



EDUCATION @ MESA ARTS CENTER



MESA ARTS CENTER PRESENTS
DALLAS CHILDREN'S THEATER in
MISS NELSON HAS A FIELD DAY

Ikeda Theater | February 3 - 4 | 10 AM & 11:50 AM | Grades: K-5

2019/2020 EDUCATOR RESOURCE GUIDE



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ABOUT MISS NELSON HAS A FIELD DAY...

Dallas Children's Theater brings you *Miss Nelson Has a Field Day*, based on the popular book by Harry Allard and James Marshall. Return to Horace B. Smedley School where the Smedley Tornados have never won a football game. In fact, they have never even scored a single point! With such a poor record and a team that is out of control, kind-hearted Miss Nelson comes to the rescue when she enlists the help of her alter ego, the ill-tempered Miss Viola Swamp, to coach the team and whip them into shape.

Considered by all to be "the meanest substitute teacher in the whole world," Coach Swamp applies her trademark discipline to the players' training, demanding tough exercises and no back talk. In the end, the team changes their attitude, pulls together, sharpens their skills, and manages to win the biggest game of the year.

This fun-filled musical is from Joan Cushing, the award winning playwright/composer who brought you *Diary of a Worm*, *Spider*, and *Fly*. As always her funny and entertaining songs are sure to leave a smile on your face!



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WELCOME!

Dear Educator,

Thank you for selecting a **Performing Live for Students!** field trip with the Mesa Arts Center. We have a dynamic season planned and we look forward to connecting you to our many artists and performances. With Performing Live, students are able to experience live theatre and make educational connections well beyond the classroom.

We also recognize and appreciate the energy and time spent on your part in coordinating field trips. In this guide we have provided information to help make this the best experience possible.

In addition, the Mesa Arts Center has many open and inviting spaces that make good places to hold a brown bag lunch. No prior arrangements need to be made.

Please contact our offices at engagement@mesaartscenter.com or 480-644-6564 should you have any additional questions.

Enjoy the show!

TEACHER AND CHAPERONE INFORMATION

Chaperones

- ♦ Assign each chaperone a designated group of students and provide him/her with a written list of the students in that group.
- ♦ Ask chaperones to stay with their assigned group throughout the field trip. Adult chaperones are responsible for the students' conduct and behavior throughout their visit to the Center.
- ♦ Please review theater etiquette rules and responsibilities with all chaperones.
- ♦ Have the phone numbers of every chaperone in your group to quickly access each other

Theater Etiquette

- ♦ No Food or Drink inside the theatre (besides bottled water).
- ♦ Students must be accompanied by chaperones at all times.
- ♦ Cameras and recording devices may not be used during the performance.
- ♦ Please silence cell phones and resist the urge to text message.
- ♦ Listening and following the House Managers and Ushers will help the seating and dismissal process.



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CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Miss Nelson Has a Field Day

Arizona Academic Standards in the Arts

These standards can be achieved through discussion questions or activities included in the study guide.

Theatre

TH.CN.11.K-3a — Identify or explore similarities and differences in stories in a guided theatrical experience.

Visual Arts

VA.CN.10.2 — Create works of art about events in home, school, or community life.



Arizona English Language Arts Standards

These standards can be achieved by participating in the study guide.

Reading

Grades K-5.RL.2 — Summarize the key supporting details and ideas. In Grades 4 & 5 students focus on determining the theme and supporting with details.

Grades K-5.RL.3 — Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text. In Grades K-3 students explore narrative elements and how characters develop.

Grades K-5.RL.9 — Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

Writing

Grades K-5.W.3 — Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

Grades K-5.W.4 — Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

Speaking and Listening

Grades K-5.SL.1 — Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

Grades K-5.SL.2 — Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

Physical Education Standards

These standards can be achieved by participating in the study guide.

S4.E3 — Exhibits responsible personal and social behavior that respects self and others and is able to work with others.

S4.E4 — Recognizes the role of rules and fair play in physical activity with peers.



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PRE-PERFORMANCE CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Included in this resource guide are a variety of activities created to correspond with the Arizona English Language Arts and Performing Arts Standards to enhance the students' growth, reading skills, and overall comprehension.

Questions to Ponder....

- Question 1 – The Smedley Tornadoes have never won a football game and don't seem too interested in improving their skills. Have you ever played on a sports team? What was your experience like? **(Grades K-5.SL.1)**
- Question 2 – Miss Nelson and Principal Blandsworth each have ideas for how to help the football team get better. Who do you know that has good ideas for solving problems? If you have a problem you aren't sure how to solve, who do you ask for help? **(Grades K-5.SL.1)**

Activities to Explore....

Read the story *Miss Nelson Has a Field Day* by Harry Allard and James Marshall to your class, or watch an entertaining video version at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nm4a_7SKGoA. As you read, draw your students' attention to the narrative elements in the story. Can the students identify the characters, setting, problem, and solution? Can students sequence the important events in the story? This can be a class discussion or written on graphic organizers of your choice.

