

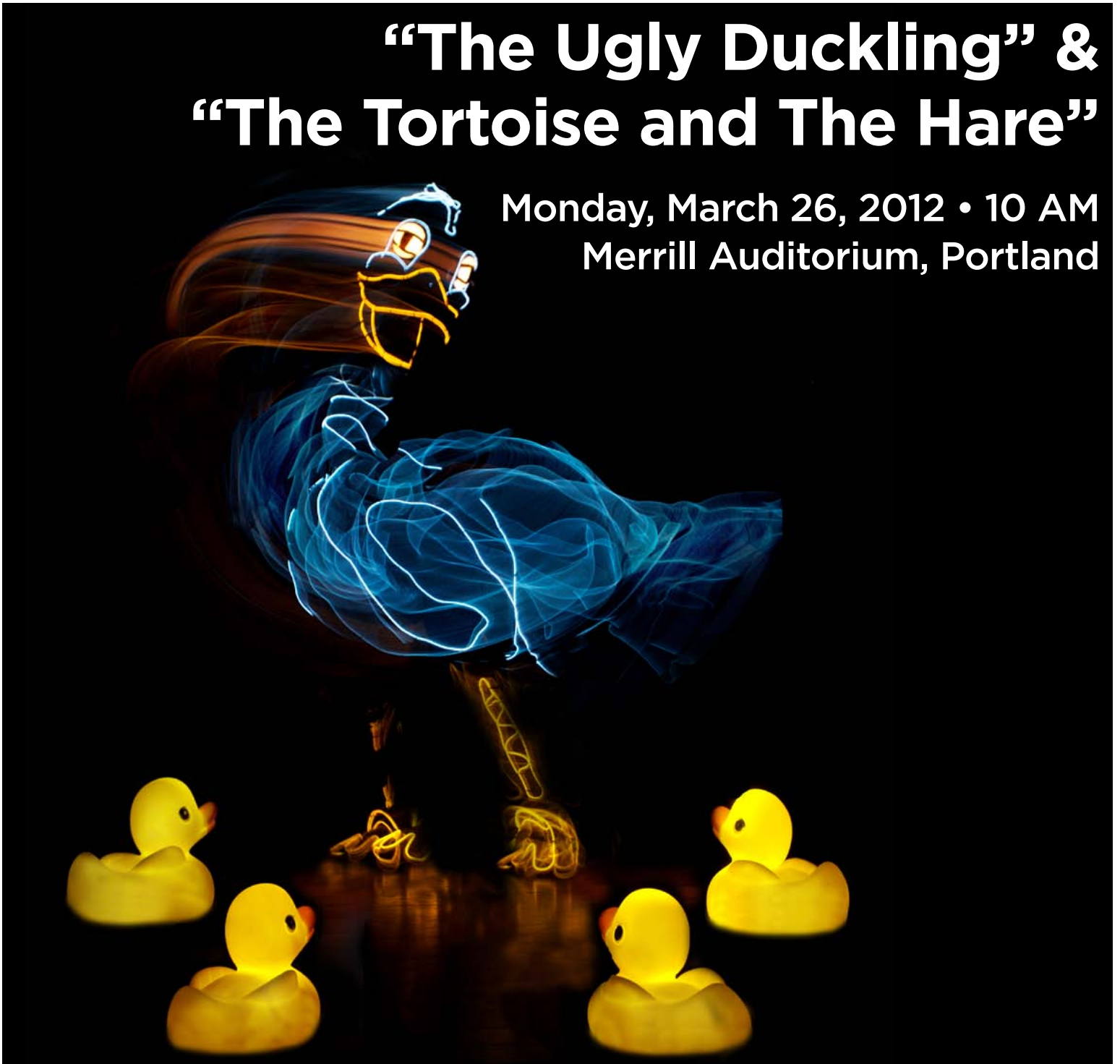
# OVATIONS OFFSTAGE

presents

A Study Guide for the  
School-Time Performance

## “The Ugly Duckling” & “The Tortoise and The Hare”

Monday, March 26, 2012 • 10 AM  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland



PORTLAND  
OVATIONS



Study guides are also available  
on the Portland Ovation website at  
[http://portlandovations.org/offstage/study\\_guides](http://portlandovations.org/offstage/study_guides)

# Welcome to Portland Ovations

Each year since 1931, Portland Ovations, formerly known as the PCA Great Performances, has brought a dynamic season of exceptional performing artists to Portland, Maine, including classical music, jazz, opera, dance, theater, and Broadway.

