

## COSTUME DESIGN CHALLENGE

1. In this challenge, you will choose or create a character and costume them entirely with items found in your home. No buying things allowed!
2. Check out WHAT IS COSTUME DESIGN? (below) and complete the COSTUME DESIGN WORKSHEET (below). This will help you create your design in a thoughtful and purposeful way.
3. Gather your ideas and materials! Grab stuff from around your house that might work as part of your costume. Don't forget shoes, hair, and accessories!
4. Try stuff on yourself or a family member (depending on who you're designing for). Try different combinations, and experiment with wearing things in a different way.
5. Show your design to a family member. See if they can guess the character you are designing and explain to them what you want to communicate about the character. Do they have any suggestions or ideas to help your design?
6. When you're satisfied with your design, record a video telling us about the character, your design, and why you chose the pieces you chose.
7. Upload and Share! Follow the link on the ACT Spotlight page to upload your video. Make sure to title it with your name!

## WHAT IS COSTUME DESIGN?

Costume designers create the look of each character by designing clothes and accessories the actors will wear in performance. Costumes may be made, bought, revamped out of the theatre's existing collection or rented.

The details (like shapes, colors and textures) that the designer chooses can tell the audience much about the show and the characters. The costume designer creatively collaborates with the director and the set and lighting designers to ensure that the costumes are smoothly integrated into the production as a whole.

Stage costumes can provide audiences with information about a character's occupation, social status, gender, age, sense of style and personality. Costumes can also:

- reinforce the mood and style of the production
- distinguish between major and minor characters
- suggest relationships between characters
- change an actor's appearance
- suggest changes in character development and age
- be objects of beauty in their own right.

Costume designs also need to include any accessories such as canes, hats, gloves, shoes, jewelry or masks. These costume props add visual interest to the overall costume design. They are often the items that truly distinguish one character from another.

## COSTUME DESIGN WORKSHEET

*Answering these questions will help you create the details of your costume design. For each question, jot down a few ideas of how you might communicate these details with your character's costume*

1. Who is the character you're designing?
2. What is the gender and age of your character? Does this affect what kind of clothes they wear?
3. Where does the story take place and during what time? Does location, weather, time of day or season make a difference in what the character wears? What about the time period?
4. What does the character do? Does their occupation determine their clothing?
5. What is the character's economic status? Are they rich or poor or somewhere in between?

6. What is the character's personality like? How can you show that in what they wear?

7. How do you imagine the world around the character to be? For example, does the story take place in a dark and gloomy world or a cheerful one? Is the world realistic or fanciful? Can you show this in your character's costume?