

Study Guide

by Jenny Bennett, for students & teachers



The ACTORS COMPANY THEATRE
900 Broadway, Suite 905
www.tactnyc.org

Imagine you're in the original audience for this play in January of 1935. It's cold outside, so you've got your coat and hat; ladies, you're wearing stockings and heels, even if it's mucky out. Since you're at the theatre, you've probably got a job or source of income – lucky you! The Great Depression is in full swing; a little over a year ago, 25% of all workers – 37% of all nonfarm workers – were unemployed. These past few years, you've seen people lining up for blocks to get some soup or bread. People lost homes, farms; they starved. Today, you walked by at least a few people who'd come to the city recently by jumping on the boxcar of a dark, moving train, stealing a free ride to the city, hoping for work.

But as we've said, you're lucky! You're at the theatre! Isn't it a relief? These past five or six years have been among the hardest the country has faced. Every time you've turned on the radio, it seems like there was more bad news: Hitler in Germany, Stalin in the Soviet Union, Mussolini in Italy – all of that on top of this wretched economy and suffering at home. Even though you have a job, your family may still be underemployed, so you look for cost-effective entertainment or take up a hobby, inexpensive escapes from the hard times. Mystery novels and book clubs are an exciting new craze, and board games are a great way to keep a whole family busy with fun. You love to go to the movies, too. If you had to pick a favorite movie right now, you'd be torn between *It Happened One Night* and *The Thin Man* – that little Shirley Temple and her lollipop song was pretty terrific in *Bright Eyes*, too.

President Roosevelt delivers regular addresses to the public in his Fireside Chats. Last year, he created the Securities Exchange Commission, and this year, it looks

like he'll get the Social Security

Act passed.

Times are changing! A few years ago, in 1933, Prohibition was repealed. Bars are open and legal again, so you and your date may have met there for a drink before the show. 21 states have changed their anti-gambling stance and brought back horseracing tracks; others expanded the legality of this time-honored – though not always approved of – American tradition. They hope it can stimulate the economy and increase tax revenue. You have to admit, it's rather exciting, that chance to win a lot of money – not that you'd ever gamble. Well, maybe just to try it out... you wouldn't risk more than twenty-five cents – enough to buy breakfast at a restaurant – at the most. Though things have gotten a bit better in the past eighteen months or so, security matters: it still feels like the financial crisis is dragging on, and on, and on...

Which is why you've come to the theatre! Ooo! George Abbott and John Cecil Holm wrote this play, and it's a comedy. Hooray!

Thinking about it...

If Erwin were a real person alive during our recent financial crisis, what do you think he would have picked as a sure winner, the investment most likely to win in this economy? We'd love to hear your answers on the **TACT Academy facebook** page!

For more on the play and its times, read the great article in your program on page 10. Check out the crossword puzzle on the back of this, too!

Contest: "The Missing Scene" – have fun!

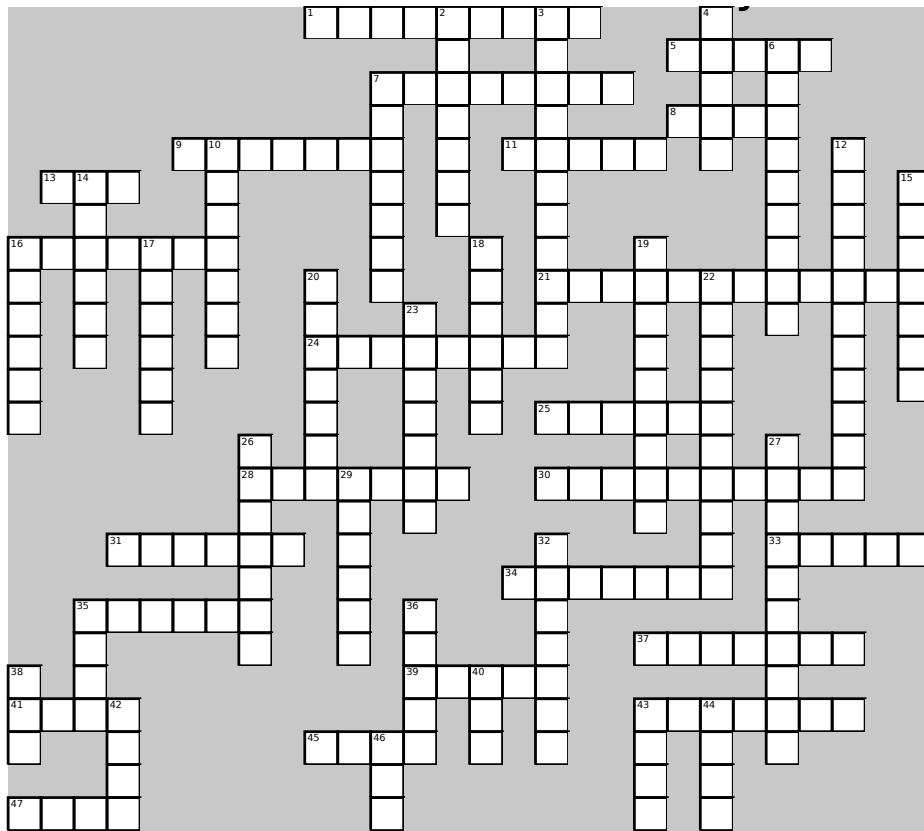
Write and film a new **1-minute scene** or character **monologue** for *Three Men on a Horse*.