In addition to our live performances, we bring the exhilaration of the performing arts out into our community with season-long educational and outreach programs called Ovations Offstage.

Ovations Offstage creates those magical resonating moments when artists and audiences connect. Whether it's an unexpected "art happening," a workshop or masterclass with a visiting artist, a lively community discussion, or a pre-performance lecture, Portland Ovations invites you to join us as we explore together the relevance and connection of the performing arts to our lives.

Portland Ovations...

- believes that cultural enrichment should be accessible to all
- provides quality live performances and education experiences
- engages our community with integrity and compassion
- collaborates with other arts organizations, nonprofits, education systems and the business sector to promote cultural enrichment and lifelong learning
- celebrates the power and virtuosity of the performing arts
- sustains a staff and board who are thoughtful, committed, enthusiastic and fiscally responsible



# Ugly Duckling & The Tortoise and the Hare Study Guide

This guide includes information about the specific performance you and your students are about to see; contextual background about the art form; broader historic and cultural connections; suggested activities designed to engage and sustain your students' interest before, during, and after the show; as well as a number of resources to help you extend your exploration. Also included are connections to Common Core State Standards.

Use of this guide will help your students to anticipate, investigate, and reflect upon your live performance experience.



## Artists: CORBiAN Visual Arts and Dance

The founders of CORBiAN Visual Arts and Dance, Ian Carney and Corbin Popp, met while dancing in Twyla Tharp and Billy Joel's Broadway show MOVIN' OUT during which they discovered their mutual love of art, theater, and technology.

To Carney and Popp, the possibilities of electroluminescent (EL) wire technology seemed endless. Together, with their wives Eleanor and Whitney, they began to develop puppet-like creatures out of EL Wire. Soon, they relocated from New York to New Orleans, Louisiana, to continue the creative process. The result, after years of engineering and development was their first show "Darwin the Dinosaur." Out of that initial collaboration and project, they decided to form their own production company, CORBiAN Visual Arts and Dance.

Learn more about CORBiAN Visual Arts and Dance (and their first collaboration "Darwin the Dinosaur") on their website: <http://www.corbianarts.com/>

## Performance

CORBiAN Visual Art and Dance will present two stories: A classic Hans Christian Anderson tale "The Ugly Duckling" and the traditional Aesop fable "the Tortoise and the Hare." These stories will be brought to life through electroluminescent puppetry, dance, and music.

The electroluminescent wire (EL Wire) puppets and props will be mainly three dimensional and brought to life by 3 performers who are dressed in full black. Each story will feature classical and contemporary music ranging from jazz to pop. Short narration will precede each story.

Lights will only be used for bows where we will need a downstage special and a general wash. The show requires a completely darkened house, however, given the audiences' age the transition will be gradual, using nighttime sounds to dim the lights and early morning noises (like roosters crowing) to reintroduce the lights.



# Technology

CORBIAN Visual Arts and Dance's adaptation of *The Ugly Duckling and the Tortoise and the Hare* uses electroluminescent wire (or EL Wire, for short) to create its glow-in-the-dark characters.

EL Wire can be used in many creative ways, such as on clothing and costumes. It is also sometimes used on bicycle spokes and helmets, stairs, and walkways so that people can see them in the dark and stay safe. Electroluminescent Wire (or EL Wire) has several components:

## Copper Core

At the center of EL Wire is a solid metal core made from copper. This copper core acts as a conductor. A conductor is a material through which electricity- a flow of electrons - moves easily.

## Phosphor

The copper core is coated with an even layer of phosphor. (You find phosphor in other glow-in-the-dark products like light sticks.) Phosphor gives off light when it is exposed to an energy source such as electricity.

