The Lion King & I

A Study Guide for the 4th Grade

The Lion King Jr.
P.S. 161
Prepared By;
CCNY Theatre Ed. Dept

The City College of New York
Dear Educator,

Welcome for the study guide for The Lion King at P161. Throughout the guide you will find information and activities for your class to use before and after seeing The Lion King.

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Throughout the study guide look for this symbol to learn more about the production process over at P161.
The play begins with the animals welcoming King MUFASA and Queen SARABI’s new cub. The new cub is given the name SIMBA by RAFIKI (Circle of Life with Nants’ Ingonyama)

All except, King Mufasa’s brother SCAR who feels jealous and upset, that he will no longer be heir to the throne.

As time passes, young Simba grows into a happy, playful and curious little lion. (Grasslands Chant). Mufasa helps Simba to understand the responsibilities he will have when he grows up and becomes the king of the animal kingdom.

Unlike, Mufasa who wants to guide and protect Simba, Scar does all that he can to put Simba in danger. Uncle Scar encourages young Simba to visit the Elephant’s Graveyard. The Elephant’s Graveyard is a place, Mufasa has told young Simba is dangerous and should never visit!

Young Simba sets out with his best friend young NALA to explore the forbidden elephant’s graveyard. Before, they can set out on their dangerous adventure, they must first find get away from their babysitter ZAZU (I Just Can’t Wait To Be King).

In the graveyard, they are met by the very hungry hyenas SHENZI, BANZAI, and ED. Mufasa arrives just in time to save the cubs from the Hyenas. (Be Prepared).

At home, young Simba is reprimanded by Mufasa. He tells Simba to ask the stars, which are his ancestors to guide him in his choices. (They Live in You).

Scar puts his plan to action, by placing Simba in middle of gorge. Scar then has the hyenas scare a herd of wildebeest (The Stampede). Mufasa saves Simba from the stampede. When Mufasa asks Scar to help him get out of the stampede, Scar pushes him into the gorge. Mufasa is trampled to death.

Simba is lost alone and afraid in the desert but is befriended by TIMON and PUMBAA. They take him to the Jungle and tell him not to worry about anything anymore (Hakuna Matata).

Meanwhile in the Pridelands, Scar is a terrible king and has nearly ruined the Pridelands. Nala decides she needs the help of Simba to save the Pridelands (Shadowland). Nala finds Simba and they fall in love (Can You Feel the Love Tonight). Because Simba still feels guilty of his father’s death, he refuses to come back to fight Scar. Rafiki reminds Simba of his inner strength and convinces him to return to the Pridelands (He Lives In You).

Timon and Pumbaa distract the hyenas with a hilarious scheme (Luau Hawaiian Treat). Simba and Scar fight for the right to be king of the Pridelands and during the fight Scar confessed the truth of Mufasa’s death. Scar is no match for the brace Simba and Scar and the hyenas run away. Simba and Nala become the new rulers of the kingdom and bring peace to the Pridelands (Finale).
There are two other groups of people in our government. One of the groups creates the laws, the other group helps to make sure the law is fair and being followed.

In the *Lion King*, there is a Monarchy. A monarchy is when all or most of the power to make decisions is held by a single person. Just like in the *Lion King*, where Mufasa rules until he is killed by Scar, Monarchs rule for life or until they are too sick to lead. Very often, when a ruler of a monarchy dies, their daughter or son inherits the power.

How would the Lion King have been different if the animal kingdom chose their leader through a democracy instead of a just passing down power through family?

**Terms to Know**

- **Forbidden** - Something that is not allowed.
- **Responsibilities** - Something which a person must do either for the good of others or their own good.
- **Encourages** - To say positive things in order to make another feel as if they can perform a task.
- **Reprimanded** - To be talked to in a way, which tells a person their actions have affected others.
- **Ancestors** - The people in a family who came before the person living now. I.E.: The ancestor of the son is the father, grandfather, grandmother, great grandmother.
- **Stampede** - A large movement of a pack of animals, going very fast.
- **Trampled** - To crush under a foot or feet.
- **Mourn** - To feel or show feelings after something or someone goes away, often associated with death.

