



**The Wong Kids
in the Secret of
the Space
Chupacabra,
GO!**



Table of Contents

Welcome Note for Teachers.....2

Welcome Note for Students....3

Synopsis....4

Galaxy Games: *Science Creatures*....5

Galaxy Game: *The “Bad” Audience Member*....6

Brain Blast off: *Sci-Fi Adventure Stories*....7

Brain Blast Off: *Write your own Sci-Fiction Story*....8

Astronomy Answers: *Hero Spotlight: Wang Zhenyi*....9

Astronomy Answers: *What Does it Mean to be a Hero?*....10

Brain Blast off: *Language*....11

Brain Blast off: *Asian American Representation*....12

Webliography....13

Greetings, Teachers!

Welcome to DePaul University's Merle Reskin Theatre and the Chicago Playworks' production of *The Wong Kids in the Secret of the Space Chupacabra, GO!*, written by Lloyd Suh and directed by Coya Paz. This show is recommended for ages 8 and up. This guide is designed to help you and your students unpack what you will see on stage before and after the play. Before we get started, there are a couple things to be on the lookout for:



Brain Blast Off: This symbolizes an activity that is based around a core concept or theme of the play. These activities are geared towards inquiries from the Common Core Illinois Learning Standards.



Quest Query: This symbolizes when there are questions after a game or activity that can further the student's learning. We have provided some questions to ask, but feel free to add in your own or change the questions to fit the needs of your class, if applicable.



Galaxy Games: This symbolizes when a game or activity can be applied to further explore a concept or theme in the play. These games are going to be ensemble based, and full participation is needed from all students.



Astrology Answers: Here are some more places for lesson expansion and linking the world of the play to the worlds of the students using various academic curriculum.

We want to thank you and your students for coming to support our theatre. If you have any questions or comments regarding this guide, feel free to contact us (info on the back page). Thank you again!

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Greetings, Earthlings!

There is so much adventure in store for all of you, but beware: we need to pay attention to the rules or else...Before we blast off, there are a few asteroids we would like to avoid on our journey:



Firstly, there musn't be any usage of technology during the performance. All of the beeps and boops can be a distraction to the actors on stage. No cellphones or photos.



Secondly, conversing and chatting is always fun, but it is not allowed in outer space. You may chat when you arrive back home.



And thirdly, but certainly not least-ly, no food is allowed in the theatre, so please unwrap and eat any delicious delicacies you may have before entering the theatre (this goes for tasty drinks as well).

Now, buckle up those seatbelts, children. It's going to be a bumpy ride.

-The Space Chupacabra



Synopsis

Violet and Bruce Wong just don't fit in with the other kids at school.

One day, they discover that they both have superpowers: they can move rocks by just thinking about them!

When an evil beast named The Space Chupacabra threatens to destroy the universe, it's up to the Wong Kids to save the day!

In this action packed story, Violet and Bruce learn to feel comfortable in their own skin while learning that being different isn't just okay, it's the thing that will save the world.





Galaxy Games: Science Creatures

In our play, there are many creatures that are named funny things, such as The Chupacabra, Bandersnatch, The Imperious Canute, The Great Prognosticator, and even the Woofenwolves! All of these creatures are made up, but they make watching the play and reading the script way more interesting! Now it is time to write YOUR own names for creatures! And draw them!

Make sure to include: Name of creature, what it is made out of, what it likes to: eat, do, sing, listen to, or make!

Common Core Standards

SL.5.1.d Review the key ideas expressed and draw conclusions in light of information and knowledge gained from the discussions.

CCR.SL.1 Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

SL.6.4 Present claims and findings, sequencing ideas logically and using pertinent descriptions, facts, and details to accentuate main ideas or themes; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation



Galaxy Games: The “Bad” Audience Member Game

The “Bad” Audience Member is a game that introduces students to theatre etiquette. It is a fun, collaborative game for all ages. Teacher, you’re going to play a big part in this game...Keep in mind that students should feel free to express themselves however they choose. It is important to pay respect to the art form, and if that means dancing, singing, or clapping for the actors, they should know that is something they are allowed to do.

