



Study Guide Grades 2 – 5

Open Dream Ensemble is a project of the Thomas S. Kenan Institute for the Arts, whose mission is to incubate projects that sustain artists at every point in their creative development through strategic partnerships that capitalize on visionary thinking in the arts.

Dear Educator,

The following study guide provides suggestions for classroom activities and lessons that tie into our original production, *Dream Machines*. It includes a character list, questions for pre- and post-*Dream Machine* viewing, activities that are centered on *Dream Machine* characters, and a bibliography. We hope you find this guide useful and that you enjoy the show!

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A Word from the Directors / Writers Isaac Klein and Matt Cowart

DREAM MACHINES is a story of planes, trains, automobiles, and people who are always on the move. It is inherently in constant motion. Our intended staging is purposefully dynamic, with scenes directly and seamlessly transitioning into and out of one another. The sets and costumes are incredibly versatile-- simple pieces that transform to take on multiple roles throughout the show. The performers manipulate fabric, color, and their bodies to emphasize and clarify each moment through visual storytelling. The pivotal theme of *DREAM MACHINES* is imagination. Every aspect of the show-- from sets and costumes to movement and music--will require the audience to think creatively: filling in the gaps along with Wilbur, Orville, and Katharine. By harnessing the awesome power of their imaginations, the audience will see the impossible become a reality.

Dream on -
Matt and Isaac

Character List



ORVILLE WRIGHT. A dreamer with his head in the clouds. The more outgoing of the two brothers, ORVILLE is prone to sudden bursts of inspiration. Unable to do things halfway, he throws himself wholeheartedly into each new challenge that he faces.

WILBUR WRIGHT. Quiet and reserved with an inner spark that shines, WILBUR is the Wright brother with his feet on the ground. WILBUR meticulously draws and plans he and his brother's ideas.



KATHARINE WRIGHT. The intelligent and caring sister of ORVILLE and WILBUR. KATHARINE is a great influence on her brothers, giving them advice and encouraging them to pursue their dreams. She is also extremely accomplished in her own right, as a teacher and college

graduate, at a time when these achievements were remarkable for a woman *or* a man.



OCTAVE CHANUTE. A visionary, powerful, accomplished civil engineer and railroad inventor. Also, an aviation enthusiast and scholar.



HENRY FORD. An incredibly suave and personable man in the automotive industry. Though one of many in the race to popularize automobiles, his key to success lies in his tireless charisma, confidence, and business savvy.

ENSEMBLE. Reporters, Birds, Mechanics, Aviators, Crowds.

Questions and Discussion Points

Pre-Performance Questions

1. What is a play?
2. What is needed to create a play?
3. When have you seen dancing, acting and music together?
4. What is the difference between a movie and a play?

Post-Performance Questions

1. Who were the characters in the play?
2. How did the cast use movement, dance, sound, and props to tell the story?
3. How did the performers express how the characters felt (use of music, dance, gestures, facial expressions, language)?

Discussion points

1. Discuss transportation and how it is used today. Have the students consider how their lives would be different if there were no airplanes, cars, trucks, or buses. How would they get around? How would their education be impacted? How would the food they eat be different? Where would they go on vacation?
2. Orville, Wilbur, and Katharine are siblings and also teammates. They know how to work together and understand that they each have strengths. Have the students reflect on what teamwork means and what their strengths are.

Things to look and listen for in the performance:

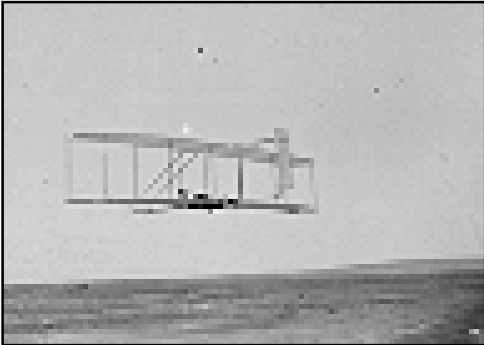
1. How the set and costumes use colors.
2. The way the costumes have to move and transform in order to allow the cast to become different characters.
3. The set makes constant shifts. Watch how this happens. How a workbench transforms into a train, how a bicycle is made of umbrellas, etc.
4. Many instruments are used for different purposes and effects. Listen for which instruments are used when and consider the reasons.

The Wright Siblings

Wilbur (1867 – 1912), Orville (1871 – 1948), and Katharine (1874 – 1929) were three of the five Wright siblings. The Wright family lived in Dayton, Ohio where Milton Wright, the father, was a minister. Susan Wright, the mother, was known for her mechanical expertise.

Wilbur, Orville and Katharine were very close. Throughout their childhood, Wilbur and Orville worked together, often making things such as sleds and kites. They enjoyed figuring out answers to problems and spent a lot of time experimenting in order to discover solutions.

Katherine was bright and outgoing and often gave her older brothers a hand with their experiments. At a time when few women pursued academics, she graduated from college and taught classical literature at a high school. During the time when Orville and Wilbur were working on creating the first airplane, Katharine gave them a great deal of encouragement. When they accomplished flight, she was able to assist them in getting recognition for their achievement.



Activities

Working in groups of three, write a new scene for Dream Machines featuring the Wright siblings as they encounter a machine we use today. What do they think it is? How do they use it? Why do they like or dislike it? Perform the scenes for the class.

Make a book that includes text and pictures about a machine of interest. Research the machine to find out when and why it was first created. Be sure to answer how it is used and how it has changed the lives of people who use it.

