



AMELIA EARHART

**STUDY
GUIDE**

CCT
COLUMBUS
CHILDREN'S
THEATRE



WHO IS AMELIA EARHART?

Born in Kansas in 1897, Amelia Earhart would go on to become a record-breaking aviator and an inspiration to generations of women pilots. She first discovered her passion for flight when attending an air show at the age of 20. A stunt pilot swooped in front of her, and at that moment, she knew she wanted to fly. She started working odd jobs to pay for flying lessons and saved up to buy her first plane. Then, in 1923, she earned an international pilot's license, becoming one of only 16 women in the world to have one. Her life was changed when she met George Putnam, who catapulted her into the spotlight with high-profile, record-breaking flights. Amelia continued pushing boundaries and chasing ever more lofty goals. It was during her ambitious flight around the globe that her plane mysteriously vanished over the Pacific Ocean. Her puzzling disappearance continues to be the subject of speculation today.



MEET THE AUTHOR

Kathryn Schultz Miller has written plays for young audiences since 1976. She served for over 20 years as co-founder, artistic director, and Playwright of ArtReach Touring Theatre, a professional touring theatre based in Cincinnati. Many of her 55+ plays have been published, and 14 of her scripts have been produced nationwide. Her published plays include *Amelia Earhart*, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, and *A Thousand Cranes*. Miller is the winner of many awards, including the 1985 Post-Corbett Award "for literacy excellence in playwriting," three National Endowment for the Arts Playwrights Awards, and six Ohio Arts Council Playwriting Fellowships.



Who is?

SYNOPSIS

A curious reporter begins to uncover the story of Amelia Earhart's mysterious disappearance. From her first flight to her last, this story tells the epic tale of an adventurous and daring woman on a mission to make history. Through flashbacks, snippets of radio chatter, and newspaper headlines, the reporter seeks an answer to the elusive question - what happened to Amelia?

AMELIA'S FLIGHTS

This play shows a few of Amelia's most famous flights:

June 1928 : Flying from Newfoundland to Wales, Amelia became the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean. However, Amelia herself felt she did not deserve this acclaim because she was just a passenger - the plane was piloted by two men.



May 1932 : Amelia crosses the Atlantic Ocean again, from Newfoundland to Northern Ireland - this time as a solo pilot!

June 1937 : Amelia and navigator, Fred Noonan, depart from Miami, Florida to attempt their flight around the globe. While trying to find their final fuel stop at Howland Island, the plane disappeared over the Pacific Ocean.



CHARACTERS

AMELIA EARHART: The famous aviator

GEORGE PUTNAM: A writer and publisher

REPORTER: A present-day newspaper reporter researching Amelia Earhart

The actors in the show also play some other characters:

COMMANDER THOMPSON: US Coast Guard Officer

ITASCA: US Coast Guard Officer

PAUL MANTZ: A Hollywood stuntman



Synopsis

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

March is Women's History Month - a time for learning about and celebrating impactful women in history. Amelia Earhart left an important legacy, inspiring generations and paving the way for women pilots in commercial flight. Here are some other influential women in aviation:

Harriet Quimby was the first woman to get a pilot's license in the United States in 1911. She set many flying records, including being the first woman to fly across the English Channel.



Bessie Coleman was born five years before Amelia Earhart, and was a groundbreaking African and Native American aviator. In 1921, she was the first American to get an international pilot's license. She toured the United States and Europe as a stunt pilot performing in air shows.

Emily Howell Warner became the first woman pilot hired by a commercial passenger airline in the United States in 1973. She continued making history as the first female to earn her captain's wings, and eventually she commanded the first all-female flight crew in the United States.



WHAT OTHER NOTABLE WOMEN ARE YOU LEARNING ABOUT THIS MONTH?



Women's History

FLIGHT VOCABULARY

In the play, you will hear the radio communication from Amelia's last flight. Here is a breakdown of the technical language used in this sequence:

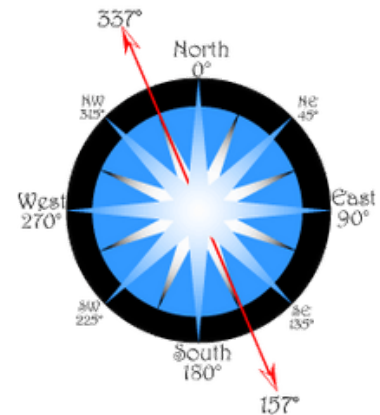
KHAQQ - These were the call letters of Amelia's plane on her final flight around the world. She used these call letters in radio transmissions to identify her plane

ITASCA - This was the Coast Guard vessel stationed near Howland Island. Amelia was communicating with this station while trying to find the island

BEARING - A pilot will "take a bearing" to determine the direction or angle to a specific point. In this case, Itasca was trying to take a bearing of Amelia's plane to give her directions to Howland Island

KILOCYCLE - This refers to the frequency that a radio is tuned to. The transmitter and receiver must be tuned to the same frequency for successful communication

LINE POSITION 157-337 - This refers to the lines on a compass, with 157° pointing southeast and 337° pointing northwest. Amelia was using this information to communicate her flight path to Itasca



WHAT IS FOLEY SOUND?