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**Monarchy**

When people (or Lions!) live together in a community, there needs to be rules to help keep the people safe and healthy.

Government is a person or group of people who make help choices and rules and for the people living in the community. There are many different types of government. America is a Democracy. The leader of our government is elected by the people of the community voting for who they think is best.
Meet the Cast & Crew

P.S. 161’s - The Lion King

**Pride Land Ensemble**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Actor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scar</td>
<td>Herbert E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simba</td>
<td>Yunior C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nala</td>
<td>Lamay F.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rafiki</td>
<td>Kimliya C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mufasa</td>
<td>Zavier B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zazu</td>
<td>Jasmine R.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarabi</td>
<td>Linette F.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarafina</td>
<td>Diamani M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banzai</td>
<td>Amil P.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shenzi</td>
<td>Rebecca G.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed</td>
<td>Isaiah S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timon</td>
<td>Isaiah T.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pumba</td>
<td>Kevin F.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Nala</td>
<td>Rosdely C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Simba</td>
<td>Sean C.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Crew**

- Stage Manager: Dominick C.
- Run Crew: Dashaun C.
- Nelson S.

* Denotes Featured Vocal Soloist.
+ Denotes Featured Dance Soloist.
++ Denotes Drummer

**Graveyard Ensemble**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Actor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hyena*</td>
<td>Donovan C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyena</td>
<td>Zakquery D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyena*</td>
<td>Xavier P.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyena</td>
<td>Melissa J.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyena</td>
<td>Maeen A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyena+</td>
<td>Melanie G.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyena</td>
<td>Donovan V.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyena</td>
<td>Shantall E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyena+</td>
<td>Miracle B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyena*</td>
<td>Stephany P.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyena</td>
<td>Robert M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyena</td>
<td>Sarah D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyena+</td>
<td>Alexis C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyena</td>
<td>Mory K.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cub-tivity:**

Vote with your feet!

1. Draw an invisible line or a real line down the center of the room.
2. Have students stand at the center of line.
3. Ask the following question: Would the animals of the Lion King be better off if they could vote for their leader?
4. Designate one side of the line yes, and another side of the line no.
5. Call on individual students to argue why or why not.
6. Give students a chance to change their physical position on the line.
Ecosystem: The Circle of Life

What is an ecosystem?
An ecosystem is a biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment. The organisms (animals or humans) and the environment (jungle, city streets, and farmland) vary amongst ecosystems.

What types of ecosystems does Simba encounter in The Lion King?

The Jungle
The Jungles in Africa take up a very small portion of the continent. African Jungles are located near the Congo River and the Guinea Coast. Jungles are filled with numerous types of flora. Many fauna dominate the African Jungle. The top predator is the Leopard. Other large animals found in the Jungle are the Jungle Elephant and the Okapi. Other animals include, reptiles like Snakes and Nile Crocodiles, Birds, Chimpanzees, Gorillas, Baboons, Monkeys, and Bush Babies.

The Rainforest
The Rainforests in Africa are largely located in Central Africa. However, South Africa is home to one of the densest Rainforests. The Knysna-Amatole Rainforest has a subtropical/warm climate and is home to numerous kinds of flora and fauna. Some of the fauna include in the Rainforest include Gorillas, African Forest Elephant, Black Colobus Monkey, African Grey Parrot, and Pygmy Hippopotamus.

How did the PS 161 scenic crew recreate the ecosystems for the show?
The technical theatre club at P.S. 161 is made up of several smaller groups who work on creating different aspects of the show. There is a lighting, scenic, and sound, costumes, puppetry and stage management group. Each group works on their piece of a larger puzzle to interpret the ecosystems found in the Lion King.
The African Savanna is located in South East Africa. Specifically, the Serengeti Volcanic Grasslands are south of the Tanzanian/Kenyan border, close to the equator. The Savanna is grassland, which have two seasons. The winter months are dry with four inches of rainfall while in the summer it rains between 15 and 25 inches of rain. During the winter months the water holes dry up and animals sneak to get little drinks of water, trying to avoid crocodiles. The animals found in the Savanna consist of Lions, African Elephants, Cheetahs, Zebras, Cape Buffalos, and Giraffes.

