

#10095 THE RED SHOES

WESTON WOODS STUDIOS, 1990
Grade/Interest Level: 2-5
27 mins.

DESCRIPTION

Lisa and Jenny, two friends who live in a poor neighborhood, love to dance and play together. But when Lisa's family wins a lottery, she changes and avoids Jenny. A chance encounter at the ballet and a pair of magical red dancing shoes eventually restore their friendship. Loosely based on Hans Christian Andersen's tale, and narrated by Ossie Davis.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Language Arts–Reading

- Standard: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand and interpret a variety of literary texts
 - ♦ Benchmark: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand a variety of familiar literary passages and texts (e.g., fairy tales, folktales, fiction, nonfiction, legends, fables, myths, poems, nursery rhymes, picture books, predictable books) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 1 and 3.)
 - ♦ Benchmark: Understands similarities and differences within and among literary works from various genre and cultures (e.g., in terms of settings, character types, events, point of view; role of natural phenomena) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 1.)
 - ♦ Benchmark: Makes inferences or draws conclusions about characters' qualities and actions (e.g., based on knowledge of plot, setting, characters' motives, characters' appearances, other characters' responses to a character) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 2.)

Subject Area: Life Skills–Self-Regulation

- Standard: Demonstrates perseverance
 - ♦ Benchmark: Persists in the face of difficulty (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 2.)

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To present a modern story based on a classic tale.
2. To explore qualities that enable people to overcome misfortunes, including ingenuity, patience, hope, imagination, and perseverance.
3. To promote the reading of children's literature.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Hans Christian Anderson tale is given a modern setting in this adaptation by Maxine Fisher.

VOCABULARY

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 1. ballet | 6. magic | 11. shoes/shoemaker |
| 2. best friends | 7. memory | 12. <i>The Nutcracker</i> |
| 3. connected | 8. millionaires | 13. winning |
| 4. funeral | 9. money | 14. winter |
| 5. lottery ticket | 10. seasons | |

BEFORE SHOWING

1. Introduce the title of the story. Explain that magical red shoes are important to the plot. Discuss what putting on a pair of magic shoes might cause.
2. Discuss the lottery and what happens to people who win the lottery. Describe how winning the lottery would affect you and your family.
3. Discuss best friends. Describe the things you like to do with your best friend.
4. Locate New York City on a U.S. map or world globe. Show pictures of New York City for those who don't know about it. Discuss what it would be like to live there.

DURING SHOWING

1. View the video more than once, with one showing uninterrupted.
2. Pause the video when Lisa is saying good-bye to Jenny as her family moves from the neighborhood. Identify Lisa's attitude and behaviors. How are both girls feeling?
3. Pause the video after Jenny tries calling Lisa on the phone. Discuss Lisa's reasons for not writing or talking to Jenny. How does Jenny feel?
4. Pause the video after the girls see each other at the ballet. Discuss why Lisa ran away from Jenny and Alphonse.



AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. Who was telling the story? What did Alphonse do for a living? How did he feel about money?
2. Describe the kind of friendship Lisa and Jenny had at the beginning of the video.
3. Compare Lisa's and Jenny's families.
4. What was wrong with Lisa's older brother Jim? What was Jim's attitude?
5. Why did the girl's stop at Alphonse's shoe shop on the way to school? Where else did they stop, and what did they see?
6. What happened to Jim? How did this affect Lisa and her family?
7. What caused the huge change for Lisa and her family? In what ways did having money change Lisa? How did it affect her friendship with Jenny?
8. Discuss how New York was special at Christmas time.

