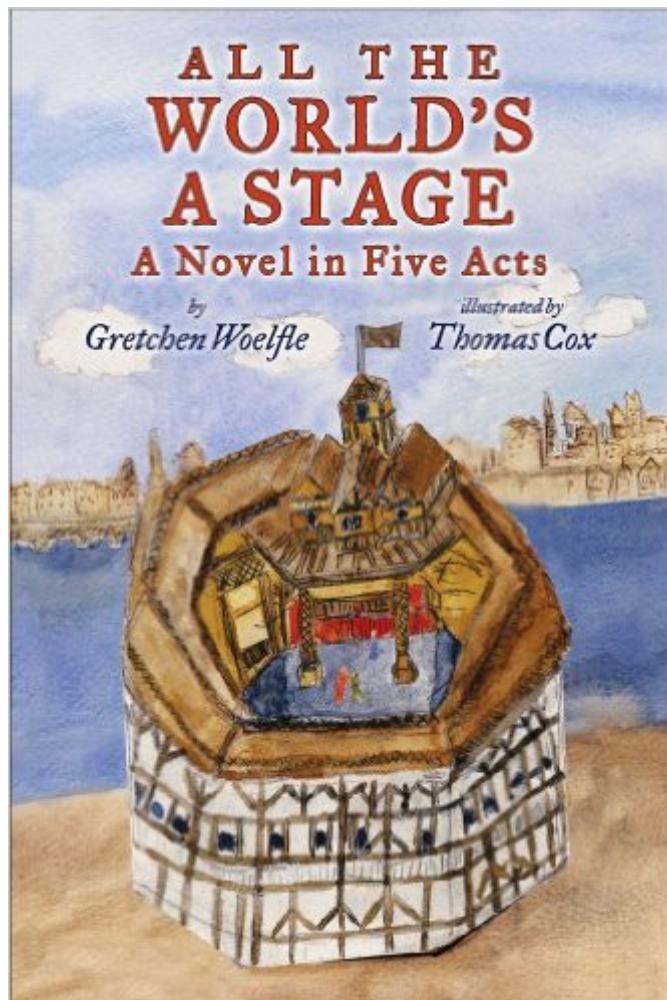


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# All The World's A Stage: A Novel In Five Acts



## **Synopsis**

Based on fact, this coming-of-age story offers a vivid picture of life behind the curtain at Shakespeare's theater. Suddenly a hand gripped the back of his neck. "Cutpurse!" Kit is caught! Twelve-year-old orphan Kit Buckles, seeking his fortune in Elizabethan London, has bungled his first job as a pickpocket at the Theatre Playhouse where the Lord Chamberlain's Men are performing. To avoid jail, Kit agrees to work for the playhouse and soon grows fond of the life there: the dramas on- and offstage. Things get truly exciting when Kit joins the plot to steal the playhouse from the landlord who has evicted the company.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 680L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 163 pages

Publisher: Holiday House; 1st edition (April 1, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 082342281X

ISBN-13: 978-0823422814

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 0.8 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,513,176 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #100 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Renaissance #1027 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Europe #3202 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts

Age Range: 10 - 13 years

Grade Level: 5 - 8

## **Customer Reviews**

The book is marketed as a children's novel, but it's an inspired page-turner for anyone who enjoys engaging works of historical fiction. The story is told from the perspective of an orphan named Kit, a pickpocket in London looking for fortune and adventure, and who gets his adventure in ways he never imagined. One of the things I enjoyed most is the cinematic way Woelfle tells the story. In an author's note, she says much of her research was done while riding bicycles through London. Her method really pays off. The sights and sounds of Kit's world are rich and often visceral, from the gritty alleyways of London, to the characters he meets onstage and off. The book is expertly

researched and contains a tremendous amount of information. It would be wonderful for the classroom, and I found myself chuckling at some of the things that confused Kit as much as they would have confused me. That said, it doesn't feel like a forced attempt to "teach" - we are experiencing the vast world of possibility right alongside Kit. When Kit lets his imagination take hold, things really get exciting. And don't be fooled, the twists and turns don't wind up where you think they might.

"All the World's a Stage" is a wonderful introduction to the world of William Shakespeare. Written for young readers, it takes us back stage at the Globe Theater, showing us how Shakespeare's plays were put on in the original. Well researched, the novel portrays everyday life in Elizabethan England in authentic detail. Highly recommended.

This is a must-buy book for everyone who truly cares about giving their children engagement with the very best of new contemporary writing. It is a big, hugely exciting historic adventure, pacily told like all good childrens stories are and yet still packed full of exquisite telling detail along the way. The central character is beautifully well drawn and as a reader, one cares so much about his journey, the dilemmas in his young life and how he manages to move forward from his awful beginnings. I am a writer of children's television drama and fiction books in Great Britain - All The World's A Stage is quite simply the best new children's book I've read for a good long while. Look! Just go out and buy it! It's a remarkable piece of work.

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