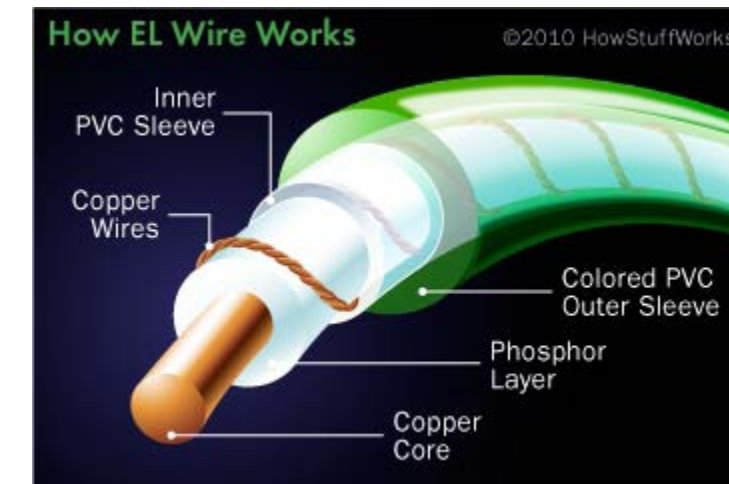
## Copper Wires

Next, two very thin copper wires are twined together to make one long strand, which will also serve as a conductor. These thin wires are coiled around the phosphor-coated core and will also provide the energy needed for the phosphor to illuminate.

## Plastic Sleeves

For protection, the copper core, phosphor, and copper wires are coated in two plastic sleeves. The first plastic sleeve is made from a clear, water-proof plastic. The second plastic sleeve adds another layer of protection. Phosphor gives off limited colors of light, so this outer plastic sleeve is sometimes dyed to create additional color effects.

# Technology, cont.



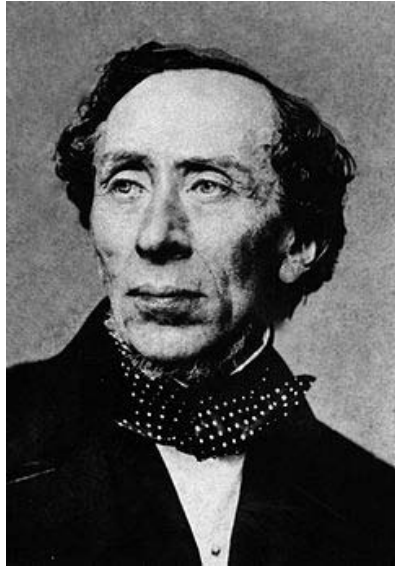
## How it works:

When electricity is applied to the EL Wire, the electrons in the phosphor become excited and are knocked to a higher energy level. When the electrons release that extra energy and move back to their original energy level, they emit particles of light called photons. This causes the phosphor to glow. To create electricity to illuminate the EL Wire, a power source is required. The EL Wire in *Ugly Duckling and the Tortoise and the Hare* is powered using batteries so that the performers can move around the stage.

Learn more about Electroluminescent Wire in Joanna Burgess' article "How Electroluminescent (EL) Wire Works" available online:

<http://science.howstuffworks.com/electroluminescent-wire.htm>

# The Ugly Duckling



Though there are many adaptations today, *The Ugly Duckling* was originally published by Hans Christian Andersen in 1844. Andersen lived from 1805 to 1875 in Denmark, during which time he is credited with some of the most well-known fairytales, including: *The Little Mermaid*, *The Emperor's New Suit*, *The Princess and the Pea*, and *Thumbelina*.

## Resources

***Hans Christian Andersen: Danish Writer And Citizen Of The World* by Sven Hakon Rossel (Rodopi Bv Editions, 1996)**

This volume - besides presenting biographical information in an international perspective - focuses on Andersen's fascinating psychological make-up, his taste in music, literature, and the pictorial arts, the contemporary critical reception of his work, and explores his creative

universe in a more general sense including his poetry, novels, plays, and travelogues. Andersen's overall artistic achievements are viewed in the context of world literature.

