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ELEPHANT AND PIGGIE'S WE ARE IN A PLAY! BOOK & LYRICS BY MO WILLEMS

**MUSIC BY DEBORAH WICKS LA PUMA
MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL**

Resource Guide

RUN TIME

Approximately 45 minutes

FMCT MISSION STATEMENT

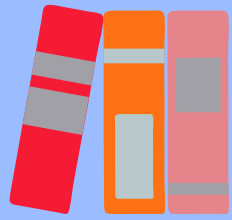
"Enriching our greater community through engaging theatrical and educational opportunities of high artistic quality."

AUDIENCE RESOURCE GUIDE PREPARED BY:

Michaela Pytlik



ABOUT THIS AUDIENCE GUIDE



This resource is designed to enhance the theatrical experience of every student. Through teaching and learning about theatre arts, this guide aims to inspire conversations about, and understanding of, the play.

The activities offered in this guide were created to provide opportunities for students to practice social emotional and 21st Century skills! Using the 4 Cs (Creativity, Critical Thinking, Communication, and Collaboration) students will have fun and engage their imaginations!

Within this guide you will find information about the playwright, the book's author and illustrator along with information on the actors in the show. Also included in this guide are discussion and writing prompts along with group activities that encourage students to think about the production critically.

These prompts can easily be modified to fit most writing objectives and individual curriculum. Please feel free to adjust these materials in any way to best fit the needs of your students.



Author Note:

I thoroughly enjoyed creating this guide! I trust it will be a helpful tool in your classroom. Please contact me if you have any comments, questions, or concerns michaela@fmct.org

ND State learning standards

K-12 THEATRE ARTS ANCHOR STANDARD

- Standard 1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.
- Standard 2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.
- Standard 7: Perceive and analyze artistic work.
- Standard 8: Construct meaningful interpretations of artistic work.
- Standard 9: Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.
- Standard 10: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to create art.
- Standard 11: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding, including artistic ideas and works for various cultures.

MATHEMATICS STANDARD

- Standard 1.NBT.3: Compare two two-digit numbers based on meaning of the tens and ones digits, recording the results of comparisons with the symbols $<$, $>$, and $=$.
- Standard 3.MD.3: Draw scaled picture graphs and scaled bar graphs to represent data sets with several categories. Solve one- and two-step "how many more" and "how many less" problems using information presented in scaled bar graphs.

VISUAL ARTS ANCHOR STANDARD

- Standard 1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.
- Standard 2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.
- Standard 7: Perceive and analyze artistic work.
- Standard 8: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.
- Standard 9: Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.
- Standard 10: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.
- Standard 11: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.

ELA STANDARD

The following standards assume the script of the play as the "text" - one could also use the corresponding Mo Willems books as supporting "text" for these standards.

- Standard SL.2: Determine the main ideas and supporting details of a text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.
- Standard W.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details and clear event sequences.
- Standard W.8: With guidance and support from adults, recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.
- Standard RF.3 for Grades K-5, Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.
- Standard RL.3: Describe characters in a story (e.g. their traits, motivations, or feelings) and their actions.
- Standard RL.4: Identify words and phrases in stories or poems that suggest feelings or appeal to the senses.
- *Standard RL.5: Refer to parts of stories, dramas, and poems when writing or speaking about a text, using terms such as chapter, scene, and stanza; describe how each successive part builds on earlier sections*
- Standard RL.6: Distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator or those of the characters.
- Standard RL.9: Compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in stories
- Standard L.1: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
- Standard L.3: Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.
- Standard L.4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade level reading and content, choosing flexibly from an array of strategies.

21ST CENTURY SKILLS & "THE 4 CS"

- Critical Thinking
- Creativity
- Communication
- Collaboration

About *Elephant & Piggie's : We Are In A Play*

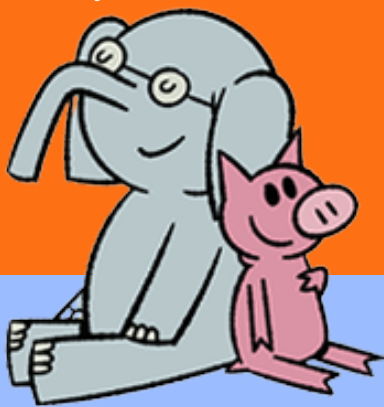
Gerald and Piggie are the best of friends, and they can't wait to see what their day will bring! They go to a party hosted by the Squirrelles, wear silly costumes, learn new dances and share some ice cream! They're having a PERFECT day, until Gerald accidentally breaks Piggie's new toy. They have to deal with big feelings and how to make things better to get their friendship back on track!

