



2024

# A CHRISTMAS CAROL

## Educator's Guide & Lesson Plans

For more information on *A Christmas Carol*, visit  
[cincyplay.com/productions/a-christmas-carol-2024](https://cincyplay.com/productions/a-christmas-carol-2024)  
or email [education@cincyplay.com](mailto:education@cincyplay.com) with questions.

# GUIDE OVERVIEW

Dear Educator,

The goal of this guide is to provide resources that can be used in the classroom surrounding your trip to the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park's production of *A Christmas Carol*. Included in the guide are a lesson plan, context surrounding the production, and relevant links to resources. The lesson plan surrounds the concept of "adaptation" and is geared toward an English Language Arts curriculum. **Relevant education standards for Ohio and Kentucky are listed, as are the relevant National Arts Standards.** The rigor and difficulty of the plan can be easily tailored to any grade level. Please feel free to use as much or as little of this lesson plan as is helpful. At the end of this guide, you will find additional resources to extend the experience of your trip to *A Christmas Carol*.

We hope this guide equips you with the tools to bring the magic of *A Christmas Carol* into your educational setting. We extend our deepest gratitude for your role in making this play come alive for your students. The impact of your teaching is immeasurable.

All our best,

The Education and Engagement Team

**Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park**

To learn more about *A Christmas Carol* Visit [cincyplay.com/productions/a-christmas-carol-2024](https://cincyplay.com/productions/a-christmas-carol-2024) or email [education@cincyplay.com](mailto:education@cincyplay.com) with questions.



# LESSON PLAN:

## WRITE AN ADAPTATION OF A *CHRISTMAS CAROL*

### Title of Lesson:

Introduction to Adaptation

### Materials, technology, resources, guest speakers:

*For the teacher:* White/Chalk board, markers/chalk. *For the students:* Paper and pen/pencil

More resources about adaptation and the history *A Christmas Carol* can be found in the bibliography in the next section of this document.

### General description of lesson:

This lesson will introduce the concept of literary adaptation and provide opportunities for students analyze, compare, and create the elements of a story.

### Key Vocabulary:

- Source
- Adaptation

### Content Standards/Competencies and Benchmarks/Indicators:

- Ohio English Language Arts Reading Standards for Literature ([Standards found here](#))
  - ◊ RL.K-5.1
  - ◊ RL.K-5.2
  - ◊ RL.K-2, 6-8.3
  - ◊ RL.6-12.7
  - ◊ RL.6-12.9
- Kentucky Reading and Writing Standards for Reading Literature and Composition ([Standards found here](#))
  - ◊ C.4-12.2
  - ◊ C.K-12.3
  - ◊ C.3-5.6
  - ◊ RL.7.5
  - ◊ RL.6-8, 11-12.7
  - ◊ RL.6, 8-10.9

# LESSON PLAN:

## WRITE AN ADAPTATION OF A *CHRISTMAS CAROL* (Cont.)

### Content Standards/Competencies and Benchmarks/Indicators (Continued):

- National Core Arts Standards—Theatre
  - ◊ TH:Cr2-PK-8, I-III
  - ◊ TH:Cr3-PK-8, I-III

### Outcomes. Goals, Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Define the term “adaptation” and provide examples of characters, stories, and myths that have been adapted.
- Compare the elements of an adapted story to the source or other adaptations.
- Analyze the elements of a story.

### The Activity

1. **Define** for the students the term “adaptation” and provide examples. (20 minutes)

Sample Language:

Here, **adaptation** means taking an original piece of art and creating something new based on that original work. That original art is called “**the source**.” We all are familiar with adaptations, whether we know it or not. For example, the movie-musical *Hercules* is an adaptation of the ancient Greek myth.

In theatre there are many adaptations, like the musicals *Matilda* (which is an adaptation from the book by Roald Dahl), *Wicked* (which is an adaptation from the book by Gregory Maguire, and even *Cats* (which is based on a series of poems by T.S. Eliot).

Adaptations don’t only need to be based on a book. The musical *Sunday in the Park with George* is an adaptation of the painting [A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte](#), the movie *Dungeons and Dragons* is based on a role playing game, and the *Mortal Kombat* movies are based on a the video games.

2. **Generate with the class** a list of other examples of adaptations. (20 minutes)

You might get examples like *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, *The Super Mario Brothers Movie*, or any of the Marvel/DC Cinematic Universe movies (your Spidermans and Batmans).

