STUDY GUIDE

With support from

The Anna-Maria Moggio Foundation
Sandra Morrell Rooney and Charles R. Rooney
The The Alfred M. Senter Fund
The Davis Family Foundation
THE SOURCE MATERIAL
Carlo Collodi’s The Adventures of Pinocchio

The Adventures of Pinocchio was written by Italian author Carlo Collodi and first appeared serialized in a children’s magazine in 1881, before being published as a novel in 1883. It has been adapted countless times for film, television, and the stage.

Synopsis of Collodi’s Novel

The poor woodcarver Geppetto is lonely so he makes himself a wooden boy puppet. The Blue Fairy takes pity on Geppetto and brings the puppet to life. Almost at once, the wooden boy is cheeky, disobedient, and naughty, and laughs in his creator’s face. Though he wishes to become a “real boy,” the Blue Fairy tells him his behavior does not warrant this. Named Pinocchio, the boy-puppet's unique feature is a nose that automatically grows larger when he lies.

Pinocchio embarks on a series of misadventures, including killing a kindly cricket who urges him to treat Geppetto better, and falling in with a series of unsavory characters, among them Candlewick and his gang and the Fox and the Cat. His journey takes him to the Land of Toys, to join a circus, to become a donkey, and to be swallowed by a shark before being reconciled with Geppetto and transformed by the Blue Fairy into a real boy, who has learned to care for his father, to work, and to study.

Collodi’s novel is far darker than other versions, most notably the Disney animated film. In it Pinocchio is less likeable; his behavior needs serious correction, and the pains he suffers for his misdemeanors are more serious (he loses his wooden legs in a fire, for example, and Geppetto has to make him new ones.)

Disney’s Pinocchio

Walt Disney’s animated musical fantasy film is one of the finest in his genre. Jiminy Cricket, who serves as Pinocchio’s conscience, narrates the story about the puppet brought to life. Pinocchio proves to be a naughty, mischievous lad who is always getting into trouble. Urged by the Fox and Cat, he plays truant at school and joins Stromboli’s traveling puppet show, from which he has to be rescued by the Blue Fairy. Lured to Pleasure Island he falls into bad company with Lampwick and a gang of boys who smoke, gamble, and vandalize. With Jiminy Cricket’s help, Pinocchio narrowly manages to avoid Lampwick’s fate of being turned into a donkey and sold into slave labor. Returning home, Pinocchio finds Geppetto has gone in search of him and been swallowed by a giant sperm whale. Pinocchio sets out to rescue his father but is swallowed himself. Reunited in the whale’s belly, he devises a scheme to make the whale sneeze and disgorge them. Chased by the whale, Pinocchio, Jiminy, and Geppetto make it to safety in a beach cave. But Pinocchio’s efforts leave him lifeless. Everyone mourns until the Blue Fairy decides that Pinocchio has proved himself brave and true and honest, and she brings him back to life.

Some Other Popular Retellings of the Tale

There have been a handful of musical adaptations of Pinocchio over the years, including the score to the Disney film, a 1957 musical television adaptation starring Mickey Rooney, a 1968 Hallmark Hall of Fame musical for television, another musical film for television, Geppetto (2000), an opera by Jonathan Dove (2007), and a cameo part in the

The story has been made into television mini-series and specials, as well as many animated versions, though none more famous than Walt Disney’s classic.

**ROBIN & CLARK’S PINOCCHIO SYNOPSIS**

**Scene 1** The woodcarver Gheppetto is a lonely, childless widower, who yearns for a son. He is carving a boy marionette for the evil puppeteer Stromboli, but has not yet finished the wooden boy’s nose. Overhearing Gheppetto confide his wish to Jiminy Cricket ("A Child of My Own"), the Blue Fairy grants his desire telling him she will give life to the toy, but only the puppet himself can transform himself into a “real live boy” by proving worthy, honest, and true.

The puppet, whom Gheppetto names Pinocchio, comes to life, and has to learn to walk (“Walking Song”) with the help of Jiminy Cricket, whom the Blue Fairy has asked to watch over Pinocchio. Gheppetto is amazed and grateful for the Fairy’s gift (“A Real Live Boy”); the woodcarver decides not to sell the puppet to Stromboli after all, offering the puppeteer another toy he will make instead. Yet, despite Gheppetto’s affection, Pinocchio begins his existence as a callous youth, demonstrating little affection or respect for his “papa,” compulsively fibbing, exaggerating, and outright lying, and every time he does engage in a falsehood, his nose grows longer.