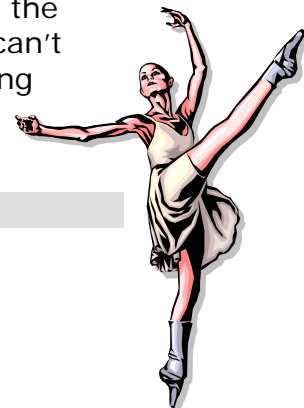
9. Describe Jenny's and Lisa's reactions to the ballet. Explain what happened when the girls saw each other. Discuss why Lisa ran away.
10. Why did Lisa and her mom visit Alphonse in his shoe shop? What did Lisa do when her mom didn't buy her the red shoes?
11. Describe what happened when Lisa put the red shoes on.
12. What memory caused Lisa to change back into her old self?

Applications and Activities

1. Read the original Hans Christian Andersen story *The Red Shoes* and watch movie versions. Compare and contrast the original story with this and other adaptations.
2. Discuss how dance and other forms of art can help people express their feelings and overcome adversity. Locate true examples of this in books, magazines, or on the Internet.
3. Write imaginary letters or e-mail messages between Lisa and Jenny.
4. Research and report on the history of classical ballet. Visit Web sites of ballet companies for information on the world of ballet today.
5. Perform a musical version of the story. Use ballet or other forms of modern dance to augment the performance.
6. Write a story about winning the lottery or about wearing magical shoes.

SUMMARY

This story is a retelling of a tale by Hans Christian Anderson. The narrator is Alphonse, a neighborhood shoemaker. The story begins on a block of apartment buildings in a rundown neighborhood. Two girls, Lisa and Jenny, are best friends who dream of being ballet dancers. Lisa especially needs her dreams. Her older brother is very sick, and her family life is not happy. Finally Lisa's brother dies. It is a dark time, but after a few months the family gets a surprise: they have won the lottery and are now millionaires! Even as she is saying good-bye, Lisa's behavior starts to change. Before long, she has cut off her old friends. At Christmas time, Alphonse takes Jenny to a performance of *The Nutcracker*, which Lisa and her mother also attend. Afterwards, the girls see each other's reflections when they both look at an exhibit of famous dancers' shoes. Lisa snubs Jenny. To cheer Jenny up, Alphonse makes her a pair of red ballet shoes. Meanwhile, Lisa is insisting on a pair of red shoes, and her mother remembers Alphonse's skills. In Alphonse's shop, Lisa sees the red shoes. Alphonse won't sell the shoes, so Lisa steals them. She puts the shoes on—and then can't stop dancing. The shoes carry her back to memories of dancing with her friend and with her brother and teach her to value love and friendship over material things.



CMP RELATED RESOURCES

- [The Emperor's New Clothes #3603](#)
- [Amazing Grace #10045](#)
- [Honk! #10026](#)
- [The Ugly Duckling #2538](#)

World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **STORIES BY HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN**

http://www.hca.gilead.org.il/red_shoe.html

Connect to over a hundred short stories, including *The Red Shoes* by this world-renown Danish children's author. Home page includes an introduction and chronological list of his works, most accessible online from this site.

- **THE HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN CENTER**

http://www.andersen.sdu.dk/index_e.html

Hans Christian Andersen's life and works--research, texts, and information. Choose from links to his life, works, miscellaneous, research, titles translated and links to other sites. Also choose from short or long biography.

- **HAN'S CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN'S FAIRY TALES**

http://www.edsiteмент.neh.gov/view_lesson_plan.asp?id=417

Expand your knowledge of Hans Christian Andersen's children's books through this Web site with lesson plans for five other fairy tales: *The Ugly Duckling*, *The Little Mermaid*, *The Darning Needle*, *The Emperor's New Clothes*, and *The Little Match Girl*.

- **BALLET COMPANIES ON THE WEB**

<http://www.dancer.com/dance-links/ballet.htm>

An alphabetical listing of links to ballet company Web sites from all over the world.

- **THE BALLERINA GALLERY**

<http://www.ballerinagallery.com/index.htm>

An alphabetical listing of all major past ballerinas worldwide. Click on a name and see half a dozen thumbnail pictures of your ballerina with can be enlarged by clicking the mouse. Includes a brief bio and repertoire history.