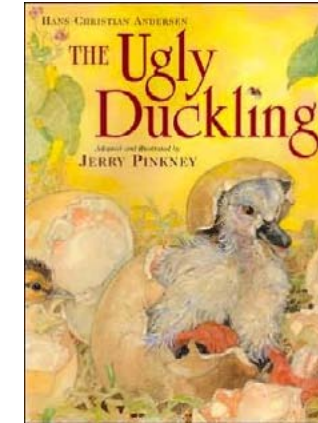
**"The Home of Hans Christian Andersen"** by Horace E. Scudder *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, Vol. 69, no. 413 (October 1884): 651-662. <http://hca.gilead.org.il/scudder/>

Hans Christian Anderson Biography <http://andersen.thefreelibrary.com/>

Hans Christian Andersen Storytelling Center <http://www.hcastorycenter.org/>

# The Ugly Duckling

There are many versions and adaptations of The Ugly Duckling, here are some recommendations from Portland Public Library Sam L. Cohen Children's Library:

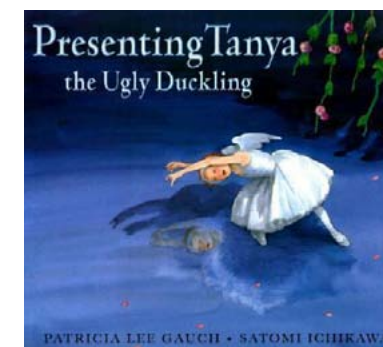
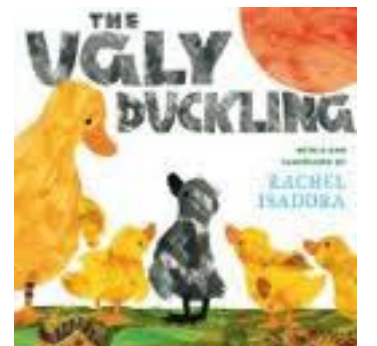


***The Ugly Duckling* by Hans Christian Anderson, illustrations by Jerry Pinkney (HarperCollins, 1999).**

Three-time Caldecott Honor artist and four-time winner of the Coretta Scott King Award, Jerry Pinkney doesn't disappoint with this lovely, old-fashioned, richly textured watercolor adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's *The Ugly Duckling*. This adaptation is a Caldecott Honor Book.

***The Ugly Duckling* written and illustrated by Rachel Isadora (Putnam Juvenile, 2009).**

Set in the wilds of Africa, Caldecott Honor winner Rachel Isadora's stunning interpretation of the beloved Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale portrays African animals and landscapes with beautiful detail. As the ugly duckling searches for a place where he can fit in, Isadora's vibrant collages capture the beauty in everything from glistening feathers to shimmering sunsets.

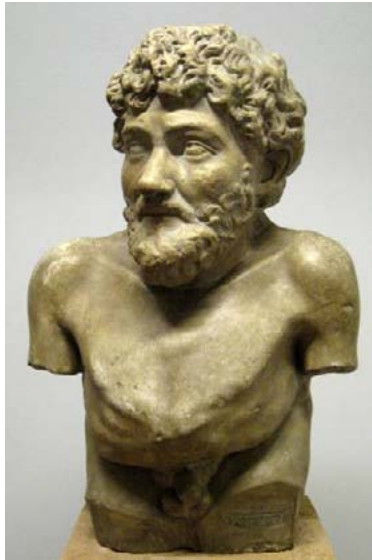


***Presenting Tanya, The Ugly Duckling* by Patricia Lee Gauch and illustrations by Satomi Ichikawa (Philomel, 1999).**

When Tanya's ballet teacher, Miss Foley, chooses her to dance the lead in the spring recital of *The Ugly Duckling*, Tanya wonders, Why? Right from the start, rehearsing is hard. Tanya feels clumsy. "Poor Tanya," she hears someone whisper, "she really is an ugly duckling." She wonders if she will ever get the dance right. It is at the dress rehearsal that she truly becomes the duckling, and in becoming the duckling, rises magically to her role as the ballerina swan. With Satomi Ichikawa's shimmering pastel watercolors,

Patricia Lee Gauch's newest story of the littlest dancer is a multi-layered testament to the swan waiting to emerge within each of us.

# The Tortoise and The Hare



Like *The Ugly Duckling*, there are many adaptations of *The Tortoise and the Hare* though the story is attributed to the *Book of Fables* by Aesop.

Aesop was a slave who many believe lived in Samos, a Greek island in the eastern Aegean Sea but others say he came from Ethiopia. The name of his first owner was Xanthus. It is believed that he eventually became a free man.