**Scene 2** The scene changes to Stromboli’s puppet theatre where the duo of Kitty and Fox perform a vaudeville number and dream about leaving Stromboli and starting their own act. They maliciously plot to seize Pinocchio – (“Go Get That Puppet”) – rather than delay their plans.

**Scene 3** On the first day of school, Pinocchio reluctantly sets out accompanied by Jiminy Cricket. He makes untrue excuses about why he can’t go, only to find his nose growing larger and larger. When he finally admits the truth – that he just doesn’t want to – the nose returns to its normal size. On the way to school, Pinocchio meets Kitty and Fox, and though he has been cautioned not to speak to strangers and to stay with Cricket, he allows himself to be lured by the unscrupulous pair who kidnap him and put him in a tiny cell.

**Scene 4** Kitty and Fox are planning to sell Pinocchio into slavery when the Blue Fairy magically appears and rescues the rueful Pinocchio. She reminds him she can only do this once and thereafter, he will have to rely on his own better judgment. Pinocchio promises to do the right thing and make Gheppetto proud and he sings “I’m Ready” for new adventures and the blessing of a second chance. As he does, a band of delinquent youths led by Lampwick appear and taunt Pinocchio, undermining his resolution to do the right thing. They tempt him to join them on Pleasure Island.

**Scene 5** Lampwick, his truant band, and Pinocchio enjoys the amusement park atmosphere and the freedom from rules and responsibilities, and they all sing “Pleasure Island” and “This Is the Life.” The Blue Fairy watches in dismay, wishing she could help, but realizing Pinocchio must assume responsibility for his own actions and learn to make bet-
ter choices. She joins the song, musing on the temptations Pinocchio must overcome in “Poor Little Boy.” Pinocchio again lies to Lampwick and himself about how unafraid he is, and as the gang notices the nose growing, they mock Pinocchio and turn him out of the group. Alone and frightened, Pinocchio sings “Why Do I Lie?” He also notices that one by one the boys are disappearing when suddenly before his eyes Lampwick begins to transform into a donkey. Cricket arrives in time to save Pinocchio from a similar fate, telling him they must escape or he will be punished for his laziness by becoming a donkey and being sent to toil at the workhouse. Jiminy Cricket suggests they make their escape by jumping off a cliff into ocean.

Scene 6 The next scene finds Pinocchio, Jiminy Cricket, and Gheppetto reunited in the belly of a whale. Geppetto tells how he came searching for Pinocchio on a raft, but was swallowed by the whale, just as Pinocchio and Cricket were as they plunged into the sea. For the first time in the story Pinocchio expresses true remorse for his actions and true caring for his father and friends. He tells Gheppetto he missed him and apologizes for all his disobedience. Together they concoct a plan to light a fire in the whale’s belly to make him open his mouth so they can swim to freedom. With great tumult the whale disgorges the trio.

Scene 7 Pinocchio and Jiminy Cricket swim safely to the beach, but Gheppetto is washed up seemingly lifeless. Pinocchio is overcome with grief, and bending over his father lets his tears fall on the old man’s face begging him to come back to life and promise that he will do “anything” to prove a good son. At that moment the Blue Fairy appears and the old man stirs. All are joyful, as the Blue Fairy proclaims Pinocchio to now be a “real live boy” who has been “heroic, honest, unselfish, and loving.” The reborn puppet gratefully reprises “Real Live Boy.”

**THE CHARACTERS**

PINOCCHIO – a wooden puppet, created by the woodcarver Gheppetto, who wishes to become a “real boy,” but must first learn to follow his conscience, cease his lying and misbehaving, and love his father and fellow creatures.

GHEPPETTO – a lonely old woodcarver who loves children and creates Pinocchio

BLUE FAIRY – a magical creature who watches over Pinocchio, saves him from his misadventures, and teaches him that the meaning of being human is to be compassionate and loving

JIMINY CRICKET – a talking, wise-cracking, dancing Grasshopper who becomes Pinocchio’s companion and serves as his conscience

STROMBOLI – an Evil Puppeteer

KITY – a cat who performs in Stromboli’s show and who plots with Fox to kidnap and sell Pinocchio

FOX – Kitty’s companion

LAMPWICK – a delinquent, bullying schoolboy who tempts Pinocchio into derelict ways

LAMPWICK’S BOYS – who follow their gang leader’s bad example, cutting school, being lazy and irresponsible
Robin & Clark’s musical version of Pinocchio preserves most of the principal characters and the main adventures, but it updates the contexts. Instead of The Land of Toys, for example, Pinocchio goes to Pleasure Island, a place where self-indulgence, laziness, and irresponsibility prevail. Lampwick’s boys are not only delinquent dropouts, but they are also bullies who persecute anyone who does not embrace their wild behavior. Pinocchio has to learn to resist peer pressure and to believe in himself. Only then is he prepared to acquire the moral fiber he will need to become a true human being: telling the truth, following his own conscience, learning to care and caring and compassion for others – all of which ultimately lead him to life’s greatest gift – love.