About the Author and Lyricist:

Mo Willems is a number one *New York Times* best-selling author and illustrator. He has been awarded a Caldecott Honor, and was an inaugural inductee into the Indies Choice Picture Book Hall of Fame for *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* His *Elephant & Piggie* early reader series has been rewarded two Theodor Seuss Geisel Medals, and five Geisel Honors. Mo Willems started his career as a *Sesame Street* writer and animator, garnering six Emmy Awards in his time.

About the Composer:

Deborah Wicks La Puma is a composer, music director and orchestrator. She is one of the most-produced Theatre for Young Audiences artists working today. La Puma grew up in Brazil, Portugal, and California as a self-proclaimed "Navy brat". She has worked with a myriad of playwrights to create diverse works, including bestselling children's author Mo Willems. Together they have created *Elephant & Piggie's: We Are In A Play*; *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience*; and *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus: The Musical*. La Puma is a member of TYA USA/ASSITEJ, ASCAP and The Dramatists Guild.



Shanna Franzen is Piggie

Shanna is super incredibly awesomely fantastically excited about being part of this fun show with her new friends! When she's not playing fun characters onstage, Shanna works as the Community Engagement Director for FMCT. She has been performing with FMCT for over 20 years but this is her very first TYA show! Shanna lives in Moorhead with her 3 awesome kids Asha, Noah & Finn, and her partner Ryan, plus their 3 cats, 3 dogs and 1 betta fish.



Connor Murphy is Elephant Gerald

Connor is a 2020 MSUM graduate with degrees in Theatre, Music, Psychology, and Dance. He is active in the FM community; doing Murder Mystery productions with FMCT, and participating in local Drag shows. This is Connor's first musical in over a year, and his second ever FMCT musical. In his spare time, Connor enjoys running, and playing piano!

Meri Quanbeck is Squirrelle 1

This is Meri Quanbeck's first children's production since 1984. She has two grown children and two small dogs. Growing up, her father ranched cattle, and nearby neighbors raised sheep and pigs. Mrs. Q has directed an area youth Shakespeare troupe for the past 9 years. She will be happily humming the tunes to this show for a long, long time.



Michaela Pytlik is Squirrelle 2

Michaela is so happy to be a part of such an imaginative and silly play! This will be her first TYA play, but her 5th FMCT production. She has also been performing for over a decade. When she is not performing, Michaela works full time teaching theatre at FMCT as the Education Coordinator. She loves reading, dancing, singing, acting, and playing with her dog, Tonks. When Michaela was little she loved to play Barbies and read *Harry Potter*! She is so excited to be a Squirrelle and to be performing in a show from the world of Mo Willems, her favorite children's book author!

Hannah Hunter is Squirrelle 3

Hannahmarie is excited to be in her first FMCT show! She is no stranger to the stage, working for 15 years as a company member in the Young Actors Guild and performing in the Disney Parks for her college internship. New to the Fargo-Moorhead area, Hannahmarie enjoys exploring and learning about her new home town. Growing up Hannahmarie has lived in 7 different states. Now as an adult she's excited to call North Dakota her new home. HannahMarie believes every day should be Star Wars Day and can't live a day without sweet tea.

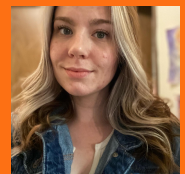


Ryan Dorrheim is Dog, Penguin, & Mr. Stage Manager

Ryan is grateful for the opportunity to be in his 3rd production with FMCT. He's been pretty fond of children's books and loves making them come to life when he reads to his own children by making funny voices and acting out scenes. When Ryan was little, he had stuffed animals and even a doll where he imagined they were brave characters in far away lands. Now that Ryan is a bit older, he's a retired police officer and currently works for Microsoft where he isn't afraid to make silly voices, play Minecraft, and share experiences to make others happy. I think his smile says it all.

Miranda Pautzke - Director

Miranda Pautzke has just graduated from NDSU with a degree in theatre, with an emphasis in directing and education. She has assistant directed multiple shows in college such as *The Crucible*, *Into the Woods*, and *Late: A Cowboy Song!* Miranda has a love for being goofy and creating art!



Miranda Peterson - Music Director/Choreographer

Miranda is enjoying her time on this show teaching grown ups to sing and dance! In the past her choreography credits include youth shows like *The Addams Family:Young@Part*, *Cinderella Kids*, and various show choirs. She also coaches dance teams in the area. Miranda loves to be a part of theatre, whether it is working as a director, or choreographer, or performing onstage herself! When she is not at the theater, she teaches music in West Fargo Public Schools.



