daughters of Nicholas and Alexandra* by Helen Rappaport, *I Was Anastasia* by Ariel Lawhon, *The Storyteller* by Kathryn Williams



POP QUIZ:

Test Your Memory

See how much you remember from the performance of ANASTASIA this brief quiz on the play, the plot, and characters.



1. The story follows a young woman named ____
 - a. Anastasia
 - b. Natalia
 - c. Anya
 - d. None of the above
2. The main character suffers from ____
 - a. Tuberculosis
 - b. Amnesia
 - c. Asthma
 - d. Polio
3. Anastasia encounters a conman named ____
 - a. Dimitri
 - b. Gustav
 - c. Mischa
 - d. Jonathon
4. She also meets a former aristocrat named ____
 - a. Davey
 - b. Vlad
 - c. Herschel
 - d. Igor
5. Anastasia proves her identity with a ____
 - a. Necklace
 - b. Hair streak
 - c. Music box
 - d. Birth scar
6. Who is the villainous character who schemes to stop Anastasia?
 - a. Nikolai Petrovich
 - b. Elena Ivanova
 - c. Mikahail Avreeich
 - d. Gleb Vaganov
7. What is Anya's main quest?
 - a. To escape the Russian government
 - b. To become a ballerina
 - c. To overthrow the government
 - d. To find her true identity
8. What major historical event serves as a backdrop to the beginning of the show?
 - a. World War 1
 - b. The Russian Revolution
 - c. The Bolshevik Revolution
 - d. Crimean War
9. Who is the Dowager Empress's confidante?
 - a. Sophie
 - b. Lily
 - c. Olga
 - d. Tatiana
10. How does Dimitri react to the reward money given to him?
 - a. He accepts it, then leaves Russia forever
 - b. He demands a higher bounty
 - c. He refuses it
 - d. He accepts it, then reveals his true, evil intent

Answer Key

Q1: C, Anya Q2: B, Amnesia Q3: A, Dimitri Q4: B, Vlad Q5: C, Music box Q6: D, Gleb Vaganov Q7: D, To find her true identity Q8: B, The Russian Revolution Q9: B, Lily Q10: C, he refuses it

LANGUAGE ARTS

STANDARDS

Most Youtheatre productions are literature-based and on the recommended reading list of the Library of Congress.

Language Arts Standard: Perceive, identify, describe and analyze the distinguishing characteristics of form, structure and style of story.

- Retell story identifying plot, theme, characters, and setting.
- Recall story plot utilizing chronological order.

Language Arts Standard: Evaluate Theatre/Literary work based on critical perception and analysis.

- Share perception of theatre experience in the area of voice, movement, mood and motivation.
- Make suggestions for alternative endings.
- Analyze and critique story and performance through creative writing.
- Create a similar story through creative writing.

Language Arts Standard: Use Theatre /Literary work to develop affective areas of self-concept, problem solving and interpersonal skills.

- React to feelings of self and others within a production.
- Identify conflict within story as it relates to self and others.
- Compare and contrast problems and resolutions found in different stories and real life situations.
- Express personal attitudes, values, and belief systems as it relates to theatre piece.
- Interact freely in conversations, class discussions and dramatic activities.
- Contribute to the solving of problems through dramatization/improvisation.

Language Arts Standard: Examine Theatre /Literary work in a historical and multicultural context.

- Identify similarities and differences between characters from diverse cultures depicted.
- Identify historical differences/figures in different time frames depicted in story.
- Identify significance of historical aspects in story.

Exploring Aesthetics: A Philosophical Basis for Life!

- Attending live theatre helps children value its importance to the community and helps develop a lifelong commitment and love of Theatre and Literature. Students experience aesthetic growth through appreciation of Theatre.
- Students discover through experience that making art is an essential human activity. It requires collaboration, and enhances creative thinking.

