



The Watsons Go to Birmingham- 1963
January 18-February 9, 2012

Adapted for the stage by Reginald André Jackson

From the novel by Christopher Paul Curtis

Recommended: Grade 5 and up

Just by attending the show at NCT and having a general discussion about the production and its elements upon your return to school, teachers may address the following TN State Curriculum Standards.

Fifth Grade

ELA: 0501.2.1, 0501.7.1, 0501.7.4, 0501.8.2, 0501.8.3

Social Studies: 4.03, 5.10, 5.12, 6.01, 6.02

Theatre: 6.1, 6.2, 6.4, 7.1, 7.2

Visual Art: 5.2, 5.3, 6.1, 6.2

Sixth Grade

ELA: 0601.2.1, 0601.7.1, 0601.7.2, 0601.7.3, 0601.8.2, 0601.8.3

Social Studies: 4.03, 6.01, 6.02

Theatre: 6.1, 6.2, 7.1, 7.2

Visual Art: 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 5.1, 6.1, 6.2

Seventh Grade

ELA: 0701.2.1, 0701.7.1, 0701.7.2, 0701.7.3, 0701.8.2, 0701.8.3

Social Studies: 4.02, 6.02, 6.03

Theatre: 6.1, 6.2, 7.1, 7.2

Visual Art: 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 5.1, 6.1, 6.2

Eighth Grade

ELA: 0801.2.1, 0801.7.1, 0801.7.2, 0801.7.3, 0801.8.2, 0801.8.3

Social Studies: 4.04, 4.05, 6.01, 6.02

Theatre: 6.1, 6.2, 7.1, 7.2

Visual Art: 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 5.1, 6.1, 6.2

Group Discussion Questions

Below are some general discussion questions that will get students thinking about the production they've just seen!

1. The story of *The Watsons Go To Birmingham- 1963* has been told through both a novel and a play. What parts of the play reminded students of the book? What was unique about the play?
2. How did the play use lights, sets, and costumes to help tell the story? What did the design elements make students think and feel? Why do you think the designers made the choices they did about the set and the costumes?

3. How did the actors, designers, and director help you understand the time period of the play? How is watching a play set in the past different from reading about that time in a book?
4. How is theatre like visual arts? What other art forms do you sometimes experience in the theatre?
5. What are the themes and important ideas in this play? What do you think the playwright hoped audiences would think and feel after seeing this story told onstage?
6. Which characters stood out to you? What made them memorable? How did the actors make choices with their voices and bodies that helped you understand the character better?
7. What kinds of choices did the characters make? What were the results? Should any of the characters have made different choices? How would that change the story?