Stay in your seat during the entire show.

Focus all of your attention on the play! Listen closely to all that happens on stage. Notice all the scenery, lights and costumes. These all help tell the story and create the world of the play.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A GOOD AUDIENCE MEMBER?

Talking distracts the people around you who are trying to watch the show. Keep your voice at a level 0.

Use your best manners at all times.

If you need to leave your seat, say "Excuse me" and "Thank you".



Get involved in the story! Laugh when something is funny, cry if something is sad, gasp if it is surprising and clap after something happens that you enjoy. Remember to be respectful to those around you.



POST VIEWING ACTIVITIES

If you were an actor, what character in *Elephant & Piggie* would you want to play? Why?

What did you learn while watching the show? What do you think the lesson of this show is?

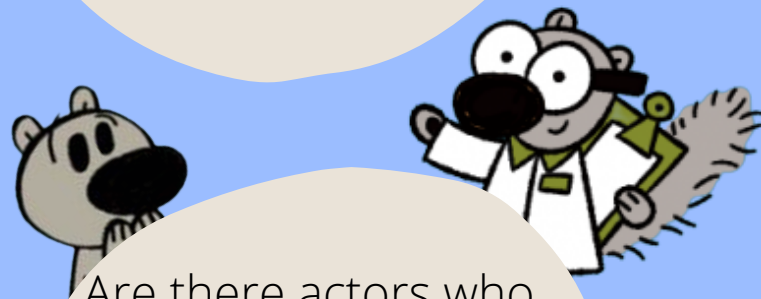
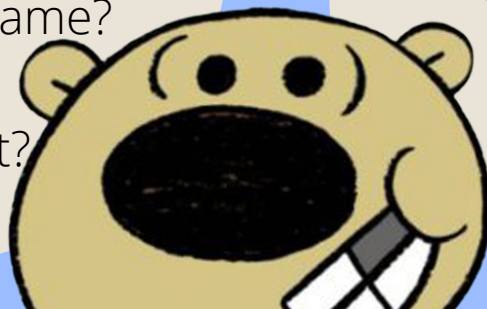
Can you think of three words that describe *Elephant & Piggie's: We Are in a Play!*

Are there actors who played more than one character? What are some ways you can be the same person and play different characters?

Think back to Mo Willems' books, now that you've watched the play, what's the same?

What is different?

What did you enjoy about the costumes? Did they help to tell the story?



Vocabulary



Here are some words mentioned during the show, definitions and parts of speech.
As a challenge, see if the students can use these words in the following writing activities.

Predicament:
(noun) difficult, unnecessary, or embarrassing situation

Consequence:
(noun) a result, either positive or negative, of an action or condition

Cease: (verb)
bring or come to an end

Menace:
(noun) a person or thing likely to cause harm

Delirious:
(adjective) wild with excitement or enthusiasm

Culmination:
(verb) the highest or climactic point of something

Despair:
(noun) the complete loss of hope

Apparatus:
(noun) equipment needed for a particular activity or purpose

Pachyderm:
(noun) large mammal with thick skin, another word for elephant

Assumption:
(noun) something that is accepted as truth, without proof

Swine:
(noun) a pig





Writing Activities

K-4

If you were a Mo Willems character, what would you be? Draw yourself as that character on a piece of paper. Give yourself a name, and write a couple of sentences about your life.

2-4

Write your own story in the world of Elephant & Piggie. What might they do after the show was over? Make sure to include a beginning, a middle and an end in your story.

2-4

Elephant and Piggie are the BEST of BEST FRIENDS! They love to do things together. Write about your best friend and how you can show your friend(s) how much you care!

2-4

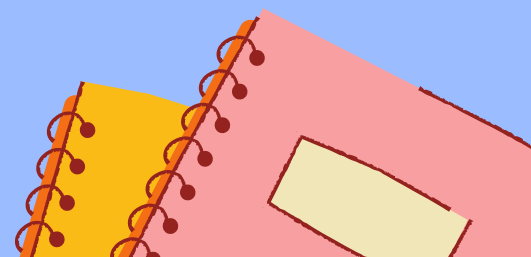
Elephant and Piggie both help each other throughout this show, and in their books. They show kindness, compassion, and caring for one another and those around them. How do you show kindness and caring for the people in your life?

K-4

Piggie is invited to a party hosted by the Squirrelles and gets to bring Gerald. They do not know what kind of party they are going to attend. What is your favorite kind of party? Write about what your dream party would be like!

