



2009

The Sorcerer's Apprentice

Rebecca Wallin

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Surface, Mary Hall. *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*. Anchorage Press, 1994. ISBN 0876023235. \$7 script; \$35/performance fee. 45 p.

Reviewer: Rebeca Wallin

Reading Level: Primary, Intermediate

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Plays; Fantasy Plays; Occult Plays;

Subject: Children's plays; Magic--Drama; Drama--Reviews;

Theme: Asking questions is necessary to learning

Production Requirements: Light and sound effects. Can be minimalistic staging.

Acts: 1

Run Time: 1 hour

Characters: 6

Cast: 6 actors, at least 2 male

Time Period: Middle ages

Klaus, a lazy young boy, is an apprentice to a sorcerer. He is made to clean up the workshop after each magical experiment and is not allowed to learn magic nor ask any questions. Klaus is lazy and his only desire for magic is help in doing his chores. The sorcerer's cat convinces Klaus that he should learn magic secretly so that he can stop the sorcerer who has turned to the evil side of magic and plans to destroy Klaus' village. With the cat's help, the apprentice secretly learns the magic spells in the sorcerer's magic books and is able to defeat the sorcerer in a time of distress. Klaus gains power over the repentant sorcerer and decides to use his magic for good to help the village.

This play offers an opportunity for extravagant staging with sound and visual effects but could also be produced with a scaled down, bare bones approach. This is made possible by the three actors cast as "magic" who help to perform the spells. The action in the script, along with the mystery behind the cat and sorcerer, will keep audiences involved and attentive. The dialogue reads true and flows easily. One drawback to the plot is the somewhat anti-climactic climax where the apprentice quickly and easily defeats the sorcerer who then quickly repents. This play would be suitable for 2nd grade through middle school and would also be a good touring option.

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