



of Your Own Story

TEACHER'S GUIDE FOR TREEHOUSE SCHOOL TOURS

The *Heroes Tour* at Treehouse spotlights the Museum's *Be the Hero of Your Own Story* exhibit, sponsored by The Forever Young Foundation. This tour introduces students to the "Hero's Journey" through a discussion of heroic literature.

Prior to your visit:

1. Discuss what it means to be a hero. What does a hero do? What won't a hero do? Consider these examples taken directly from the new Treehouse exhibit: "A hero inspires people. A hero does something worth talking about, but a hero isn't just famous or a celebrity. A hero is someone who lives a life that is worthy of imitation. A hero is a role model. A hero changes things for the better. A hero creates new possibilities. A hero has vision and the will and determination to make their vision real. A hero is willing to make sacrifices – to give up things – in order to earn the results they want."
2. There are lots of great heroes in books. Discuss the students' favorite storybook heroes. There are many heroes in real life as well. Discuss some of the students' favorite real life heroes and role models.
3. Share some hero stories of various kinds with your students and explore the ways in which each tale's protagonist fits the heroic model the students agreed upon previously. Does the hero of the story exhibit a kind of heroism not previously discussed? Almost any story will fit the heroic model and nearly all folk and fairy tales will do. For discussion's sake, some of our favorite hero stories include:

Officer Buckle and Gloria by Peggy Rathman
Charlotte's Web by E. B. White
Herbert the Timid Dragon by Mercer Mayer

The Magic Tapestry by Demi
Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman
Winnie-the-Pooh by A. A. Milne

During your visit:

The *Heroes Tour* at Treehouse offers students an opportunity to talk about what makes a true hero. The tour includes an activity in our beautiful *Be the Hero of Your Own Story* exhibit area, a book-making project in our Art Garden, and a heroic ParticiPlay™ in the Treehouse Theater. Your visit will also include up to 25 minutes of exploration time for students to explore the Museum's exhibits in small groups with their adult chaperones.

After your visit:

1. Plan a "dress as your favorite hero" day. Have each of the children dress as their favorite storybook or real life hero. As a class, try to guess the identities of each of the heroes based upon small clues provided by the student in disguise, or play Hero charades.
2. As a class or individually, have the students create a hero's list of admirable qualities. Discuss heroic qualities that the children already possess and some that they want to develop.
3. Either in the books started at Treehouse or as an additional writing assignment, provide the students with some everyday problems about which they may write. How would the student's chosen hero solve the stated problem? Turn these explorations into short stories that can be shared with the class.

Treehouse School Tours are designed to assist teachers in meeting state and national core objectives in Fine Arts, including Theater and Visual Arts, Language Arts, and Social Studies. Please contact us if you have questions about how Treehouse's curriculum meshes with your curriculum.



Treehouse Museum is a nonprofit, educational organization whose mission is to be the magical place where children and families "Step into a Story."

Elizabeth Stewart Treehouse Museum
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