K-4

Piggie is SO excited to show Gerald her new toy, but has trouble letting Gerald look at it and take a turn. Think about your favorite toy and list at least three reasons why it is your favorite. Then write about the best way to share your toy with your friends!



Critical Thinking

Activity: Cause & Effect

In a cause and effect relationship, one event leads another to happen. The cause is why it happened, and the effect is what happened.

On one side of this page is the "cause" column. The other side is the "effect" column.

Using these events from *Elephant & Piggie's: We Are In A Play*, draw a line to match the acceptable cause on the left to its effect on the right.

CAUSE

Elephant and Piggie get invited to a dance party.

Gerald throws Piggie's new toy.

Elephant notices there are people watching he and Piggie.

Elephant thinks for a long time if he should share his ice cream with Piggie.

EFFECT

Elephants ice cream cone melts.

Elephant gets sad because he cannot dance.

Elephant, Piggie, Squirrelles, and Penguin discover they are in a play!

Piggie's toy breaks, and she gets mad.

Activity: Word Scramble

Unscramble these letters to discover important words from *Elephant & Piggie's: We Are In a Play!*

TUSMECO

DERNIFS

PETRTMU

PRYAT

TIONVIATIN

TEPNELHA

DICMRPEA ENT

GPI

EIC EAMCR

GESTA



WHEN THE WORDS HAVE BEEN UNSCRAMBLED, THE NEXT STEP IS TO USE THOSE WORDS TO FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW.

The two main characters of this show are Gerald, the _____ and Piggie, the _____. They are best _____!

Gerald worries that he and Piggie will get into a quarrel, or there will be some kind of _____ with unintended consequences.

Piggie gets an _____ from the Squirrelles to attend a Swimmy Fancy Costume Dancy _____.

To thank Gerald for helping her get ready for the party, Piggie plays the _____ to try and speak 'Elephant'.

The penguin delivers _____ from his cart. It's very cold!

All of the characters wear _____ and figure out they are in a play, taking place on a _____!

Wordsearch

These words appear in *Elephant & Piggie's: We Are In a Play!* Can you find them in this search? The words are hidden either horizontally or vertically!

Elephant&Piggie "We are in a play!"

N K G T M N P L A Y A X H N Z
U L A H C X D V S E M A D F T
Z D C E F Q A S Q O F X L H Q
T W T A S L N A U D I E N C E
M G O T Q Y C B I R C P J B T
A I R R F C E B R P V V U M A
I B B E S J U R R E T H F G U
L D N V V O E L E P H A N T S
Q T Z Q X R N R L K U I U K K
Y F Y X Q X E G L E T K B O H
F U E B Z F T D Q U F V F I Z
R C B C V U K T C J C E C K T
V L Z N L E A M P E N G U I N
I W L J T L S V D G P A R T Y
N O S U N P I G G I E C Z U S

Elephant

Squirrel

Audience

Theatre

Penguin

Piggie

Party

Mail

Song





Play

Dance

Actor

ACTIVITY: PARTY POLL

There are a lot of different types of parties. In this show, Elephant and Piggie prepare for a few different kinds before they end up at a dance party. After, use the information to fill out the questions below. When everyone is done the class can compare notes and figure out what the class thinks we should have for the taco party.