Number of Players: Whole class

Space: Anywhere

Time: 15 mins

Directions: Let’s pretend we are in a theatre. Students are all sitting in the house (audience), except for three of them. They are going to be the actors (they can volunteer or be picked). They are going to re-enact as much of *Wong Kids* as they can remember (or another topic of inquiry in the class). The teacher is going to be the “bad audience member”. The teacher is going to chew really loud gum, talk to the students in their seats, and, overall, be very disruptive. This should go on for 10ish minutes. A five minute talkback with the teacher leading the discussion is necessary.



Quest Query: Talk Back Questions

- Was I very disruptive during the performance?
- What were specific things I was doing?
- What would have been polite behavior?
- What is the kind of behavior we are going to use when we go see *The Wong Kids*...?

Common Core Standards

SL.5.1.d Review the key ideas expressed and draw conclusions in light of information and knowledge gained from the discussions.

CCR.SL.1 Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

SL.6.4 Present claims and findings, sequencing ideas logically and using pertinent descriptions, facts, and details to accentuate main ideas or themes; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.



Brain Blast Off: Sci-fi Adventure Stories

The Wong Kids... is a science fiction story. Science fiction stories are stories that are based on scientific or technological advances. Science fiction stories often take place in the future, in space, on a different world, or in a different universe or dimension. Science fiction stories use a lot of imagination. This means that the creator of the story has to make a few things up.

Some science fiction stories that you might know include *Star Wars*, *Monsters vs. Aliens*, and *Despicable Me*.

Star Wars is a series of movies that takes place “in a galaxy far, far away.” There are new technology, creatures, and planets. It also takes place in the future. *Star Wars* is one of the most famous sci-fi stories.



In *Despicable Me*, Gru makes lots of weird inventions. He also has the help of his Minions, little yellow creatures.

Monsters vs. Aliens is a movie that features different aspects of sci-fi. It has monsters, other planets, and new technology.



Common Core Standards

CCR.R.1 Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text. CCR.R.2 Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas. CCR.R.3 Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.



Title: _____

[illegible]

CCR.L.2 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.



Astronomy Answers: Hero Spotlight on Wang Zhenyi

Wang Zhenyi was born in 1768 during the Qing Dynasty. She loved science, geography, medicine, math, archery, and poetry. In her poetry, she wrote about how she wanted the standards for women at the time to be more than just cooking and sewing. She believed that men and women are all people who deserve to study. In addition to poetry, Wang loved astrology, which she wrote several articles on. In her article, “The Explanation of a Lunar Eclipse”, Wang explained that a lunar and solar eclipse happens because of the placement of the Moon, Sun, and Earth. She demonstrated her hypothesis by putting a round table (which represented the Earth) in a garden pavilion. She then hung a lamp to the ceiling (which represented the Sun), and off to the side she put a big mirror (which represented the Moon.) As she moved the objects as they would move in the sky (in a circle), she noticed that whenever the Moon passed the Earth’s shadow, that’s what created a lunar eclipse! Wang passed away at the age of 29 in 1797, but her legacy still lives on today. She is still an inspiration for being one of the first women to study astronomy.



Illustration by Ana Galvañ

“Daughters can also be heroic”
-Wang Zhenyi

Where do you see yourself in Wang Zhenyi?

Common Core Standards

SS.H.2.6-8.MdC: Analyze multiple factors that influenced the perspectives of people during different historical eras.



Astrology Answers: What Does It Mean To Be A Hero?

“All we can do now is hope for the unlikely emergence of an unknown hero!” In our play, Violet and Bruce are called upon to save the universe from the Space Chupacabra. They are students who go to school, much like many of you.

-What would be your reaction to having to save the entire universe from a bad monster you have never heard of before?

-What are some characteristics that make a hero, a hero?

A few students from Bernotas Middle School in Crystal Lake, Illinois had a few answers to this question:

“Like if someone was being bullied in any kind of way, a hero would be someone to help them. A hero is a kind person that is always looking to help the people that need it the most.”

“To be a hero, you need to put others before yourself and do the right thing no matter what. You may sometimes have to take risks too.”



Quest Query: Talk Back Questions

At the end of the play, Violet talks the Canute down from ending the universe. She tells him that it's okay for people to look different. In fact, it's wonderful to have a big group of people of all shapes, sizes, and colors. She needed to have courage, to be honest, and to be selfless in the face of danger.

-When was a time when it was really hard to be brave? Why was it so hard to be brave?

