

**STEPPINGSTONE  
THEATRE**  
FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

For Educators & Families

# Study Guide

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 SCHOLASTIC

# Goosebumps

## Phantom of the Auditorium

# Dear Educators & Parents,

**Stories that thrill and chill are a trademark of childhood.** Can you remember your favorite spooky book or campfire story? Scary stories entice young people's curiosity to ask critical questions, gather information and solve the mystery of the unknown. "Fear is a natural response," says psychologist Emma Kenny "being frightened by a book helps forge resilience. The world can be a scary place – children will get into situations where they're told off by teachers, or fall out with friends. Knowing how to confront fear is a good thing."

SteppingStone Theatre is delighted to kick-off our 30th year of making Theatre with young people with the regional premiere of **Goosebumps the Musical: Phantom of the Auditorium**, RL Stine's wildly popular spooky book series. Young people love Goosebumps so much it is the world's best-selling children's book of all time- with more than 350 million English language books in print, WOW! But the reason Goosebumps' chilling stories are so popular is simply, young people love to read them.

*SST is committed to producing theatre that's exhilarating for young people to see, celebrates their love of literature and features empowered youth protagonists in real world situations.*

I hope this study guide provides opportunities for inquiry and conversation with the young people you bring to the theatre. Use the content to provide connections between the play and your curricula. It is our hope that you will use the experience of attending the theater and seeing **Goosebumps the Musical: Phantom of the Auditorium** with your students as a teaching tool. Please feel free to pick from these ideas and adapt or extend discussion topics and activity suggestions.

We hope you enjoy the show and we'll see you under the big white columns.

**Megan Flod Johnson**

Creative Learning Director

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# PRODUCTION SYNOPSIS

**Goosebumps The Musical: Phantom Of The Auditorium** is a musical with book and lyrics by John Maclay, and music and lyrics by Danny Abosch. Brooke's best friend, Zeke, has been given the lead role in the school play, "The Phantom." Zeke's totally into it. He loves dressing up in the phantom costume and scaring the other members of the cast. Brooke thinks Zeke's getting a little too into it. But then really spooky things start happening. A message appears on a piece of scenery: "Stay away from my home sweet home" A stage light comes crashing down. Is someone trying to ruin the play? Is the curse real? Will the show go on? What lurks beneath the stage? Based on the beloved book series from R.L. Stine.

**Goosebumps The Musical: Phantom Of The Auditorium** is recommended for grades 2 and up.

**Run time:** 90 minutes with intermission

## Welcome to SST

**Where is SteppingStone?** All SteppingStone Theatre's performances will be performed in our theatre at: 55 Victoria St. North, Saint Paul, MN 55104 This is two blocks north of Summit Ave at Holly (just north of Mitchell Hamline College of Law).

**When should we arrive?** Please allow plenty of time to unload your buses or vans, and to park. We recommend that you arrive at the theatre one half an hour before show time.

**Where do we park?** Bus parking Bus drivers may park and stay with their bus along Concordia (frontage road south of I-94). Busses may not park in front of the building, block the alley, or park along Portland headed westbound, as this is a fire lane. Paid parking for cars and vans is available at the Victoria Crossing ramp (corner of Victoria and Grand Ave.) There are two handicap accessible parking spaces in our employee lot near the north entrance. Additional parking is available around residential neighborhood near theatre. Please respect posted parking restrictions.

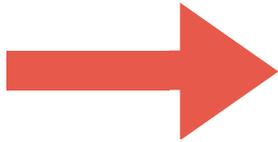
**Seating for people with special needs:** If you have special seating needs for any student(s) and did not indicate your need when you ordered your tickets, please call our Front of House and Volunteer Manager, at (651) 225-9265 x207. Our knowledge of your needs will enable us to serve you better upon your arrival to the theater.

### SteppingStone Policies

- The use of recording equipment and cameras are not permitted during the performance.
- Food, drink, candy and gum are not permitted in the theatre.
- Should a student become ill, suffer an injury or have another problem, please escort him or her out of the theater space.

