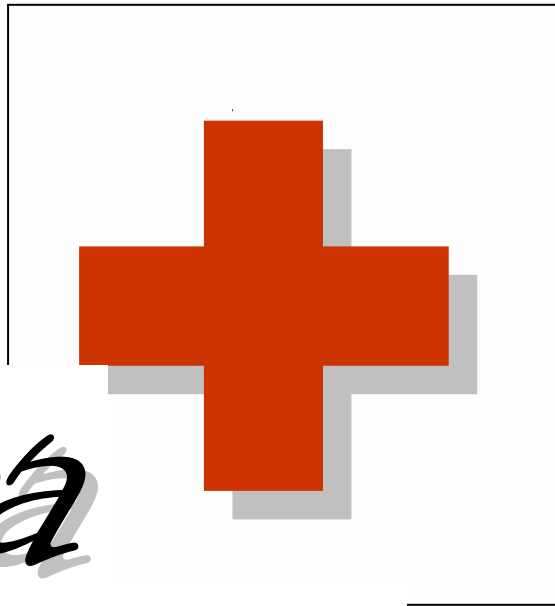


Discovery Theater

presents



Clara Barton

The Courage Within

*Produced by
Adventure Theatre*

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Learning Guide Text: Adventure Theatre
Edited and Formatted by Anne Stewart O'Donnell*

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See our website for tickets, location, directions, resources for teachers, and much more!

A Teacher's Guide to CLARA BARTON: THE COURAGE WITHIN

*from Adventure Theatre
7300 MacArthur Blvd
Glen Echo, MD 20812
www.adventuretheatre.org
301-320-5331*

OBJECTIVE OF PERFORMANCE:

- To immerse students into the remarkable life story of Civil War nurse and American Red Cross founder Clara Barton.
- To help students understand and appreciate the personal and social obstacles she overcame to become one of the most admired persons in our country's history.
- To enhance school curriculums on famous American women, many of which include a section on the life of Clara Barton.
- To dramatize, through her life, many of the diverse issues in schools today, including sexism, conflict resolution, and self-esteem.
- To supplement teachers' work in the areas of Language, Reading and Social Studies.

SUMMARY OF THE PROGRAM:

"Clara Barton: The Courage Within" is a one-act, 45-minute play. It features a 4-person acting troupe, consisting of 1 woman and 3 men. The actress portrays Clara's full life from a shy girl of 10 to an 84-year-old woman. The actors play over two dozen character roles with lightning-fast costume changes. The 10 scenes highlight the most pivotal events of her life, including:

- Clara's prevailing over bullies at school;
- applying leeches to her sick brother;
- working in the U.S. Patent Office with an overly enthusiastic clerk;
- confronting the Quartermaster of the Union Army;
- creating the First Aid Kit;
- tending to wounded soldiers on the battlefield.

I. PRE-PERFORMANCE

A. What background information or concepts should the students know about the topic in order to understand and appreciate your performance?

Students should be familiar with the basic life story of Clara Barton, and her role as the founder of the American Red Cross. An understanding of the Civil War, especially with regard to the difficulties of battlefield aid, would be helpful, as well as the realization that Clara Barton overcame personal shyness, and sex discrimination, to emerge as a leader and social visionary for the United States.

B. Define vocabulary that is unique and necessary for your performance.

- **Confederate:** A southern soldier in the Civil War.
- **Yankee:** A Union or northern soldier in the Civil War.
- **Leeches:** Worms used as bloodsuckers for medical treatment. Still used today to aid in blood-clot prone injuries.
- **Public School:** A school maintained at the public expense.
- **Quartermaster:** Military officer in charge of ordering supplies, clothing and equipment for the troops.
- **Poultice:** A moist mass of organic material, applied to the body to relieve soreness, and kept in place with a cloth.

II. PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHT(S)

What do you want the students to notice as you perform?

- Observe the changes Clara Barton undergoes from a young girl to an adult. Clara was quite shy as a child and would stutter her words. She was initially teased for this but her academic and intellectual prowess helped her acquire self-confidence throughout her life.
- Note how brother David's injury placed her in an early care-taking role that may have influenced her later decision to aid wounded soldiers.
- Look at how, by example, she helped transform the role of women from more traditional roles to those of public service (teacher, office clerk, battlefield nurse).
- As founder of the American Red Cross she also served as its "CEO" and directed hundreds of employees and volunteers.
- Observe how Clara sought new challenges throughout her life, related to the care of her fellow citizens. Even in her 80's she created the National First Aid Society, establishing community aid programs by which people can administer care to themselves

