



Teacher Resource Guide and Lesson Plan Activities

Tickets: thalian.org
910-251-1788
or
CAC box office
910-341-7860

Featuring general information about our production along with some creative activities to help you make connections to your classroom curriculum before and after the show.

The production and accompanying activities address North Carolina Essential Standards in Theatre Arts, Goal A.1: Analyze literary texts & performances.

Look for this symbol for other curriculum connections.



Stuart Little

Adapted by Joseph Robinette

Music by Ronna Frank

Lyrics by Joseph Robinette and Ronna Frank.

Based on the book by E.B. White.

January 18 - 27, 2019

7:30 PM Friday - Saturday and 3:00 PM Sunday

Hannah Block Historic USO / Community Arts Center
Second Street Stage 120 South 2nd Street (Corner of Orange)

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About the Musical

This musical version of E.B. White's classic tale about a little mouse born into a normal New York family further enhances the charming story of a determined "underdog" trying to survive in a "real people's world." From melodic ballads to exciting chorus numbers, the score by England's Ronna Frank features such delightful songs as "Paddle Your Own Canoe," "Feed Him Up," "Size," "Stuart Little," "I'm Headed in the Right Direction" and "Nighttime in New York" (sung by a quartet of cats!).

About Thalian Association Community Theatre

Thalian Association Community Theatre was founded in 1788, to provide arts education & bring the excitement of the performing arts to Wilmington, North Carolina & produces five major productions annually on the Main Stage at historic Thalian Hall. In fact, Thalian Hall was proudly named for our organization in 1858. Our mission is to present quality live theatre that illuminates the human experience for the citizens of Wilmington, New Hanover County and beyond. We teach life skills through theatre education and provide an outlet for artists and technicians to develop and exercise their crafts. Established over 39 years ago Thalian Association Youth Theatre is an extension of Thalian Association Community Theatre non-profit organization & is dedicated to the enrichment of arts education for our community's youth. We offer Academy classes in Drama, Song & Dance, Improvisation & Musical Theatre Technique, aligned with the National Standards for Arts Education. Thanks to generous support from the Landfall Foundation and Wilmington East Rotary we provide arts enhancement classes for the Community Boys & Girls Club, the Brigade Boys & Girls Club and the Girls Leadership Academy of Wilmington with special school performances for A. H. Snipes Academy of Arts & Design, Rachel Freeman School of Engineering, Sunset Park Elementary, & The International School at Gregory. We want to turn out great theatre artists as well as great doctors, lawyers, teachers and bankers. Thalian Youth Theatre is about developing collaborative & thoughtful members of our community.

Synopsis

Stuart Little is a realistic fantasy about a talking mouse born into an ordinary New York Family, but the family cat wants rid of him. In a pleasant mouse like manner, shy but inquisitive, he is always getting into scrapes. The many adventures, both big and small, of *Stuart Little* are brought vividly to life in a series of wonderful scenes of a mild-mannered mouse trying to survive in a “real people’s world.”

I spy, Facts and Fiction

Using research, find out which of these facts about mice are true. Cross out the sentences that are not true.

- Mice only have their babies in the spring.
- Mice are gray so their enemies cannot see them.
- Some kinds of mice live almost everywhere in the world.
- Mice are rodents.
- You can keep mice away by locking your doors.
- Hawks are enemy's of mice.
- All mice live in holes in people's houses.
- Sometimes, meadow mice chew around small trees and kill them.
- Skunks and mice are best friends.



Write two more facts that you have learned from your research and one made up sentence about mice. As a class, try to pick out the sentence that is false.



Explore the Ocean!

Stuart and Margalo, flew over the Atlantic Ocean. Locate the Atlantic Ocean on the map below.

Just for fun, name the other oceans on the map. It shouldn't be too hard since 71% of the earth is made up of ocean!



Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy RL9. Compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in stories. **CCSS.ELA-Literacy L1.4a:** Use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase. **W.5.3:** Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details and clear event sequences. **NCES-TheatreArts.(K-5).TA.AC.2:** Use performance to communicate ideas and feelings. **NCES-VisualArts.(K-5).VA.V.3:** Create art using a variety of tools, media, and processes, safely and appropriately. **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.(K-5).4:** Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases.

Discussion Questions

- Sometimes it is hard to be different. Discuss some of the problems that Stuart the mouse encountered in a people sized world and how his family tried to help him through some of his problems. Can you relate to Stuart? Maybe watching a bigger brother or sister do things that you are not capable of doing? Discuss being blind, deaf, etc. and how we can help handicapped people when we come in contact with them.