 Pool Party	 Dance Party	 Costume Party	 Fancy Party	 Hot dog Party

Which kind of party has the most votes? _____

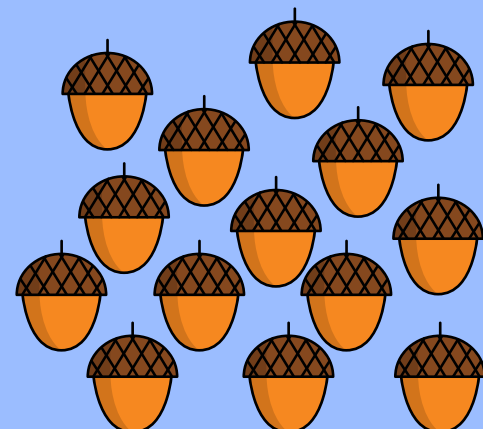
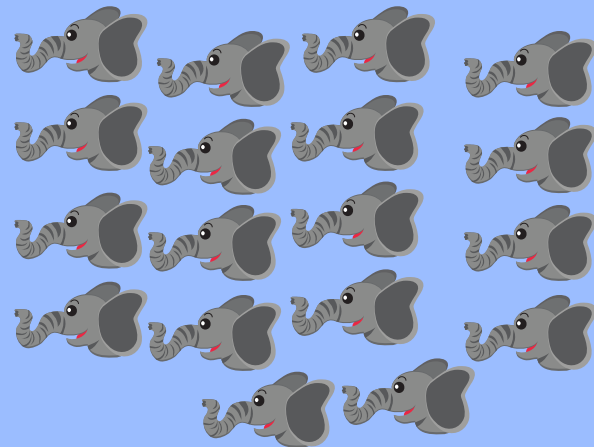
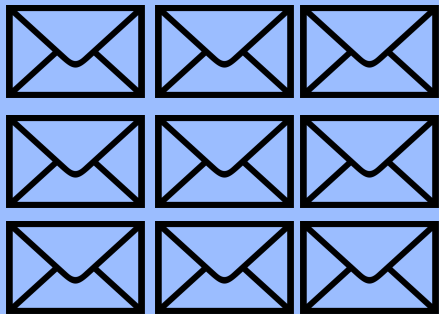
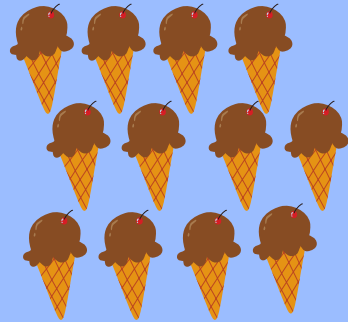
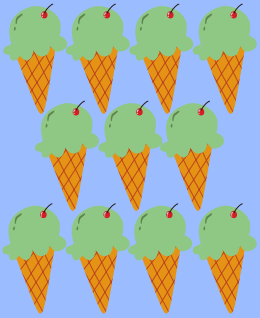
Which party has the least? _____

There are more people who like _____ than _____

How many people like the same party as you do? _____

ACTIVITY: MORE THAN, LESS THAN, OR EQUAL TO?

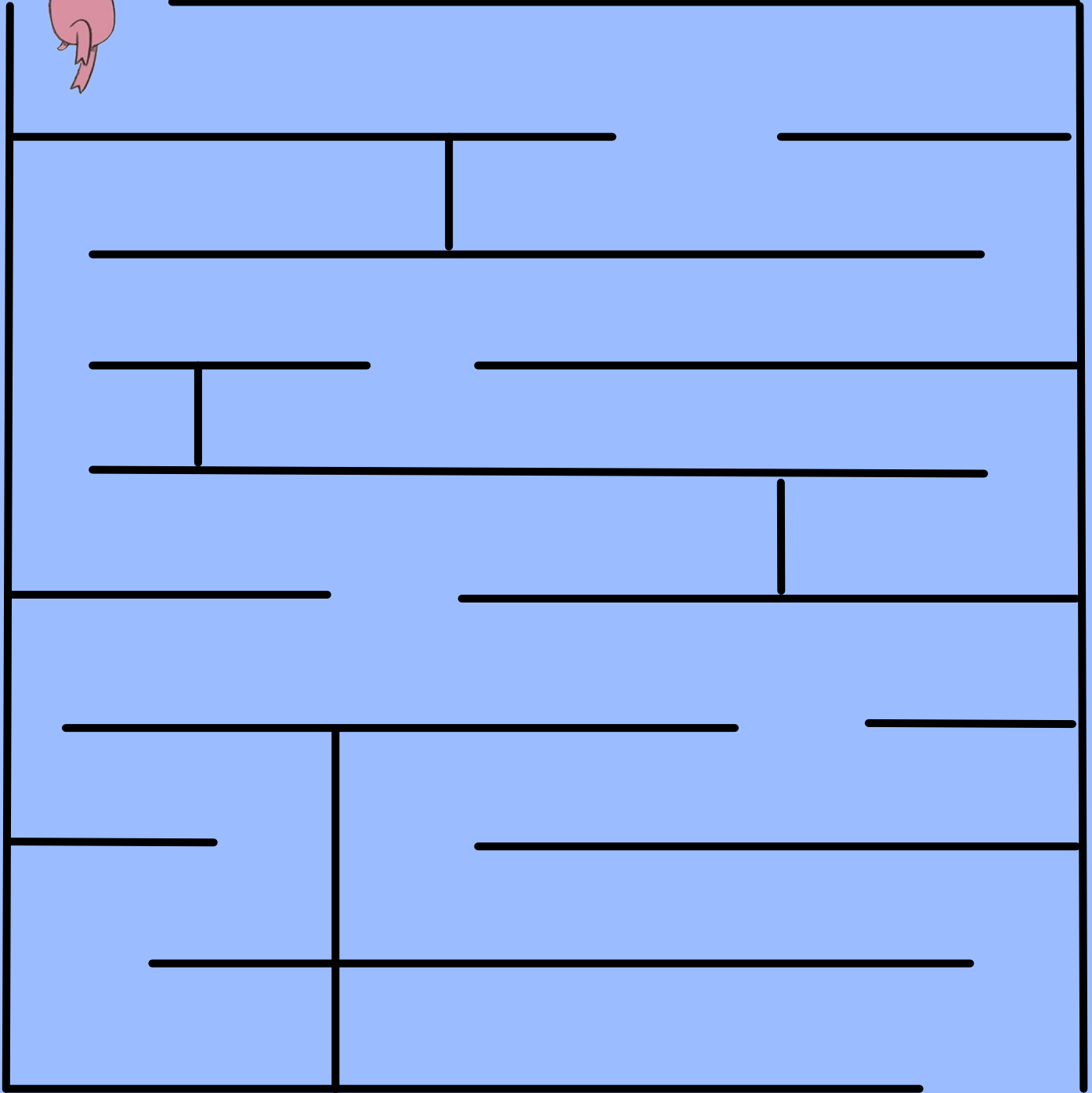
Using the symbols $<$, $>$, and $=$, compare the following sets of objects from Elephant & Piggie's day!



