

Treehouse Theatre

'A Victorian Tale' 2-Day Project

Project Outline

'A Victorian Tale' 2-Day Project is a fun, challenging and rewarding experience for students. During **2 days of workshops and rehearsals**, students prepare to perform 'A Victorian Tale', a look back at life at life in Victorian Times for children the same age as themselves.

The 2 days culminate in an **after school and/or early evening performance** to which an audience can be invited. Schools are actively involved by preparing some cross-curricular aspects of the performance in advance. We are very flexible and will adapt to your individual school.

We hope the children go away with the wonderful feeling of having worked well together and supported each other to put on a successful play, and learn lots about performing. They'll know all about the lives of Victorian children too, without even trying!

Performance

The final performance will be about 1 hour long. Ben Lindsey-Clark will be the narrator and provide support, and the children will play all the other parts. The performance will not be 'polished' and children with speaking parts will have cue cards to use if they wish to. The Play will be staged 'in the round', with a 4-sided audience and central stage. Children in the Play will sit in the front rows on mats / benches, then there will be additional seating behind them for your invited audience.

Props and costumes

We will provide some simple props and costumes, and additionally children will be asked to dress up for the performance. We will provide you with a dressing up handout to send home. No staging or scenery is required as the performance is in the round.

Preparation

The school will be asked to prepare some aspects of the performance in advance.

This typically includes:

- Casting & encouraging children to design & make a costume for their character
- Learning the words to a couple of songs
- Researching and learning some Victorian playground games
- Preparing arguments for a parliamentary debate over child labour
- Making and demonstrating thaumatropes
- 'Front of house' and 'sound' on the night (could be teachers or children)

Treehouse Theatre will support the school in this preparation, and you can expect from us:

- A resource pack of Victorian activities, including how to make thaumatropes, some playground games, and debating cards to use for a child labour debate.
- A list of characters, with guidance for casting and suggestions for costumes
- Cue cards in advance
- Words and music to songs
- A detailed timetable for the project
- A floor plan for setting up the hall, so that you can work out how many seats you will have for parents.

Cost

2-day project with 1 after school or early evening performance: £885 + travel

2-day project with 1 after school and 1 early evening performance: £985 + travel

NOTE: If you have more than 60 children, you will probably require 2 performances to accommodate all the parents; this also depends on hall size.