- Have students look up the word “belittling” in dictionary and use in proper context to show understanding. Stuart is a mouse born into a human family. Unusual as it sounds, the adventures that Stuart encounters make for an unusually fun story. Being the smallest member of the Little family has its advantages and disadvantages. How did Stuart overcome the size issue and learn the meaning of family and friendship.
- The word “friendship” means something a little different to everyone. What does friendship mean to you?
- Being a friend sometimes means doing something extraordinary by giving more than you thought you ever could. Tell about a time where either you or a friend did something for someone else that was extraordinary.
- Stuart is a mouse. Mice are rodents that have very sharp front teeth and long tails. They will eat just about anything, and while they are occasionally kept as pets, they are mostly considered a pest. Have you ever seen a live mouse? Would you consider having a mouse as a pet?
- When Stuart arrived he was only about two inches tall. As a class, examine the size on an inch. How many inches are in a foot? How many inches are in a yard?

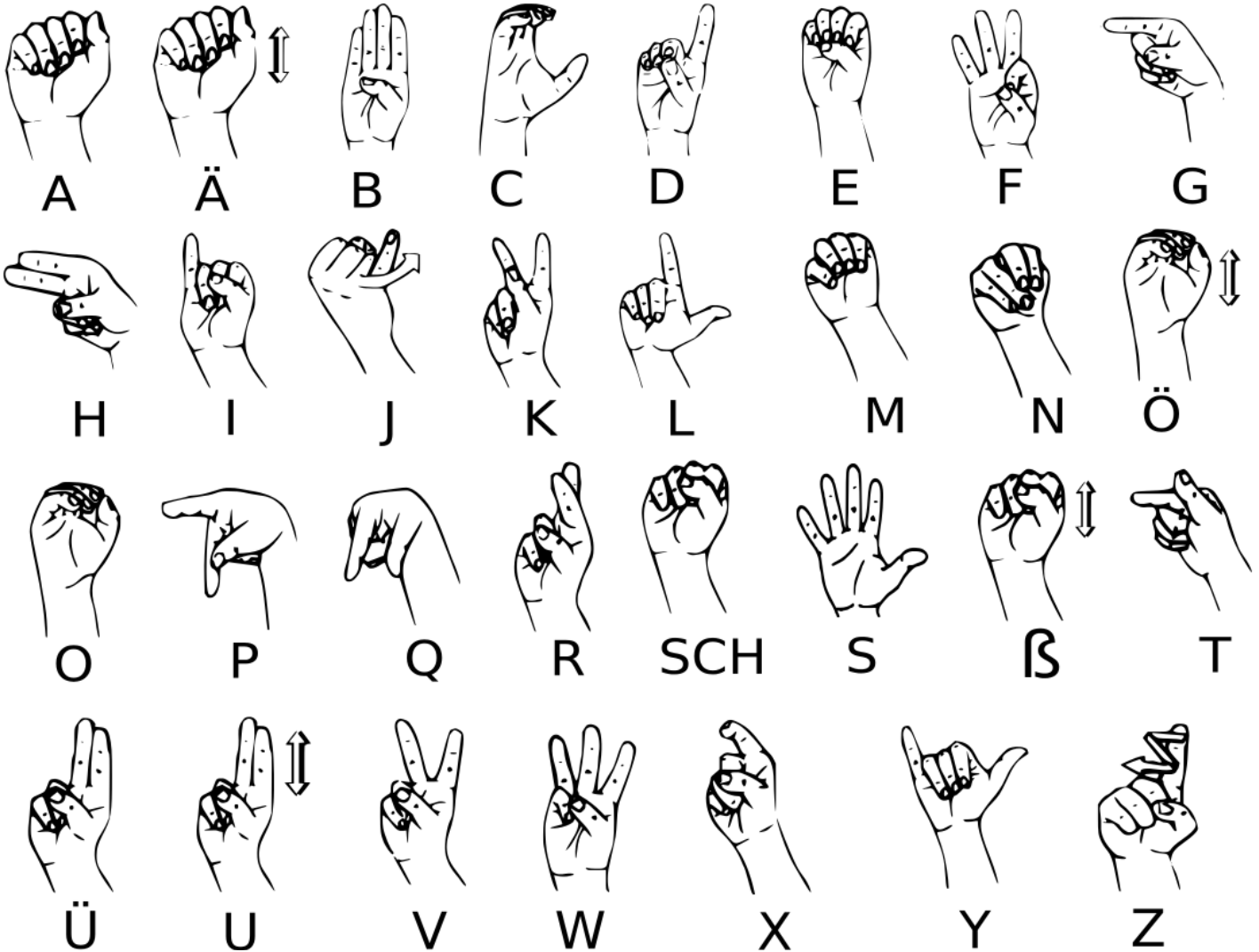
The Littles removed the words “mice” and “mouse” from songs and poems so that Stuart would not get upset or embarrassed. They rewrote “Three Blind Mice” and “Twas the Night Before Christmas” to eliminate the words “mice” and “mouse”.

Rewrite a poem such as “Hickory, Dickory Dock” & exclude these words.