ACTIVITY: MAZE



Below is a maze to get Piggie to Gerald. Help these best friends find each other!



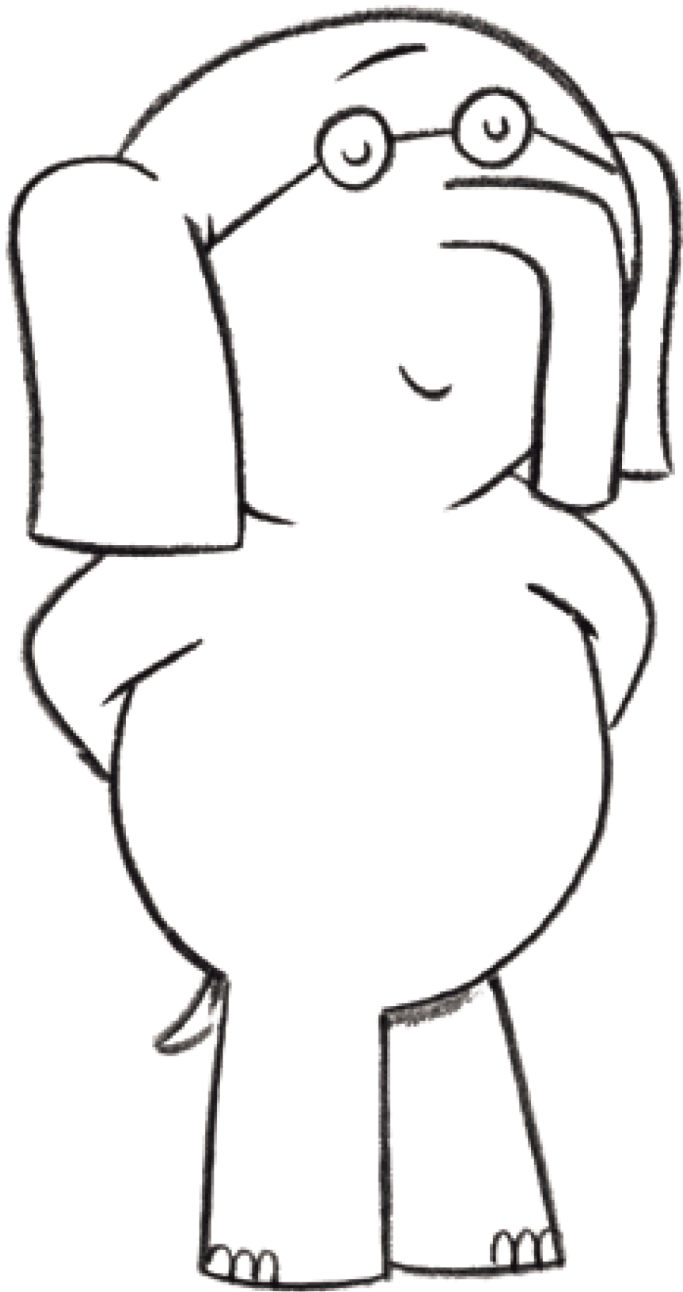
You did it PIGGIE!

Piggie!