Standards Implemented: Grades K-5.RL.2 & RL. 3

Approximate time: 30-45 minutes

Materials Needed: Copy of *Miss Nelson Has a Field Day*, Chart paper/pencils/paper (optional)

The football players in the story needed to learn how to work together and practice hard. Check out page 7 for some fun teamwork games to get your class working together and solving problems in an engaging way!

Standards Implemented: Physical Education S4.E3, S4.E4

Approximate time: 15-30 minutes

Materials Needed: See page 7 for details

If your class is not familiar with Miss Viola Swamp, read them *Miss Nelson Is Missing*. Ideally, *Miss Nelson Is Missing* should be students' first introduction to Miss Viola Swamp as there is a mystery as to who exactly she is and what happened to Miss Nelson, which may be ruined by reading *Miss Nelson Has a Field Day* first. After both stories have been enjoyed, compare and contrast the two stories with a Venn Diagram or Double Bubble Map to see what students find similar and different.

Standards Implemented: Grades K-5.RL.9

Approximate time: 30-45 minutes

Materials Needed: *Miss Nelson Is Missing*, *Miss Nelson Has a Field Day*, pencils, paper



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POST-PERFORMANCE CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Questions to Discuss

- Question 1 – How are Coach Armstrong’s and Coach Swamp’s coaching styles different? Do you think the team will keep up the hard work now that Coach Swamp is gone?
(Grades K-5.SL.1, Grades K-5.SL.2)
- Question 2 – Were you surprised at the end of the play by Miss Nelson’s trick? Do you think any of the students have suspicions about who Miss Viola Swamp really is?
(Grades K-5.SL.1, Grades K-5.SL.2)
- Question 3 – If your class had read *Miss Nelson Has a Field Day* before coming to the performance you can ask what events from the book they recognized in the play. What was the same or different with the book being adapted into a play?
(Grades K-5.SL.1, K-5.RL.9; TH.CN.11.1-3a)

Activities for the Classroom

Many students are involved in competitive sports which can teach them a lot about teamwork and perseverance. Discuss with students what it is like to be on a sports team. How do they feel about winning and losing? What makes someone a good team player? Have students write a letter to one of the Smedley School football players to give them some advice about being on a sports team. Alternatively, students could create a skit with a coach giving a pep talk, or draw a comic strip of a practice with a new coach.

Standards Implemented: Grades K-5.W.4

Approximate time: 30-45 minutes

Materials Needed: Paper, pencils

Miss Viola Swamp sure knows how to solve a problem! Have your students brainstorm ideas of other school problems Miss Viola Swamp might be able to help solve. Write a story together as a class or have students choose from the brainstormed ideas to write a brand new Miss Viola Swamp sequel.

Standards Implemented: Grades K-5.W.3

Approximate time: 30-45 minutes

Materials Needed: Paper or chart paper, pencils

In the play Miss Nelson tells Lauren that a pep rally may be a good idea to help out the team. Think if there is someone in class or at the school that could use some pepping up. Is it time for a big test? Has someone been sick recently or had an important project or a tournament to compete in? Split your class into groups to create posters, chants, or skits and have a pep rally to improve everyone’s spirits!

Standards Implemented: Grades K-5.W.4; VA.CN.10.2

Approximate time: 15-30 minutes

Materials Needed: Butcher paper, drawing materials



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TEAMWORK GAMES

Ants on a Log

Setup

Identify or create a line for everyone to stand on.

Before You Start

Have everyone stand on the line in a certain order, perhaps alphabetical.

How to Play

1. The object of the game is to get the whole group to switch positions in the line without anyone falling off the line.
2. Tell students to reorder themselves according to a particular characteristic. You can have students reverse their current order, line up alphabetically if they are not currently, tallest to shortest, oldest to youngest, etc.
3. The goal is that students will need to communicate and work together to reorganize themselves.

Variations

- To make the game easier or more difficult, vary the width of the line. The thinner the line the more difficult it is not to fall off.
- Split students in half and line them up facing each other on two lines. Have the two groups switch places while staying in order.
- If you vary the distance from the ground, this game is more challenging.
- Alligator Swamp Trail is a variation where the first person in line makes their way down the line to the end while the other students try to stay on the line since they are in the middle of an alligator swamp and if you step off the line you get eaten, chomp!

Hot Lava

Setup

- You need a clearly marked start and finish line.
- Each team needs 1 less the number in their group of "rocks" (either potato sacks, pieces of cardboard, carpet squares, anything the players can easily stand on and carry).

Before You Start

Divide the students into two teams. Make sure everyone understands the rules and brainstorm strategies if needed.

How to Play

1. The object of the game is to get the entire team from one side of the town to the other without touching the lava.
2. Players are only safe in the lava zone if they are standing on one of their team's "rocks."
3. If a player steps off a rock and into the lava, they must return to the other side of town (the start line).
4. If a rock is placed into the lava without being constantly touched by a player, it is lost and the whole team must return back to the other side of town.
5. The goal is that students will communicate together and create a strategy to get their team safely across the lava first.