Every day we use courage. Every day we do something difficult. You are all heroes! So, what's your hero story?

Common Core Standards

CCR.SL.1 Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.



Brain Blast Off: Language

Sometimes writers use big words or even made up words to paint a picture. In *The Wong Kids...*, Mr. Stinson uses a lot of big words at the beginning of the show such as:

- ★ **Transmogrify**- to transform
- ★ **Protagonist**- the leading character of a story
- ★ **Maleficence**- wrongdoing

Mr. Stinson uses **synonyms** to explain that something is a disaster. A synonym is a word or phrase that means the same thing as another word or phrase. For example, catastrophe, calamity and cataclysm all might mean disaster! Authors use synonyms to make the language of the story more interesting, more meaningful, and sometimes more relevant to what's happening in the story. Authors also use them to develop their own style in writing and their own voice.

Lloyd Suh also chooses to use made up language in *The Wong Kids...* to broaden the imagination of the readers and the watchers of the play. A Canute is a made up character, as well as a Bandersnatch and the Woofenwolves.



Quest Query: Talk Back Questions

- Have you ever created an imaginary character?
- When was it, and why did you do it?
- Have you ever made up imaginary words or an imaginary language?
- What are other ways a character can communicate, non-verbally?

Common Core Standards

RL.6.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.

RL.6.5 Analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot.

RL.6.6 Explain how an author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker in a text.



Brain Blast Off: Asian American Representation

In *The Wong Kids...*, Violet talks about being the only Asian person in her class. The other kids make fun of her for it. Being the only person who looks like you can be tough, especially when other people make fun of you for it. Just like Violet and Bruce, there are many Asian American heroes in movies, TV shows, and books.



Mindy Lahiri is the central character on *The Mindy Project*. Mindy is very smart; she went to one of the best medical schools in the country and works as a doctor to help people. Mindy Kaling created the character Mindy Lahiri on *The Mindy Project*.

Hikaru Sulu is a character in the television show *Star Trek*. He was in charge of the Astro Sciences department on his ship. At some point, he was even the commander of the Enterprise! Sulu was one of the first positive representations of an Asian American in the Film/TV industry.



Glenn Rhee is a character in the hit TV show *The Walking Dead*. He was a survivor of the zombie outbreak. To help his friends and family survive, he often gets supplies they need, such as food and clothing. He is quick-thinking, loyal, kind, and fast, which makes him the perfect supply runner.

Dr. Joan Watson is a detective for the New York Police Department in *Elementary*. She helps Sherlock Holmes solve mysteries. Joan originally was a doctor, but decided to help solve crimes. Joan was even the valedictorian of her class!



Common Core Standards

RI.1.7 Use the illustrations and details in a text to describe its key ideas.

RI.1.8 Identify the reasons an author gives to support points in a text.

RI.1.9 Identify basic similarities in and differences between two texts on the same topic (e.g., in illustrations, descriptions, or procedures).

Webliography

We hope that you have deepened your understanding of *The Wong Kids*...and learned more about the themes of the play. Thank you for coming to see this production, and we hope to see you again soon!

Activities: <http://dbp.theatredance.utexas.edu/content/>

Curriculum Connections:

<http://www.ilclassroomsinaction.org/standardsbookss.html>

Pictures:

- **Monsters vs. Alien:**
https://vignette.wikia.nocookie.net/monstersvsaliens/images/f/f7/Wallpaper_monsters_vs_alien_01_160.jpg/revision/latest?cb=20140405114651
- **Star Wars:** https://timedotcom.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/star-wars_1024.jpg?quality=85
- **Despicable Me:** <https://www.fjackets.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/despicable-me.jpg>
- **Mindy Lahiri:** <https://hu799c6ru2-flywheel.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/The-Mindy-Project-Promo-Saison1-2.jpg>
- **Hikaro Sulu:** Paramount Pictures and/or CBS Studios
- **Glenn Rhee:**
https://vignette.wikia.nocookie.net/walkingdead/images/8/80/Season_seven_glenn_rhee.png/revision/latest?cb=20160811033013
- **Dr. Joan Watson:**
https://vignette.wikia.nocookie.net/cbselementary/images/b/b2/Joan_Watson_250px.png/revision/latest?cb=20131011155604