During the show, the actors make a lot of the sound effects live on stage rather than using pre-recorded sound cues - this is called *foley*! This technique is often used in film and TV. Foley artists will use a variety of objects to recreate everyday sounds that can be added to the film in post-production to enhance sound quality. But foley can be used in theatre, too!

The actors in this play use lots of different props to create the sounds of airplanes, storms, and more. Some of these props are specially designed to make specific sound effects, like the piece of metal known as a "thunder sheet." Other times, actors use everyday objects, like sandpaper, to sound like radio static.

You can try this technique at home or school! Gather a variety of objects and experiment with the different sounds they can make. Can you make the sound of a rattlesnake tail? Or feet stomping in a pile of leaves? If you want an extra challenge, have a friend close their eyes and try to guess what object is making the sound!



BEFORE THE SHOW



Before & After

Study the Historical Context

This play takes place from 1928 - 1937. Learn about what the United States was like during this time. Women were granted the right to vote in 1919, the year before Amelia Earhart started flying lessons. What other advancements in women's rights took place during Amelia's lifetime? How did the economic stress of The Great Depression impact Americans? The events of the play end two years before the start of World War II - what impacted global politics in the lead-up to the war?

Learn about Flight

Use this resource to investigate how different airplane parts affect flight distance and time with paper airplanes

https://www.teachengineering.org/activities/view/cub_airplanes_lesson06_activity1

Map It Out

Plot out each of Amelia's flights on a map. If you were going to fly all the way around the world, what route would you take? Where would you want to stop?

AFTER THE SHOW

Discussion Questions

- The reporter serves as a narrator in the play. How do you think this role helps tell the story? What would it be like if there wasn't a narrator?
- How does Amelia defy gender stereotypes throughout her life? In what ways are her career and personal life impacted by sexism?
- Why do you think people are so fascinated by the disappearance of Amelia Earhart? Which theory seems the most likely to you?
- What do you think the playwright hopes the audience will take away from this play? What moments are most memorable?

Writing Activities

- Write two diary entries from Amelia's perspective. Write one entry during her first flight across the Atlantic as a passenger with the two male pilots. Then, write an entry during her first solo flight across the Atlantic. What do you see, hear, feel? What are you thinking about? How is the second flight different from the first?
- Choose one of Amelia's flights and write a newspaper article about it. Be sure to include factual details from the event and use your imagination to share how people reacted. What was the crowd saying as Amelia's plane took off?

WHAT'S INVOLVED IN PUTTING ON A SHOW?

Performances at Columbus Children's Theatre are a result of groups of people working together. Many people know and understand what an actor is—the people on the stage telling the story. But did you know there are many more people working hard “behind-the-scenes” to make the performance happen? Below are just a few of those people.

THE DIRECTOR

- Responsible for the overall concept of the show—they guide a vision to create a world on stage in which the show may exist.
- Works with the actors to help them interpret their character and move on stage.
- Works closely with designers in planning the sounds, lights, scenery, costumes, props, - basically everything you see on the stage.

THE DESIGNERS

- Work with the director and with each other to create the look of the lights, scenery, costumes, make-up, sound and special effects. They make the world on stage come to life.

THE STAGE MANAGER

- Organizes every aspect of the production—schedules, resources and communications.
- In charge of making everything run smoothly from rehearsal to performance.
- Guarantees the same great performance every single time, whether you attend a show during the school day, or with your family in the evening or on the weekend.

THE CREW

- There are a lot of different crew people. Some help build the scenery, costumes, and props you see on the stage, and some are working backstage during the show helping actors change costumes, moving pieces of scenery on and off, or operating the lights and sound.

THE CAST

- Cast is what we call all of the actors who are on stage performing the characters in front of the audience.

THE AUDIENCE

- This is where you come in! The show you see would not exist without you. The hard work everyone puts in to create a show is all meant to share a story with you.



AUDIENCE MEMBER GUIDE



BEFORE THE SHOW

- **Arrive on Time**
 - Make sure to get to the theatre early so you can find your seat and settle in before the show starts. Consider using the restroom before the show starts
- **Turn Off Your Devices**
 - Before the show starts, turn off your phone and any other electronic devices. The bright screens can be distracting, and taking pictures and videos usually isn't allowed!
- **No Food or Drink**
 - It's best to eat and drink before the show starts. Food, even gum, can be noisy and messy, and it's usually not allowed in the theatre.