Did you know?

**Flora:** The plants of a particular region  
**Fauna:** The animals of a particular region  
**Semi-Arid:** Characterized by having very little annual rainfall

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**The Savanna**

**Cub-tivity:**  
**Funny Face.**

1. Pair students up into group of two and have them face each other.
2. Ask students to make the faces according to the emotions you call out.
3. Call out different emotions (Happy, Sad, Angry…) for about thirty seconds.
5. Have students draw each other’s faces with different emotions. Encourage them to use color to emphasize emotion.

**Did you know?**

**ROAR OUT**

Makeup design helps to enhance certain personality traits about a character. Face paint especially helps exaggerate everyday facial expressions, so they can be seen from far distances from the audiences. Color helps the audience to feel emotions, as well as being exciting to look at. Student makeup designers at PS 161 also drew their inspiration from features of the animals they were portraying.

**Pride rock** is an important location in the Lion King. It is the place where Simba is first named, as well as where Simba returns to claim his throne! Along with crumpling paper to give the rocks height and volume, the student scenic team used a variety of paint techniques to create texture. Texture is how somethings looks, feels, or how it looks like it will feel! Student designers used the paint technique of spattering to help to create texture on the rocks. Spattering is just what it sounds like. It is taking a brush that has been lightly dipped in watered down paint and then tapping it gently so the paint splatters all over the scenery.
The Desert

In Africa, the Kalahari and Sahara Desert are two of the most notable deserts. The Kalahari Desert is more of a semi-arid sandy savanna. The Kalahari Desert covers most of the country of Botswana along with parts of Namibia and South Africa. Even though the desert gets very hot and there is a lack of water, people can be found living in the region. African tribes have been living in the Kalahari Desert for 20,000 years! Animal survival in the Kalahari Desert can be difficult due to the climate, however, the Oryx Gazelle, Lions, Leopards, Cheetahs, Caracals, and Eland (African Antelope) can be found. The Sahara Desert is located in Northern Africa. Throughout the year, the temperature is hot, hot, HOT! Due to the difference in temperature, the flora and fauna found vary from Kalahari. The plants grow lower to the ground in order to preserve the water they do have. The animals found are Foxes, Antelopes, Gazelles, Cheetahs, and insects.

ROAR OUT

Student puppet designers and constructors were faced with the difficult challenge of creating animals without turning the auditorium into a complete zoo! In order to create these fabulous puppets, first a skeleton was created out of wire. Then the soft material known as batting was added to give the puppet shape. Finally fabric and paint were added over the top of the soft body to bring the animal to life!
Theme Exploration: Social Justice & Our Place in the Kingdom

What does it mean to be a part of our kingdom?

**Social Justice & Power in *The Lion King***

Simba is born into a powerful position and his father, Mufasa, tries to help Simba understand the responsibilities that come with high status and considerable power. As audience members watch Simba reconcile his place in his kingdom and in the circle of life, viewers are often left questioning *their* status and the power they have in *their* kingdom. Finally, just as Simba wants to bring fairness back to the lions after Scar’s rule of terror, viewers question ways they can improve social justice in their own world.

**DEFINITIONS**

**POWER:** the ability to control or influence another person or a group of people

**STATUS:** the social rank that an individual holds in society

**SOCIAL JUSTICE:** fairness in terms of wealth, opportunities, and privileges within a society

**ROAR OUT**

Rituals are things you do when you are certain places for a specific reasons. The animals of the pride lands take part in the ritual of Simba’s naming by joining together at pride rock. The actors in PS 161’s the Lion King have rituals as well. For example, the cast always form a circle and warm up together before beginning rehearsal. Does your own classroom have rituals?
“I’m gonna be the main event, like no king was before. I’m brushing up on looking down; I’m working on my roar”

THEN! ENSEMBLE COLUMBIAN HYPNOSIS

1. Ask one participant to stand in the center of a circle, with both arms extended.
2. Ask two participants to follow the leader’s hands as the leader moves.
3. Slowly, add more participants to each hand until a moving web is created.
4. Discuss this process: How did the leader feel? How did those in the last ring of the web feel? How is this similar to Simba’s world? Who would each ring of the web be in Simba’s world? Who would each ring of the web be if it were this school?