Marc Robin and Curt Dale Clark are the creators of the musical version of Pinocchio. Together they have written the book (or story and dialogue), the music, and the lyrics of the songs for a total of fifteen musicals. Marc Robin is also a well known theatre director and choreographer, actor, dancer, and singer and now heads up Fulton Theatre in Lancaster, PA. Curt Dale Clark is an actor, singer, dancer, and director, and with his managing partner, Stephanie Dupal, he is Artistic Director of Maine State Music Theatre in Brunswick. Marc and Curt believe that it is very important to introduce young audiences like you to live theatre because these shows open a whole world of imagination and creativity. They hope you will enjoy this production of Pinocchio and come to Maine State Music Theatre in the summer to see another Theatre for Young Audiences performance with all the costumes, lights, and beautiful sets, the dancing and the music, performed by fantastic actors and musicians.
OTHER MUSICALS by ROBIN & CLARK

For Young Audiences
Aladdin
Alice in Wonderland
Beauty and the Beast
A Christmas Carol
Jack and the Beanstalk
The Little Mermaid
The Nutcracker
Peter Pan
Pinocchio
The Princess and the Pea
Sleeping Beauty
Snow White
‘Twas the Night Before Christmas

Full-Length Musicals
Treasure Island: A Musical Adventure
Sarah (in progress)

RESOURCES

If you want to learn more about Pinocchio in its original version and other theatrical forms, here is a list of reading and internet resources you can check out:

About the Original Carlo Collodi Story
http://fathom.lib.uchicago.edu/2/72810000/72810000_pinocchio.pdf
The text of the original book

About Robin & Clark Musicals
www.robinandclarkmusicals.com
A complete list of all their works with summaries, photographs, song lists, audio, and video clips, and comments from the press

https://robinandclarkmusicals.com/pinocchio/
Short You Tube video and audio clips of Pinocchio from Drury Lane Evergreen Park in the 1990s

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WpxL3jDwwMg
You Tube video of the Collodi story read aloud with pictures

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Y85BeXV0W8
You Tube video of 1940 Disney animated film

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7jDOpUG_3pQ (rental $1.99)
Video of 2002 live action movie with Roberto Benigni as Pinocchio
ACTIVITIES

Tell the Performers What You Think

THE SHOW

1. How is the experience of watching the musical version of this story different from the experience of reading it or watching an animated film like the classic Disney version?
2. When you read the story, you have to use the writer’s words to imagine the people and places being described. In the musical, how does the production help you imagine these things?
3. How is this musical version different from the original story or from the Disney movie, if you have seen that?
4. What is your favorite scene or song?

THE THEMES

1. Why do you think Pinocchio lies so much? And what does he realize about this bad habit by the end of the play? What does he learn about the meaning of truth, “white lies,” fibs, and exaggerations?
2. Why is Pinocchio so rude and uncaring toward the kindly Gheppetto in the beginning of the play and what do you think about his actions?
3. Pleasure Island is a fantasy place, but what does it represent in real life? What temptations lie there?
4. What part does Jiminy Cricket play in Pinocchio’s journey? What is the purpose of his advice?
5. Why can the Blue Fairy only help Pinocchio once? Why must he make his own choices about what is right in order to achieve humanity?
6. What does Pinocchio learn at the end of the story that allows him to become a “real live boy”?
7. What kind of young man do you think Pinocchio will be from this point onward?
LET’S PLAY MAD LIBS

The leader asks the group to call out specific kinds of words – nouns (names of people, places, things), adjectives (descriptive words), verbs (action words), adverbs (words that tell us how, when or why), exclamation (short emotional expression). The leader fills in the blanks in the story with these new words and then reads it back to the group. The results are usually very funny! Enjoy the game!