It is not known exactly when the first book of Aesop's fables was written, as the fables were originally handed down through generations like a myths, tales and legends. It is, however, believed that Aesop lived from about 620 to 560 BCE.

Many of Aesop's fables in *The Book of Fables* have been found on Egyptian papyri known to date between 800 and 1000 years before Aesop's time. This clearly casts doubts on the authorship of many of the fables attributed to Aesop and the Aesop's Fables book. Many of the fables were possibly merely compiled by Aesop from existing fables, much in the same way that the Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes were a compilation of existing rhymes.

Each one of Aesop's fables has a lesson, or moral— just like a parable or allegory. Many of the morals, sayings, and proverbs featured in Aesop's fables are well known today:

- "Appearances often are deceiving."
- "Familiarity breeds contempt."
- "One person's meat is another's poison."
- "Things are not always what they seem."
- "Never trust a flatterer"
- "Beware the wolf in sheep's clothing."
- "Little friends may become great friends."

The moral from *The Tortoise and the Hare* is "Slow and steady wins the race."

Adapted from the Aesop Fables website <http://www.aesops-fables.org.uk/>

## Resources

*Aesop Without Morals: The Famous Fables, and a Life of Aesop, Newly Translated and Edited* by Lloyd W. Daly (New York: Thomas Yoseloff, 1961).

*Aesop's Fables* by S.A.Handford (England: Puffin, 1954).

*Aesop's Fables* edited by George Stade (New York: Barnes and Nobles Classics, 2003).

*Aesop: The Complete Fables* by Olivia and Robert Temple (New York: Penguin Classics, 1998).

Aesop was probably a prisoner of war, sold into slavery in the early sixth century BC, who represented his masters in court and negotiations, and relied on animal stories to put across his key points. All these fables, full of humour, insight and savage wit, as well as many fascinating glimpses of ordinary life, have now been brought together for the first time in this definitive and fully annotated modern edition.

# The Tortoise and The Hare

There are many versions and adaptations of Aesop's fable, here are some recommendations from Portland Public Library Sam L. Cohen Children's Library:

***The Tortoise and the Hare: An Aesop Fable* adapted and illustrated by Janet Stevens (Holiday House, 1985).**

Recounts the race between the boastful hare and the persevering tortoise.

***The Race* adapted by Caroline Repchuk and illustrated by Alison Jay (Chronicle Books, 2002).**

In this modern retelling of the classic fable, Hare makes a bet with Tortoise that he can reach New York City first. They set off from England heading east, with Tortoise opting for a leisurely cruise and Hare choosing various modes of transportation, from cars to hot-air balloons to camels. Jay's unique illustrations provide life to this tale, recording Hare's travel woes, from barely escaping alligators to a fender-bender, with quieter insets showing Tortoise's trip for contrast.

***The Hare And The Tortoise: a Fable From Aesop* retold and illustrated by Helen Ward (Brookfield, CT: Millbrook Press, 1999).**

Retells the events of the famous race between the boastful hare and the persevering tortoise. Includes a key to the various animals pictured in the illustrations.

***The Tortoise or the Hare* written by Toni Morrison and Slade Morrison, illustrated by Joe Cepeda (New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2010).**

Jamey Tortoise is smarter than anyone else and Jimi Hare is faster, but when a race is announced each consults a reporter about how to get what he really wants when and if he should win in this updated twist on the familiar fable.

***The Hare and the Tortoise* adapted and illustrated by Paul Galdone (New York, Whittlesey House, 1962).**

***The Hare and the Tortoise* retold by Carol Jones Boston (Houghton Mifflin, 1996).**

Sure of winning the race with a tortoise, a hare dawdles about to make it more fun. Full-page illustrations alternate with pages of text that have holes through which portions of the illustrated pages appear.

***Hurry Up and Slow Down* adapted by Layn Marlow (New York: Holiday House, 2009).**

Hare likes to hurry through the day, unlike Tortoise, but manages to slow down for his favorite bedtime story.

***The Race of the Century* retold, written, and illustrated by Barry Downard. (New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2008).**

Fed up with his incessant taunting, Tom Tortoise challenges Flash Harry Hare to the race of the century, which turns into a world-wide media event complete with television and newspaper coverage, photographers, and many other distractions.

