



NEW MEXICO YOUNG ACTORS

Present

A Wrinkle in Time

Adapted and dramatized by **Morgan Gould**

Based on the novel by **Madeleine L'Engle**

TEACHER STUDY GUIDE

Dear Teachers,

Welcome to New Mexico Young Actors production of ***A Wrinkle in Time***. We are offering this study guide to help you prepare your classes for our upcoming production at your school. Included in this guide are a **synopsis** of our story, a **list of characters** you'll meet in the play, a **vocabulary list** and **lesson ideas**, as well as some **audience protocol** reminders. We always enjoy hearing from you and your students and look forward to receiving any pictures, stories, or comments about the production after our visit. Thank you for your support of New Mexico Young Actors!

A WRINKLE IN TIME SYNOPSIS

In Madeleine L'Engle's *A Wrinkle in Time*, Meg Murry, her sibling Charli Wallace, and their friend Calvin O'Keefe embark on a perilous journey through time and space to rescue Meg's missing scientist father from the clutches of a cosmic evil, guided by three mysterious women, Mrs. Whatsit, Mrs. Who, and Mrs. Which. Meg's father, a gifted scientist, disappears during an experiment involving time travel, leaving his family and friends worried.

A mysterious figure, Mrs. Whatsit, appears at the Murry household and informs Meg's mother about the possibility of time travel through a "tesseract," or "wrinkle in time". Meg, Charli Wallace, and Calvin, who are also unusually intelligent, are summoned by strange forces and embark on a mission to find Meg's father. The trio, aided by Mrs. Whatsit, Mrs. Who, and Mrs. Which, travels through the universe, encountering strange planets and beings, including the planet Camazotz, a world controlled by a malevolent force known as "IT".

Camazotz is a planet where everyone is forced to be the same, and IT uses its power to suppress individuality and enforce conformity. Meg, Charli Wallace, and Calvin must overcome the challenges of Camazotz and confront the IT to rescue Meg's father, who is also held captive on the planet. The three friends discover the importance of love, individuality, and courage, and use these qualities to fight against the darkness that threatens the universe. Ultimately, Meg and her companions succeed in rescuing Meg's father and defeating the IT, restoring balance and hope to the universe.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Meg – the protagonist of our story, a teen girl who misses her scientist father

Charli Wallace – her younger sibling, extremely intelligent

Calvin O'Keefe – Meg's friend from school

Mrs. Whatsit– one of three extraterrestrial beings who accompanies Meg on her search for her father

Mrs. Which – another extraterrestrial companion

Mrs. Who – a third extraterrestrial companion

Sandy & Dennys – Meg and Charli’s twin brothers

Red-Eyed Man – the antagonist, the leader of the planet Camazotz

Mr. Murry – Meg and Charli’s dad, a time traveling scientist

LESSON IDEAS

Preparing Your Class for a Live Theater Experience

1. *How many of you have experienced a live theater performance? What did you see?*
2. *What are some of the differences between seeing a play and watching television or going to a movie?*

- Theater features live onstage actors. They have spent many weeks rehearsing for the performance.
- The audience is a very important part of the performance. Appreciation for the performers is shown by close attention, participation, and applause at the proper times. The success of the production often depends on the audience.
- It is easy to identify with live actors. You can see how they use their bodies and voices to convey different emotions.
- Actors wear costumes and make-up to help create the impression of the characters they portray.
- There is much more to most live performances than actors. Special sets, effects, lighting, music, costumes, and of course, the audience add to the total experience.

Theater Etiquette

Discuss the role of the audience and proper theater etiquette.

- Arrive on time so that you do not miss anything and so that you will not disturb the rest of the audience while trying to get comfortable in your seat.
- It is easier for you (and the rest of the audience) to see and hear the performance if you stay seated and listen very carefully.

- There is no intermission during the performance, which is 60 minutes in length. Be sure to use the restroom before the performance begins.
- Although you may wish to say something to the actors, you need to hold your thoughts, as you will disturb their concentration.
- Sing or participate *if* and *only if* you are invited to do so. Your participation is often very important.
- Listen to how the music sets the mood and affects your own feelings.
- Show the cast and crew your appreciation for their hard work with applause after a song, dance, or joke.

Theatrical Terms to Know:

Actor	Overture
Acts/Scenes	Play
Balcony	Playwright
Box Office	Producer
Curtain Call	Program
Costumes	Props
Director	Scenery/Set
Lobby	Stage
Musical Theater	Stagehand
Orchestra	Usher
Pit	

Classroom Discussion and Extension Activities (Pre- or Post-Performance)

Content Vocabulary

The following are some words you will hear spoken in *A Wrinkle in Time*:

Bickering	Offspring
Caviar	Peculiar
Classified	Primitive
Compulsion	Resilience
Dimension	Smug
Hypnotized	Transmissible
Impressionable	Transparent
Liverwurst	Verbalize
Misconception	

Reading/Writing

- Read aloud the original novel of *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle to your class.
- Write a description of one of the characters and share it with a partner. After sharing, students can question each other about the ideas presented. This can be done with a drawing for lower levels.

Other Curricular Connections

- Draw a picture of a favorite scene or character.
- Draw an advertisement or program cover for the play.
- Ask the students to identify musical instruments that they heard in the play. Discuss other instruments that could have been added for greater effect.
- How did the music express the action or emotion of the story (tempo, volume, range of notes, etc.)?
- Recreate a scene from the play in your classroom. Assign students to play various characters and have them work together to create short scenes from the play.

INTERNET & OTHER RESOURCES

WEBSITES

Madeleine L'Engle's author website is bursting with curricular connections and resources:

<https://www.madeleinelengle.com/for-educators/wrinkle-in-time-teacher-resources/>

An excellent companion study guide with lesson plans, created by Peter Royston for Stage Partners, the play's publishing company:

<https://www.madeleinelengle.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/A-WRINKLE-IN-TIME-5-Lesson-Plans.pdf>

VIDEOS

A 90-second re-telling of *A Wrinkle in Time*:

<https://vimeo.com/18694727>

Tesseract are real! A scientist simplifies the fourth dimension and time travel:

<https://youtu.be/sxl6TOLxvuI>

RE-TELLINGS AND VERSIONS OF A WRINKLE IN TIME

A Wrinkle in Time, motion picture directed by Ava DuVernay (2018)

A Wrinkle in Time: The Graphic Novel by Madeleine L'Engle and Hope Larson

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