Use characters in (or referred to) in the play. Your scene should align with the given circumstances (no aliens or fax machines) & be in harmony with the action of the play. Test: if the new scene would change the end of the play, it's not a fit. **Upload to youtube**, and send your name, link & script to jennybennett@tactnyc.org and/or share on TACT Academy's **facebook** page – we'll answer any questions you may have there, too.

Winners will be announced by **May 1** on our facebook page and website.

First prize is one free week-long intensive! Woot!





Across

- 1 A ____, first demonstrated in 1935, might make Patsy less suspicious. Might.
- 5 The Stock Market ____ of 1929 broke the U.S. economy; times stayed hard for years.
- 7 The oldest sports venue in the country is the racetrack at ____ Springs, New York.
- 8 From 1929-1933, unemployment rose from 4%-25%. Brother, can you spare a ____?
- 9 Godot only knows for whom this theater is named: ____.
- 11 The Yankees, the races, Flash Gordon, Fireside Chats, big bands all available here.
- 13 A New Deal prog. begun in 1935 to employ people through public works
- 16 Last, straight part of the racetrack
- 21 between the acts
- 24 Board games are popular in lean times. This one was released in '34.
- 25 Dillinger, Pretty Boy, ____ & Clyde
- 28 In 1935, Italy ____ Ethiopia
- 30 Cheer up! We've only been in a recession, not a ____
- 31 The playwright tonight whose career spanned more than 90 of his 107 years.
- 33 'A job you can't lose' - popular in the 1930s.
- 34 The ____ of Broadway didn't make anyone sleepy when it was released in 1935.
- 35 ____ Monster couldn't get on Sesame Street: they don't like his habit of taking bets.
- 37 Agatha Christie's kind of novel, very popular in the 30s.
- 39 Movie stars James Cagney & Bette Davis; Claudette Colbert & Clark
- 41 Surrealism was big in the Art world, typified by Magritte, Ernst, & this Salvador.
- 43 This scale for quantifying earthquakes is developed in 1935.
- 45 Abbr. of this theatre co.
- 47 To temporarily sell an item you hope you buy back.

Down

- 2 Country censured by the League of Nations in 1935.
- 3 Area of math useful to gamblers
- 4 Our horse-picker
- 6 The barkeep in this play doesn't want his legal bar to be mistaken for a ____
- 7 Jazzy Louis' nickname
- 10 First person to fly solo across the Pacific, in 1935.
- 12 The 21st amendment to the US Constitution repealed ____.
- 14 To turn small money into big money
- 15 Laura Ingalls Wilder- publishing her third book in 1935 - was this kind of girl.
- 16 Mad Joe, boss in the USSR.
- 17 Hitler violates the Versailles ____ by rearming. It's starting to sound like war in Europe.
- 18 Am. novelist ____ Fitzgerald
- 19 Banakis, Bornstein, Geiger & Hally, for this production.
- 20 1935, in Old Rome?
- 22 Get cracking, Erwin! 67 verses for ____ are due to Mr Carver!
- 23 Mabel was this kind of girl.
- 26 Erwin gets 10% of Patsy's winnings. Patsy bet \$20 on a winning horse paying at 8 to 1 odds. Erwin got ____ dollars
- 27 Which amendment to the US Constitution prohibited the sale of alcohol?
- 29 Showtimes at the ____ started in 1934 in Harlem.
- 32 This Court finally gets out of the US Captol basement & into their own, grand digs.
- 35 In May 1934, a huge wind storm stripped much of the Great Plains of topsoil, ruining many farms. It was called the Dust ____.
- 36 'My soul was sad as darkest ____/ But now the world seems fair and bright.'
- 38 Pres. of the U.S.A., he signed the Soc. Security Act into law.
- 40 Our horse-picker's horse-picking place
- 42 In 1935, Persia was renamed ____
- 43 This Babe hit his 700th in 1934, retired in 1935.
- 44 This Porter had a show on Broadway. Anything Goes!
- 46 This group (now merged with the AFL) was born, arguing for workers' unions in industry.

Actors

* communicate * listen * respond * make a point * analyze text * make choices * collect evidence * play * speak clearly * move confidently * distinguish emotional behavior from reasoned response * collaborate * take responsibility * memorize * persuade * focus * negotiate *

6-WEEK COURSE FOR TWEENS BREAKING THE CODE APR 8 – MAY 12

SPRING BREAK TEEN INTENSIVE APRIL 18-22, 1PM-5PM

SUMMER CAMP WEEK-LONG TEEN INTENSIVES BEGIN JULY 11

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