DURING THE SHOW

- **Stay in Your Seat**
 - Unless it's an emergency, try to stay seated during the performance. If you need to leave, try to do it quietly and at a good moment, such as in between scenes. Also, don't put your feet on the seat in front of you.
- **Pay Attention**
 - Once the show begins, don't talk to the people sitting next to you or move around. It's totally okay to laugh, cry, and cheer during the play, but it's important to let everyone enjoy the performance without distractions and to give your attention to the actors and the play.
- **Respect the Performers**
 - Show appreciation by clapping when it's appropriate - usually at the end of a scene or the whole show. Avoid shouting out during the performance, unless an actor tells you to!
- **Participate Appropriately**
 - If the play invites the audience to participate, join in! But remember to follow the directions of the actors
- **Be Kind to Others**
 - Treat everyone around you with respect. If someone needs help or is being too loud, kindly remind them to be quiet.
- **Most importantly, have fun!**

AFTER THE SHOW

- **Say Thank You**
 - At the end of the show, the actors will come onstage and take a bow. Show your appreciation by clapping and thanking the actors!
- **Grab Your Belongings**
 - When you leave the show, make sure to take all of your belongings with you.

CONNECTING STANDARDS

Drama/Theatre Learning Standard

6.1CO Investigate the time period and place of a drama or theatre work to better understand performance and design choices.

Writing Learning Standard

W.3.1 Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.

- Introduce the topic or text they are writing about, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure that lists reasons
- Provide reasons that support the opinion
- Use linking words and phrases (e.g. because, therefore, since) to connect opinions and reasons
- Provide a concluding statement or section

W.5.3 Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences

- Orient the reader by establishing a situation and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfold naturally
- Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, description, and pacing, to develop experiences and events or show the responses of characters to situations
- Use a variety of transitional words, phrases, and clauses to manage the sequence of events
- Use concrete words and phrases and sensory details to convey experiences and events precisely
- Provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events

Speaking and Listening

SL.2.5 Create audio recordings of stories or poems; add drawings or other visual displays to stories or recounts of experiences when appropriate to clarify ideas, thoughts, and feelings.

Physical Science

Topic: Changes in Motion - This topic focuses on observing the relationship between forces and motion, gravity

Geography Strand Spatial Thinking

Content Statements: 5. Maps and their symbols, including cardinal directions, can be interpreted to answer questions about location of places.





VISIT CCT

The Education Department offers in-school visits, a touring company, and year-round academy classes.

To learn more, please contact:

Kate Mason, *Education Coordinator*
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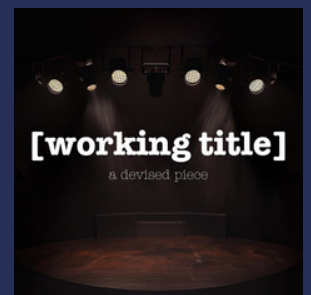
Hunter Minor, *Education Coordinator & Goldsmith Artist in Residence*
hunter@columbuschildrenstheatre.org

CCT | SPOTLIGHT
 SERIES

[WORKING TITLE] A DEVISED PIECE

**FEBRUARY 27 – MARCH 9, 2025 1 ACT PLAY |
 RATED PG**

Each season, CCT hosts a devising workshop for creative teens to write, design, and perform their own original play. Led by director Ellie Levine, these students will bring their brand new work to life for the world see. You won't want to miss this production from the next generation of brilliant theatre minds!



CCT | PROFESSIONAL
 SERIES

TITANIC THE MUSICAL

**MAY 2 – MAY 11, 2025 2 ACT MUSICAL WITH AN
 INTERMISSION | RATED PG**

April 10, 1912: the RMS Titanic sets out from London on her maiden voyage across the Atlantic. Billed as "The Largest Floating Object in The World," the Titanic is already big news. April 15, 1912: Titanic, the "unsinkable" ship, sinks, killing over 1500 men, women and children. Spanning all classes, Titanic captures the stories from the whole range of humanity aboard the ship: from workers in the boiler room to first-class attendants.



CHILD WRITING PROJECT

If seeing this show sparks the writing part of your brain, we would love to chat with you more about the legendary Child Writing Project. The CWP is an incredible project centered around improving children's abilities in the areas of writing and storytelling while providing them with the resources to bring these stories to life. Please contact Hunter Minor for more information.

Unleash creativity with CCT's Child Writing Project, a dynamic theatre class that empowers students to write, direct, and act in their very own original shows under the theme of Adventure & Bravery. Combining writing and language arts development with engaging theatre exercises, students will learn how to craft compelling stories and bring them to life on stage. The program culminates in a final performance for families, showcasing the students' unique creations and celebrating their hard work!