3. **Generate with the class** a list of ways in which the stories from the previous list have been adapted. (30 minutes)

This is the step that will require story analysis and comparison. As they come up with examples, try to put a label on what exactly changed that made this new version into

# LESSON PLAN:

## WRITE AN ADAPTATION OF A CHRISTMAS CAROL (Cont.)

### 3. (Continued)

an adaptation. These are the major ideas that we're trying to label and define for students as they help generate this list:

- Change in medium (ie. From a book to a movie, from a poem to a song, from a painting into a song)
- Change in time or place– the setting of the story changes (examples: the television shows *Sherlock* or *Elementary*, the movie versions of *Journey to the Center of the Earth* and its sequel, which take place today)
- POV Change – the story we know is told by or focuses on a different character (example *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*, or *Maleficent*)
- A new story with familiar characters (Examples: the *Puss in Boots* movies adapted from *Shrek*, *Frasier* adapted from *Cheers*, or *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* adapted from the Harry Potter films.)
- Genderswapped or Diverse characters (Example the new *Ghostbusters* film)
- Sequels and Prequels – new story in a larger story arc
- Cultural Adaptation – Making the source relevant (Like Amie Cesare's *Une Tempete*, a west African version of *The Tempest*. Or the movie *Death at a Funeral* is a British comedy, and then it was remade into a Black American comedy. Or even the television show *The Office*, which was first a British sitcom.)

### 4. **Optional step: read the article about the Playhouse's adaptation of A Christmas Carol with the class.** The article is appropriate for reading ages Grade 5+. (20 minutes)



The Playhouse version of A Christmas Carol is an adaptation from the original novella by Charles Dickens. It is written and directed by Playhouse Osborn Family Producing Artistic Director, Blake Robison. Check out [this article](#) from the Playhouse (QR code to the left) to learn about how A Christmas Carol has been adapted over the years, both globally and locally. Students can read the article for themselves or it can be read aloud.

### 5. Students create their own adaptation of A Christmas Carol. Picking either the story as they know it, the novella, or the Playhouse's production of the tale, students can apply the generated list of how stories have been adapted to A Christmas Carol. The final product will be a written adaptation (a story, a play, a poem, a song, etc) that uses some aspect of A Christmas Carol in its creation.

# LESSON PLAN:

## WRITE AN ADAPTATION OF A *CHRISTMAS CAROL* (Cont.)

### 5. (Continued)

Students can decide whether to tell the same story in a different medium (a narrative poem that tells the story, to put the story to music as a song, etc); to change the time or place the story occurs; they could pick a character other than Scrooge who tells the story from their point of view; they could take Scrooge and put him (or any other character) in a brand new story; etc. This is a creative endeavor that requires understanding and analysis of the various parts of storytelling and application of that analysis. Encourage students to think about why they are choosing their mode of adaptation. This can be done as a writing assignment in class, or as homework. The breadth and scope of the piece is up to the teacher. It could be as short as a monologue or poem or as long and intricate as the novel itself. Set these parameters in whatever way will be most beneficial to learning and grading.

6. **When the written adaptation is complete, it is time to share.** This can be as casual or formal as you like. But if it is more formal, think about the speaking language standards you would like to address here. Students can/should prepare a speech in which not only do they present their written adaptation, but also explain what mode of adaptation they chose and why. They should be able to speak to how their chosen mode of adaptation effected the original story; what is the same in this new piece and what is different. In general, this step should lean towards a presented comparative analysis between the source and their new adaptation.

# BIBLIOGRAPHY:

## OTHER RESOURCES FOR A *CHRISTMAS CAROL*

### The Charles Dickens Museum

This bibliography is a list of resources surrounding Charles Dickens, Victorian London, and A Christmas Carol. Many listed resources have further links to primary and secondary sources to be used in the classroom.

### The Charles Dickens Museum

This website has pages specifically for educators, although the referenced standards are from England. They have lesson plans for elementary and high school, along with activities, videos and PowerPoints. Some important links are below, but definitely go through all the pages under the “LEARNING” tab at the top of the page to mine all this website has to offer.



[10 Things you never knew about Victorian London](#)

(QR code to the left)



[Free Education Resources](#)

(QR code to the left)



[Image Library](#)

(QR code to the left)

### The Comfortable Courtesan



The main [website](#) hosts the memoirs of Clorinda Cathcart, a very exclusive courtesan who lived in Hyde Park during the late Regency and Early Victorian periods. The memoirs were discovered at a Georgian manor house in Surrey and give invaluable insights into daily life in the era. The linked page presents various primary resources from the era that give us a closer look into what life might have been like for Londoners living in the same period as Charles Dickens

### The Charles Dickens Page



Essentially a fan site, this [website](#) is dedicated to all things Charles Dickens. It's extremely well researched, and you can find information on Dickens' biography, his work, and his legacy.

# BIBLIOGRAPHY:

## OTHER RESOURCES FOR A *CHRISTMAS CAROL* (Continued)

### People of Color in Victorian England

This is a group of resources from various websites that offer background information on the lives of POCs in Victorian England.



[Black Working Lives in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries](#)

(QR code to the left)



[Carnival Row Forgets East Asia's Role in Victorian Times](#)

(QR code to the left)



[The Hidden Histories of Black Victorians from the British Academy](#)

(QR code to the left)



[Indian Influence in the Victorian Era](#)

(QR code to the left)