Piggie's First Party!

Before Gerald and Piggie can attend the Squirrelles' party, they need to get ready! Draw party supplies, and outfits for Elephant & Piggie.



KINDERGARTEN

- 2ND GRADE

HE-MAN AND SHE-RA

MAY 31 - JUNE 3

"FOR THE HONOR OF GRAYSKULL!" THIS STORYTELLING CLASS WILL INCLUDE READING, WRITING, DRAMATIC PLAY, AND OF COURSE SOME FUNDAMENTAL SUPERHERO SKILLS!

DISNEY'S SIDEKICKS

JUNE 13 - 17

JOIN YOUR FAVORITE PALS AS THE SIDEKICKS TAKE OVER! THIS MUSICAL THEATRE CLASS WILL HAVE STUDENTS PRACTICING MUSIC AND DANCE SKILLS, AND HAVE THEM PARTICIPATING IN STORY CREATION!

MALEFICENT

JUNE 20 - 24

"LISTEN WELL, YOU ALL!" STUDENTS WILL EXPLORE MUSIC, CHOREOGRAPHY, AND ACTING BASICS WHILE TELLING THE STORY OF THE BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS CURSED TO SLEEP 100 YEARS.

JUNIE B. JONES

JUNE 27 - JULY 1

COME RIDE THE "STINKY, SMELLY BUS" AND BE A "PARTY ANIMAL" WITH JUNIE B. THIS STORYTELLING CLASS WILL INCLUDE READING, WRITING, DRAMATIC PLAY, AND OF COURSE SHENANIGANS IN THE STYLE OF THE MISCHIEVOUS JUNIE B. JONES!

3RD - 5TH

GRADE

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES

MAY 31 - JUNE 3

"COWABUNGA!" THIS STORYTELLING CLASS WILL INCLUDE READING, WRITING, DRAMATIC PLAY, AND OF COURSE SOME FABULOUS NINJA AND SUPERHERO SKILLS!

PERCY JACKSON

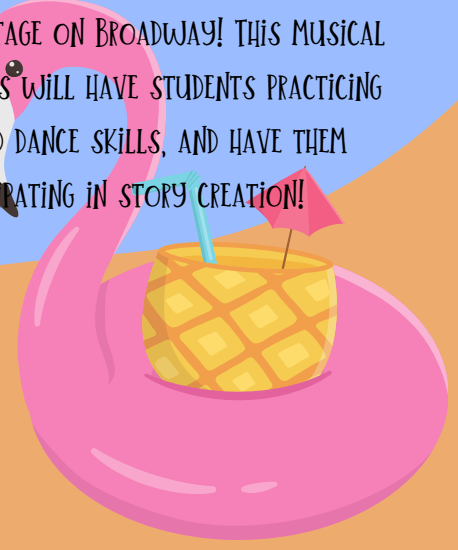
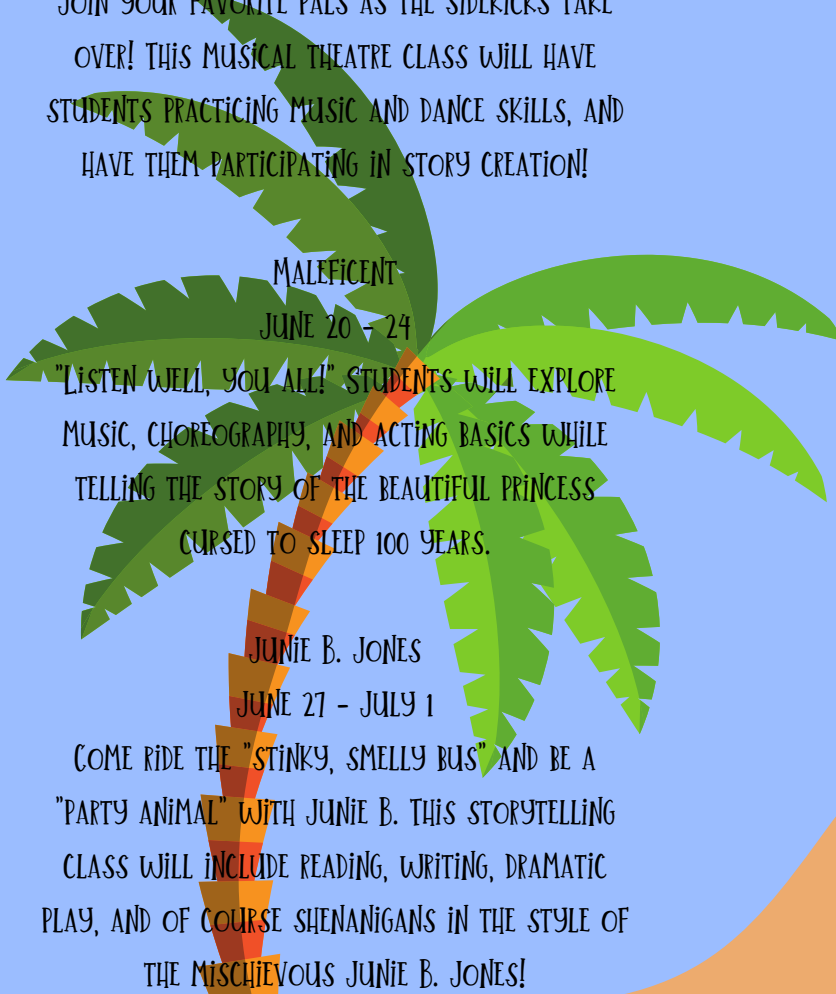
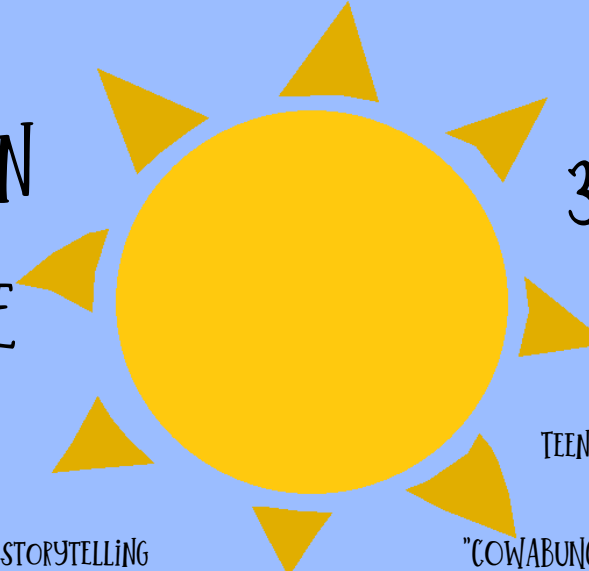
JUNE 6 - 10