III. PERFORMANCE FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

- Immediately following the performance, the actors will be available for a brief question-and-answer session with the students. They can discuss the play and any research they did to help them prepare.
- **Field Trip Opportunity:** Educational tours of the Clara Barton National Historic Site complement the show and are strongly recommended. The Site, located in Glen Echo, Maryland, just a 5-minute walk from Adventure Theatre's home base, is the

actual house where Barton lived and worked for the last 15 years of her life. Student “guests” would see where Miss Barton conducted her Red Cross operations, and how she employed volunteers who lived and worked in the house in exchange for room and board. Tours for less than 10 people require no reservations; see www.nps.gov/clba for details. To arrange a tour for 10 or more, on day of the show or at another time, call 301-320-1410.

If a trip is made to the Clara Barton National Historic Site, teachers may use the following mental exercise at the end. When exiting the house, and seeing the expanse of lawn and parking lot in front of them, teachers will ask students to look out and imagine the same expanse as a battlefield in 1862. Ask them to imagine being Clara Barton stepping onto a field at Bull Run, Virginia, and gazing upon thousands of soldiers lying dead or wounded all around her. Her courage and compassion in the face of such suffering stand out in stark relief to anything most people, even most doctors and nurses, can relate to today.

- Independently or with classmates, students can learn more about the thousands of letters Clara Barton wrote during and after the Civil War; her extensive travel and awards from around the world; and her later involvement in various causes outside the United States.
- Teachers may wish to emphasize the contrast between the world of the early 1900’s, when Clara Barton died, and the world today. Electricity was in its infancy. There were no televisions, beltways, computers, cell phones, microwave ovens, or e-mail. High-speed communication, transportation, and all the modern conveniences we take for granted were unknown at that time. This discussion gives students added appreciation for the day-to-day challenges of people living in Clara Barton’s time.
- Students may draw a picture or enact a scene from the play depicting various points in Clara Barton’s life, such as: overcoming bullies in the classroom; caring for her brother David; teaching students; working at the U.S. Patent Office; or helping fallen soldiers.
- Students may be asked how they think Clara Barton would respond to a modern-day disaster, such as the tsunami of 2004, the hurricanes of 2005, or the New Orleans flood of 2006. Students can research what the modern American Red Cross does to help those in greatest need.

IV. What student resources or books would you recommend to extend your performance?

Students may go on-line to the website www.facthound.com, key in the subject “Clara Barton” and click on any of the subsequent links for more information on Clara Barton.

Collier, James Lincoln. *The Clara Barton You Never Knew*. New York: Children's Press, 2003.

Koestler-Grack, Rachel. *The Story of Clara Barton*. Breakthrough Biographies. Philadelphia: Chelsea Clubhouse, 2003.

www.nps.gov/clba. The National Park Service's Clara Barton National Historic Site website, with visiting info and a virtual tour.

V. What teacher resources or books would you recommend to extend your performance?

www.memory.loc.gov/ammem/awhhtml/awmss5/civil_war.html A link to the Clara Barton papers, Library of Congress, Manuscript Division, Washington, DC.

Oates, Stephen B. *A Woman of Valor: Clara Barton and the Civil War*. New York. Macmillan, 1994. United States. National Park Service.

Clara Barton, Clara Barton National Historic Site, Maryland. National Park Handbook 110. Washington, D.C. Division of Publications, National Park Service, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1981.

DISCOVERY THEATER (www.DiscoveryTheater.org), the **Smithsonian Institution's theater for children**, is dedicated to offering the best in live educational performing arts for young people. Each year, more than 50,000 children and their adults visit Discovery Theater on the National Mall to explore American history and cultures, folk tales from around the world, and exciting, accessible science and math programs. Discovery Theater performances unite ideologies, enact themes that reflect the diversity of its audiences, open avenues of self-reflection, and offer an enjoyable means for parents and teachers to demonstrate life's lessons. DT often collaborates to create original productions with distinguished partners such as the Library of Congress, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Lemelson Center for Study of Invention and Innovation, and America's Jazz Heritage, A Partnership of the Lila Wallace–Reader's Digest Fund and the Smithsonian Institution.



Discovery Theater's new specially-designed performance space is located next to the Smithsonian Castle, in the S. Dillon Ripley Center—the Smithsonian's underground learning center with classrooms, lecture halls, artists' studios and more. Favorite DT programs also tour schools and museums, while our partnership with Round House Theater in Silver Spring, MD means that DT's special brand of educational entertainment for kids is more widely available than ever before. For details, call 202-633-8700 or see www.DiscoveryTheater.org.