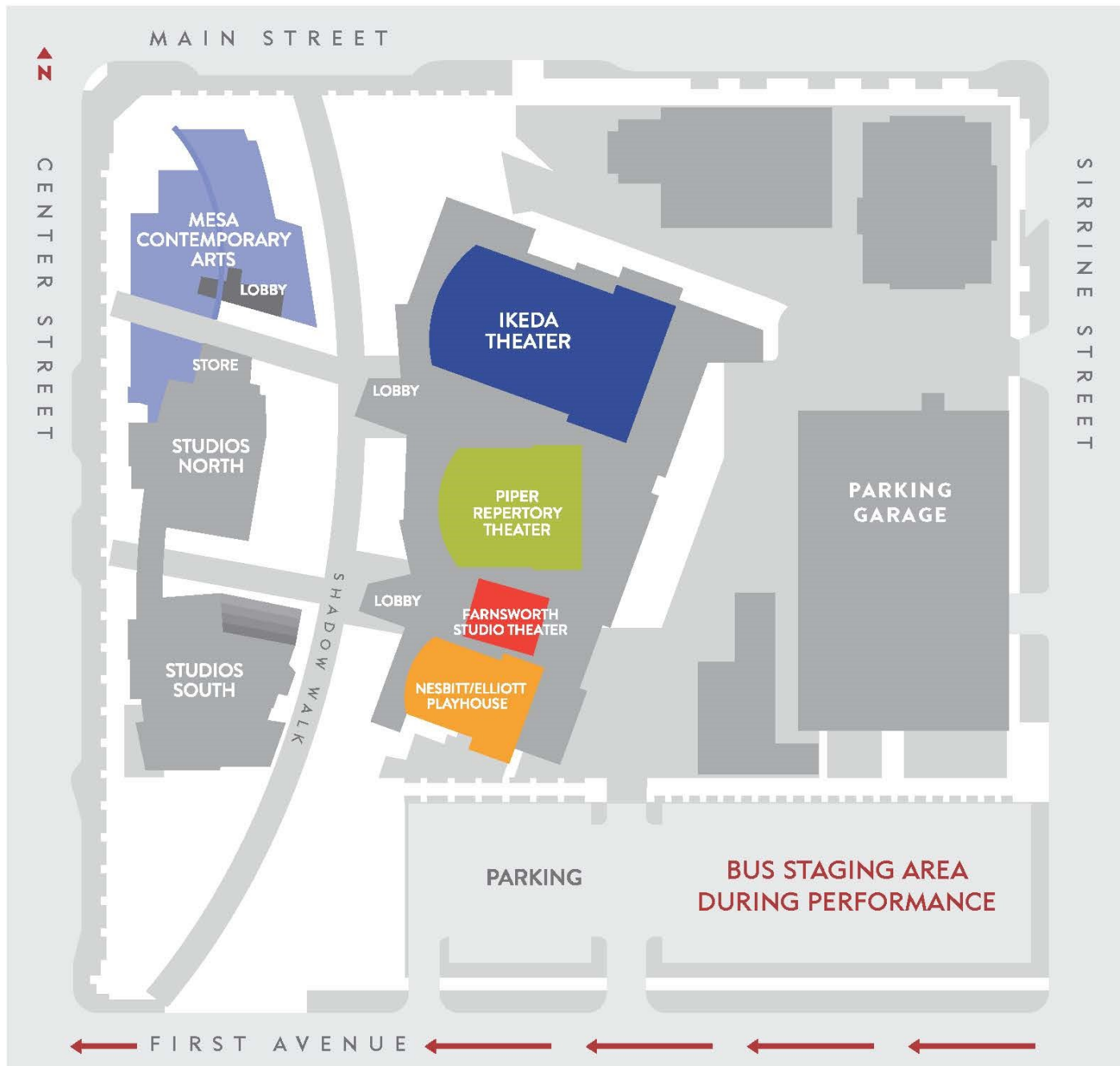
Variations

- Have the whole class work together against the clock. Give them a set amount of time to reach the other side of town.
- Choose the number of rocks based on the ability or experience of the group. Less rocks means a higher difficulty.
- Give students time to strategize prior but then require them to be silent during the game.
- Randomly blindfold or silence several of the group members.

BUS PARKING MAP



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STEPS TO UNLOAD

- 1 Enter the drop off area by coming in westbound on 1st Avenue.
- 2 Pull up to the curb marked with cones and wait until notified to unload passengers.
- 3 Await parking direction from MAC security

STEPS TO PICK UP

- 1 Passengers will exit the theater and meet buses in the bus parking lot area.
- 2 Wait for clearance to depart.



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SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE!

We'd love to hear your students' response to our shows.
We especially appreciate pictures and letters!

THANK YOU!

Questions? Please contact Engagement at:

P 480-644-6540 | F 480-644-6503
engagement@mesaartscenter.com