CUB-TIVITIES!
NEXT! PUT THE STUDENTS IN ROLE TO ACHIEVE SOCIAL JUSTICE

1. Assign participants an animal in Simba’s kingdom.
2. Ask participants to write a short skit that must have a conflict between at least two of the animals. Prompt students to write about bullying, wanting more land, wanting more food, wanting more rights, or another conflict they can think of.
3. After the group presents its skit, have a discussion about how the animals can achieve social justice. What choices can they make so that the conflict is resolved fairly?
4. Then, the facilitator invites participants to say “STOP” when they want to go into the scene and jump in as a character with the goal of ending the conflict through social justice. (Note: This can be repeated as many times as you wish for each group.)
5. Step C & D are repeated for each group’s skit.
6. To conclude, ask participants to share one thing they learned about power, status, or social justice. What does Simba learn about these ideas?

“You see, Simba, everything exists in a delicate balance. As king, you need to understand that balance and respect all the creatures—from the crawling ant to the leaping antelope”

--Mufasa
In many parts of Africa the use of music is not limited to entertainment: it serves a purpose to the local community and helps in the conduct of daily routines or rituals. Traditional African music supplies appropriate music and dance for work and for religious ceremonies of birth, naming, rites of passage, marriage and funerals. The beats and sounds of the drum are used in communication as well as in cultural expression. Music plays an integral in not only African society but in every culture around the world.

Drums are an integral part of music in African culture. Traditional African societies generally not inclined to separate rhythm, spiritual dimensions, and the order of the universe into compartments. Traditional African societies acknowledged that the drum had a spirit and character that was clearly observable. The gift of the voices of the Great Ancestors had been hidden inside the wood of trees so they could be accessed whenever men and women needed them. Stories associated with African history were maintained through an oral tradition. Music is an important vehicle for the transmission of history and knowledge.
A ritual is defined as a sequence of activities involving gestures, words, and objects, performed in certain place, and performed according to set sequence. Use this definition to as the basis for a fun post show activity with your students. By the end of this activity your students will be able to identify rituals that they keep in their everyday lives.

1. Gather your students in a circle
2. Share the meaning of a ritual as defined by this guide
3. Ask your students to identify some the rituals they say in the Lion King Jr. Here is a list if your students have a hard time recognizing them.
   - All the animals in the kingdom celebrating Simba’s birth
   - Mufasa’s funeral
   - Scar rallies the hyenas to plan for Mufasa’s death
   - Hakuna Matata
4. Ask your students to describe the tone of the music played in each ritual
5. Ask your students to identify some of the rituals they have in their everyday lives. Some example of rituals are:
   - Waking up in the morning and getting ready for school
   - Classroom activities and exercises
   - Lunch time
   - Preparing to play a particular sport
   - Spending time with family during the holidays
6. Break your students into consisting of at least 4 students per group
7. Have them pick one ritual out of their everyday lives and create a song for it
8. When your students are done have a group share and discuss the presentation each group created.
**LANGAUGES OF THE LION KING**

**THE LION KING MATCHING GAME**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Expression</th>
<th>Translation</th>
<th>Language Origin</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nants’ ingonyama, bakithi, baba</strong> <em>(NANTS een-GON-yah-mah bah-KEE-tee bah-BAH)</em></td>
<td>He who wants to be King</td>
<td>Xhosa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hakuna Matata</strong> <em>(bah-KOO-nah mah-TAH-tah)</em></td>
<td>Rule this precious land!</td>
<td>Swahili</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mamela</strong> <em>(MAH-meh-lah)</em></td>
<td>Here comes the lion, my people, the father (of our nation)</td>
<td>Zulu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adinkra</strong></td>
<td>No Worries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Busa le lizwe bo</strong> <em>(BOO-sah leh Leez-weh boh)</em></td>
<td>Listen</td>
<td>Zulu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Answers: Nants’ ingonyama, bakithi, baba = Here comes the lion, my people, the father (of our nation). Hakuna matata = No worries. Mamela = Listen. Adinkra = He who wants to be king. Busa le lizwe bo = Rule this precious land!