Even though the Wright Brothers were from Ohio, they made the first flight in North Carolina. Write a poem or prose text explaining why they traveled to Kitty Hawk and how the natural environment of the North Carolina coast helped them accomplish their goals. Consider the climate, soil, local population and natural life.

Often questions can be answered through research and observation. The Wright Brothers researched and experimented flight. They observed birds and built gliders and kites to help them test hypothesis. As a class, discuss something you want to better understand. Use research and observation to help find the answer(s).

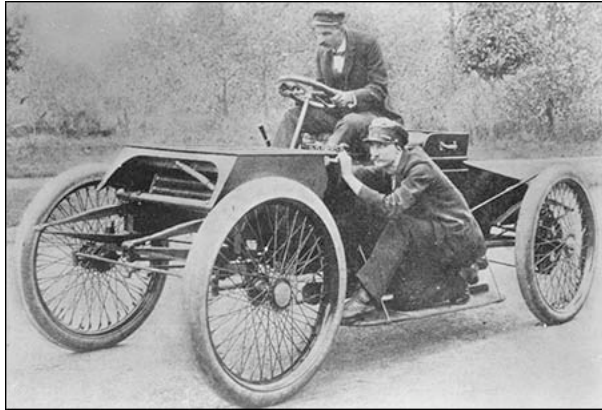
Henry Ford

In 1863 Henry Ford was born in Michigan to a farming family. His aspirations lead him to become an engineer and work for the Edison Company. Throughout this time he carried out multiple experiments with the internal combustion engine and in 1903 he began the Ford Motor Company.

While not the first or only auto manufacturer, Ford's ingenuity lay in making use of conveyor belts on his assembly line to construct automobiles. This allowed his company to make automobiles quickly and inexpensively.

As well as being an engineer, Ford was an entrepreneur and creative thinker. His company offered wages of \$5 a day in 1903. This was more than twice as much as comparable factory jobs and it enabled him to recruit and retain the best and most talented workers. Also, Ford Motor Company had a large publicity department that made certain Ford's autos remained in the news.

Henry Ford died in 1947. In 1945 his Grandson, Henry Ford II, took over the Presidency of the Ford Motor Company. The Company remains in the control of the Ford family today.



Activities

Interview someone, the older the better, about the first car they remember.

When was it built? What was the model? What were some of the details they remember? What was the first car they drove? The first car they owned?

Research how the proliferation of cars in the United States has transformed our roads, economy, environment, and culture.

Working in teams, create a commercial for a car that will be driven in 2020. What will be some of the new features in the car? Will it run on gasoline or an alternate fuel? How many people will it seat? How much will it cost? Perform the commercials for the class.

At the turn of the last century, the dream machines of automobiles, airplanes, and trains transformed our society. Today we are experiencing a boom in technology. Write a short story about how technology has changed our world from the vantage point of someone alive in 2110.

Octave Chanute

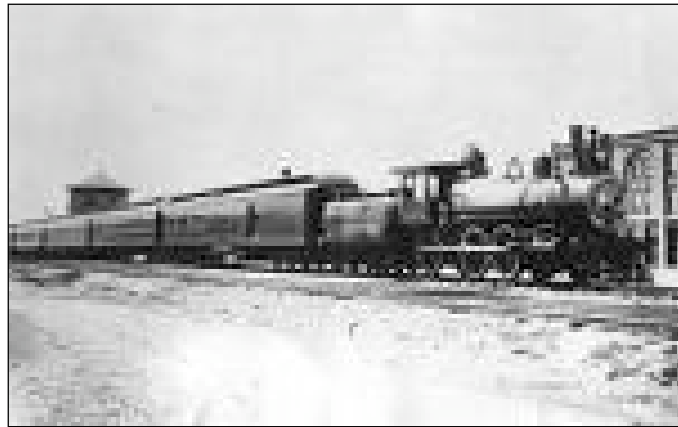
Octave Chanute was born in France in 1832 and immigrated to the United States in 1838. By 1849 he started training to become a civil engineer. His talent and good work were quickly recognized and he became one of the leading railroad engineers of his day. His accomplishments included designing the first Hannibal Bridge across the Missouri River and the stockyards in Chicago and Kansas City. He also developed a system to preserve lumber used as railroad ties by pressure treating it with creosote. In order to track how old the rail ties were, he devised a date stamp nail that would be used to hold the ties.

Upon his retirement from the railroad, Chanute devoted his time and energy to the pursuit of flight. He collected all the written materials he could find on flight and wrote articles about the subject that were compiled into his book, *Recent Progress in Aviation*. His training as an engineer helped him devise a biplane wing structure that was used by the Wright brothers.

By 1899 he was corresponding regularly with the Wright brothers. He made a trip to Dayton in 1901 to visit the Wrights and was present to witness the 1902 glider and the 1904 and 1905 airplanes in flight.

Activities

Research your family history to discover if and when immigration occurred. Try to imagine what that experience was like. Write a journal entry from the vantage point of the person immigrating. What was happening? How did they feel? Why had they left their country of origin? What were their hopes for their life in the USA?



Octave Chanute was an accomplished man who always wanted to learn more. What would he be interested in today? What would he think about travel? Manned missions into outer space? Working in teams, write a skit where Chanute is interviewed. Perform for the class.

Research trains at the turn of the last century. Using facts you discovered, create a movement piece about trains. Use creative props, costumes, and sound from things that are available in the classroom.

Bibliography

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