



Imagination Makers Theater Company

"Bringing Professional Theater to Young People in Schools..."

"GIVE IT UP" FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Your child/children recently saw Imagination Makers Theater Company's performance of *Give It Up* at their school. *Give It Up* is a kid-rewritten version of Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*. While including lots of humor and fun, this play also provides an excellent model for how to make the difficult choice to end the cycle of vengeance and can be a powerful catalyst for illuminating discussions between you and your child.

1. Your child's enjoyment and understanding of the meaning of the play can be enhanced through family discussion of the major themes of the play. Here are some questions you can use as a guide for a family conversation about *Give It Up*:

- Which part of the play was your favorite? Were there any parts you didn't like?
- Tell me about your favorite character in the play. What did you like about him/her?
- Did the play remind you of anything that has ever happened to you?
- How did Antonio and Shylock finally work out their differences and get out of the cycle of revenge?

2. Have your child act out their favorite part of the play for you. It helps them process the play, takes no theater expertise on your part, and their interpretations of the play can be very entertaining!

3. *Give It Up* was written by elementary school students and hopefully has inspired your child to write. Here are a few ideas to help get them started:

- In your own words, write the story of what happened in the play.
- Write your own story using Shakespearean vocabulary. (e.g. doth, thou, wherefore, 'tis, 'twas, ere, whither, ye, fie, alas, anon, aye, good morrow, tarry, how now, in sooth, etc...)

4. Many fun art projects can result from your child's impression of the play. Here are some suggestions:

- Draw a picture of William Shakespeare or people in Shakespearean costumes.
- Make a mural that depicts the story of the play.

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