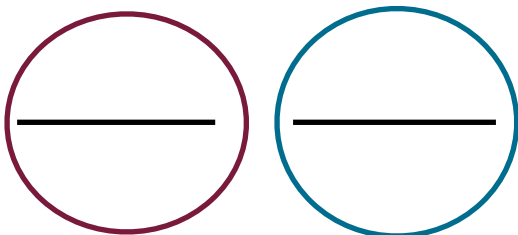
Sign Language

When speaking, a hearing person uses changes in his/her voice to express feelings. A person using sign language will use facial expressions, body movement and signs to make an idea clear. Watching sign language is not like playing charades. If you do not know the language, you will not be able to guess the meaning based on how it looks. Before the show, have students learn their name and Stuart Little in American Sign Language Alphabet.



Compare and Contrast

Compare and contrast baby mice and baby humans. How are they alike? How are they different?



NCES-Inf./Tech.(K-5).TT.1.1: Use a variety of technology tools to gather data and information (e.g., online communication tools, etc.). **NC Essential Standards Science K.P.1:** Understand the positions & motions of objects & organisms observed in the environment. **K.P.1.2:** Give examples of different ways objects & organisms move.



Stuart Little wants to be everyone's friend. He likes all kinds of people and mostly folks that are different than he is. Stuart feels that it doesn't matter if someone is a bird or human, tall or short; he accepts people as they are. Think about your friends. How are they like you? How are they different? What can you learn from friends who are different?

FRIEND	HOW LIKE ME	HOW DIFFERENT	WHAT CAN I LEARN

Be an animal!

There are a lot of different animals in the play, and they each move and behave differently. Have your students try to embody different animals.

1. Slither, creep, crawl, hop, leap, lope, prance, stalk. Don't forget animal sounds!
2. Study pictures of animals and how they move and live.
3. Ask students to guess which animal is being acted out.



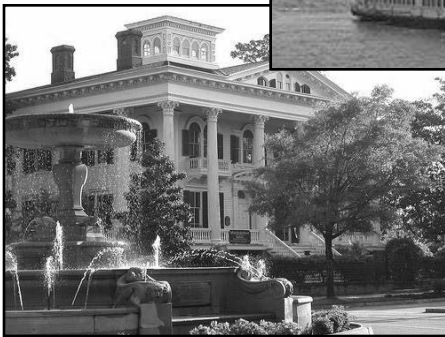
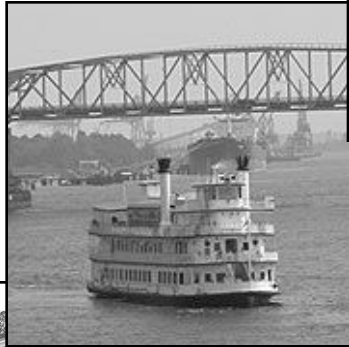
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Pretend you are Margalo and while on your adventures, you visited Wilmington.
 Write a letter to Stuart telling him about your travels and what you encountered while visiting the Port City.

(Use the photos below as a springboard)

TACT
Express
Mail

Address



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Mouse-E-Matics

A fun way to practice math facts! Have the students make this game themselves.

- Tuck the following into a tiny box:
- 2 mouse sized pencils
- 2 dice (3 for older children)
- Pieces of cheese paper

Rules for Mouse-e-matics:

1. Students take turns rolling dice.
2. Students add the numerals shown on the dice together.
3. Students use the guide below to draw the mouse part that matches the sum of the numerals in their roll on cheese paper.
4. First player to complete a mouse, wins the game.

- Roll a 3..... draw eyes
- Roll a 4..... draw ears
- Roll a 5..... draw a tail
- Roll a 6..... draw a body
- Roll a 7..... draw a head
- Roll an 8draw whiskers
- Roll a 9..... draw a smile
- Roll a 10trade mice with another player
- Roll an 11..... lose your turn
- Roll a 12start over



Youth Theatre Academy Classes

Over 39 years ago Thalian Association Community Theatre **established the Youth Theatre** program dedicated to the enrichment of arts education for our community's youth.



We offer affordable classes in Drama, Song & Dance, Improvisation & Musical Theatre Technique that are **aligned with the National Standards for Arts Education, N.C. Essential Standards in Theater Arts & N.C. Common Core.**

Starting as young as three years old (in TACT Tots) all the way to high school seniors, we have something for everyone! Classes are offered **downtown** at the **Hannah Block Historic USO/Community Arts Center Building & mid-town** at the **First Baptist Activity Center.**

Thalian Association Youth Theatre Academy is the place to be if you want to **learn “the ropes” from local professional artists currently working in their field.**



If you are an **aspiring performer** or just want to **build confidence & make new friends**, check out thalian.org for more information on the **Youth Academy.**

Learn what it is like to be part of a show. Join the Theatre Community!



Next on stage:

***Into the Woods*, March 1-10, 2019**
***Footloose the Musical*, April 26-May 5, 2019**

Hannah Block Historic USO/Community Arts Center

Study Guide References: New Learning Publishing, Home School Share, theatre works, Wikipedia, Field Guide for Teachers produced by StageNOTES, ncpublicschools.org, playbill.com, commoncore.org, essential standards, kennedy center, BMI, illuminations.nctm.org, Wikipedia, Google Images,