***The Rabbit and the Turtle: Aesop's Fables* retold and illustrated by Eric Carle (Orchard Books, 1988).**

# Additional Resources

## ***EL Wire Ideas* (That's Cool Wire Company)**

<http://www.thatscoolwire.com/articleDetail.asp?articleID=33>

Images illustrating the different ways that electroluminescent wire can be used.

## ***Shelly Duvall's Faerie Tale Theatre* (Koch Vision DVD, 2008).**

Shelley Duvall's Faerie Tale Theatre brings to life twenty-six of the most magical fairy tales of all time. Directed by such masters of cinema as Tim Burton and Francis Ford Coppola, and star-powered by Robin Williams, Billy Crystal, Mick Jagger, James Earl Jones, Howie Mandel, Christopher Reeve, Susan Sarandon and more, this collection is an unparalleled treasury of best-loved tales of enchantment, adventure and wonder.

## ***SurLaLune Fairytales* by librarian and folklorist Heidi Anne Heiner**

<http://www.surlalunefairytales.com/introduction/index.html>

This website offers an assortment of questions, essays, guides, links that explore the history and cultural significance of fairytales.

## ***Folk and Fairy Tales: A Handbook* by D. L. Ashliman (Greenwood, 2004).**

Overviews folk and fairy tales as a type of world folklore, discusses examples, and explores manifestations of these tales throughout world literature and culture.

## ***Children's literature: A Reader's History, From Aesop to Harry Potter* By Seth Lerer (University of Chicago Press, 2008).**

Ever since children have learned to read, there has been children's literature. Children's Literature charts the makings of the Western literary imagination from Aesop's fables to Mother Goose, from Alice's Adventures in Wonderland to Peter Pan, from Where the Wild Things Are to Harry Potter.

# Discussion Points and Activities

## **Discussion Points**

- How did CORBiAN Visual Arts and Dance tell the stories of the ugly duckling and the tortoise and the hare?
- Did you like the effect of the electroluminescent wire? What role did it play in the storytelling?
- What was the most memorable moment? Why?
- What is an example of when being "slow and steady" is better than being fast?

## **Activities**

### **Myths, Folktales and Fairytales Internet Project**

Compiled by Scholastic, Inc., the Myths, Folktales and Fairy Tales Internet project is a compilation of contributions from many authors to create a rich resource for learning about and writing in these genres.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/mff/index.htm>

### **Writing with Writers Series by Scholastic: Myths Writing Workshop with Jane Yolen**

An online workshop for students written by prolific folklore author Jane Yolen and presented by Scholastic, Inc.

[http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/mff/mythswshop\\_index.htm](http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/mff/mythswshop_index.htm)

### **Fractured Fairy Tales and Fables with Jon Scieszka**

Explore Fractured Fairy Tales with Jon Scieszka, author of The True Story of the Three Little Pigs! and Squids Will Be Squids.

[http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/mff/fractured\\_fairy.htm](http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/mff/fractured_fairy.htm)

# In-School Workshop

Students Investigate diverse ways to express and tell stories through words and movement.

\$100 for one-hour in-school workshop with Ovations Offstage educators.



# Study Guide Connections to Common Core Standards

This guide offers activities for students at multiple grade levels.

Common Core State Standards and ME Learning Standards	Reading Literature	Reading Info Texts	Reading Foundational Skills	Reading History/Social Studies Subjects	Reading Science Technical Subjects	Writing	Speaking and Listening	Language	Visual and Performing Arts
"Ugly Duckling" & "The Tortoise and The Hare"	<b>RL</b>		<b>RF</b>		<b>S</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>SL</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>VPA</b>

For more information about Common Core Standards:

Maine Department of Education Learning Standards and Goals,  
<http://www.maine.gov/education/standards.htm>

Maine Department of Education Common Core State Standards,  
<http://www.maine.gov/education/lres/commoncore/index.html>

Common Core State Standards Initiative, <http://www.corestandards.org/>

Maine Department of Education Learning Results Visual and Performing Arts,  
<http://www.maine.gov/education/lres/vpa/index.html>

# Acknowledgements

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