**How can I prepare for my visit to the theatre?** Discuss audience behavior expectations with students before the arrival at the theatre. Use the study guide to prepare to content-specific questions. At a theatre performance, audiences are active participants. Their quiet attention, applause and laughter (both appropriate and inappropriate) are all heard by the young actors on stage and affects the performance in good or bad ways. The best way to show that you're enjoying the show is to listen attentively, laugh when something is funny and clap loudly following a scene or song you enjoyed!

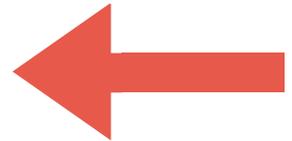
# QUICK CONVERSATIONS



## On the ride there...

- 1.) The Goosebumps series are spooky mystery books that are suspenseful and give you the chills. What do you think makes books mysterious, creepy, and spooky? What are some of your favorite frightening books to read?
- 2.) Some people believe that if you break a mirror you will have seven years of bad luck. Others may wear the same socks every time they play in a football game. In the story of Goosebumps we hear about the many superstitions that exist in the theater. Do you have any superstitions that you believe in?
- 3.) Characters in Phantom of the Auditorium jump to conclusions about other characters as to who is responsible for different problems. Have you ever been accused (or accused someone else) of something that was not true? What information made you jump to conclusions? How did you sort it out?
- 4.) What are your favorite books to read? Explain why. WHO is your favorite person to read to? Also explain why.

## ...On the ride home



- 1.) In Phantom of the Auditorium, Brooke, Zeke and their classmates/teachers make many assumptions about who is behind the mischief backstage of their production. Can you remember a moment from the play where something specific happened and someone accused someone else wrongfully? Why do you think everyone accused Zeke every time a spooky prank happened?
- 2.) The kids found evidence that suggested that Emile, the night janitor was living underneath the stage. This suggests that he may need some help. Have you ever noticed a friend or classmate was in need of some help? What did you do?
- 3.) Based on what you know about the mystery genre, what are some clues you noticed in the production about the true identity of the phantom? Can you make any connections between information from clues? Think about what you personally know about this topic or situation. Does that lead you to any conclusions? Now think about other possible outcomes to explain the conclusions you drew.

## Want more?!

**Did you know SST can ignite theatre learning inside your classroom?**

Contact us to book a theatre arts residency on empathy-building, cultural competency, or arts integration with your curriculum.

**SteppingStoneTheatre.org | 651.225.9265 x206**

# Story Genres

Everything we read fits into a classification of literature:

**Non-Fiction:** based on facts, real events, and real people, such as biography, memoir, or history.

**Fiction:** describes imaginary events and people.

**What's the difference?** Describe in your own words the difference. Ask students to list their favorite books. Do you know what genre they fit into? What characteristics make a book fit into that genre?

## The Five Common Genres

**FANTASY:** not realistic

i. Talking animals ii. Magical powers iii. Mythical beings

**HISTORICAL FICTION:** partially historic situations or historical periods

i. Fictional characters experiencing historic events ii. Historic figures embellished

**MYSTERY:** a story which puzzles the characters and/or reader

i. Something strange going on ii. Solving an event or situation iii. Something unknown

**REALISTIC FICTION:** a story that resembles real-life

i. Takes place in modern times ii. Characters involved in events that could happen

**SCIENCE FICTION:** imaginative concepts in science and technology

i. Involves science or technology of the future ii. Involves partially true theories of science

iii. Settings may include the future, in space, a different world or universe

**Reflection:** Explain that some stories may fall into more than one category. WHAT is your favorite genre to read? Did you discover any new genres you didn't know about before?

## Pop Quiz

**Choose a well-known or familiar book. To which genre does it belong?**

Justify why you think it belongs in a certain genre of story. Try to stump each other with books that have multiple genres!

Content adapted from *Enrichment Guide* created by First Stage Theatre Milwaukee. 2016.

**FIRST STAGE**  
Transforming Lives Through Theater

# ENJOY THE SHOW!

# IN-DEPTH: The Joy of Reading