From CARLO COLLODI’s PINOCCHIO

________(adjective) as Gheppetto’s house was, it was neat and ____________(adjective). It was a small room on the ground floor, with a tiny window under the stairway. The furniture could not have been much simpler: a very old ______(noun), a rickety old bed, and a tumble-down table. A fireplace full of burning logs was painted on the wall opposite the door. Over the fire, there was painted a pot full of something which kept boiling happily away and sending up clouds of what looked like real ________(noun).

As soon as he reached home, Gheppetto took his______(noun) and began to cut and shape the wood into a Marionette. “What shall I call him?” he said to himself. “I think I’ll call him ________(name). This name will make his fortune. I knew a whole family of Pinocchio once--Pinocchio the father, Pinocchio the mother, and Pinocchio the children--and they were all lucky. The richest of them begged for his living.” After choosing the name for his Marionette, Geppetto set ______(adverb) to work to make the hair, the forehead, the _____(noun). Fancy his surprise when he noticed that these eyes _______(action verb) and then stared fixedly at him. Geppetto, seeing this, felt insulted and said in a grieved tone:

“_______(adjective) wooden eyes, why do you stare so?” There was no answer.

After the eyes, Geppetto made the______(noun), which began to stretch as soon as finished. It stretched and stretched and stretched till it became so long, it seemed endless. Poor Geppetto kept cutting it and cutting it, but the more he cut, the longer grew that impertinent nose. In despair he let it alone. Next he made the ______(noun). No sooner was it finished than it began to laugh and poke fun at him.

“Stop laughing!” said Geppetto angrily; but he might as well have spoken to the wall. “Stop laughing, I say!” he roared in a voice of thunder. The mouth stopped laughing, but it stuck out a long _______(noun).

Not wishing to start an argument, Geppetto made believe he saw nothing and went on with his work. After the mouth, he made the _____(noun), then the neck, the shoulders, the stomach, the arms, and the hands. As he was about to put the last touches on the fingertips, Geppetto felt his ____(noun) being pulled off. He glanced up and what did he see? His __________(adjective) wig was in the Marionette’s hand. “Pinocchio, give me my wig!” But instead of giving it back, Pinocchio put it on his own head, which was half swallowed up in it.

At that unexpected trick, Geppetto became very sad and ________(adjective), more so than he had ever been before. “Pinocchio, you _________(adjective) boy!” he cried out. “You are not yet finished, and you start out by being impudent to your poor old father. Very bad, my son, very bad!” And he wiped away a __________(noun).
LET'S DRAW AND WRITE

1. The story of Pinocchio is a kind of fable, that is, a story which teaches a lesson. Write your own fable in which a character or characters have an adventure from which they learn.
2. Draw two pictures of Pinocchio, as you imagine him: first as the puppet-boy and then as the “real live boy” he becomes.
3. Color the drawing from Pinocchio, which you will find at the back of this booklet. You can make it as fantastical as you like.

We want to see what you create, so send us your stories and art work. We will collect some of these into a booklet to display at the library and post some of the pictures and writing on MSMT’s Facebook page.

Here’s how to send:
Mail them to Olivia Wenner at Maine State Music Theatre, 22 Elm St., Brunswick, ME 04011 or Email your writing or a picture of your drawing to Olivia at promotions@msmt.org

SEND US YOUR COMMENTS

Let us know what you thought of this program by filling out the survey below (and on the next page) and returning it to Olivia Wenner at Maine State Music Theatre, 22 Elm St., Brunswick, ME 04011 or by replying in an email to Olivia at promotions@msmt.org. We hope to be able to continue to bring you similar programs, so your thoughts and comments are very important to us! Thanks for taking the time!

FOR CHILDREN

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, how entertaining did you find Pinocchio?
2. What did you like best about the presentation?
3. Who was your favorite character?
4. What was your favorite song?
5. What is the most important lesson you took away from the story and this program?
6. Did the program make you want to be in a play yourself?

FOR ADULTS

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, how entertaining and educational did you find Pinocchio?
2. What did you like best about the presentation?
3. What is the most important lesson your child took away from this musical?
4. Did the program make you want to bring your child(ren) the Young Audiences productions this summer?
5. What other stories and musicals would you like to explore in future programs? (Some possibilities include: Aladdin, Beauty and the Beast, Cinderella, Jack and the Beanstalk, The Little Mermaid, Peter Pan, The Princess and the Pea, Treasure Island, Snow White.)
6. How useful were the printed materials for your child?
7. Please offer us any other suggestions or thoughts you may have.