"THEY'RE - MYTHS!" THIS CLASS WILL HAVE STUDENTS READING AND WRITING WHILE HAVING A BLAST LEARNING GREEK MYTHOLOGY AND EXPLORING THEIR CREATIVITY.

BROADWAY'S DISNEY

JUNE 13 - 17

JOIN YOUR FAVORITE DISNEY SHOWS THAT HAVE GRACED THE STAGE ON BROADWAY! THIS MUSICAL THEATRE CLASS WILL HAVE STUDENTS PRACTICING MUSIC AND DANCE SKILLS, AND HAVE THEM PARTICIPATING IN STORY CREATION!





BASED ON THE POPULAR DISNEY CHANNEL ORIGINAL MOVIES, DISNEY'S DESCENDANTS: THE MUSICAL IS A BRAND-NEW MUSICAL COMEDY FEATURING THE BELOVED CHARACTERS AND HIT SONGS FROM THE FILMS! IT IS PRESENT-DAY, AND IN THE KINGDOM OF AURADON, ALL OF DISNEY'S BELOVED HEROES AND ROYALTY ARE LIVING HAPPILY EVER AFTER, SAFE FROM THE TERRIFYING VILLAINS AND TROUBLESOME SIDEKICKS THEY HAVE BANISHED TO THE MAGIC-FREE ISLE OF THE LOST. THAT IS UNTIL BEN, THE BENEVOLENT TEENAGE SON OF BELLE AND KING ADAM (THE BEAST), OFFERS A CHANCE OF REDEMPTION FOR THE TROUBLEMAKING OFFSPRING OF THE EVILEST VILLAINS. MAL, EVIE, JAY AND CARLOS – THE CHILDREN OF MALEFICENT, THE EVIL QUEEN, CRUELLA DE VIL, AND JAFAR – ARE WELCOMED TO AURADON PREP TO ATTEND SCHOOL WITH THE CHILDREN OF THEIR PARENTS' SWORN ENEMIES. NOW ENTERING A COMPLETELY FOREIGN WORLD AND WAY OF LIFE, THE FOUR VILLAIN KIDS HAVE A DIFFICULT CHOICE TO MAKE: SHOULD THEY FOLLOW IN THEIR PARENTS' WICKED FOOTSTEPS OR LEARN TO BE GOOD?

FACT
EDUCATION