



DON'T LET THE PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS! THE MUSICAL!!
BOOK BY MO WILLEMS AND MR. Warburton
LYRICS BY MO WILLEMS
MUSIC BY DEBORAH WICKS LA PUMA
MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL

Resource Guide

Approximately 1 hour

FMCT MISSION STATEMENT

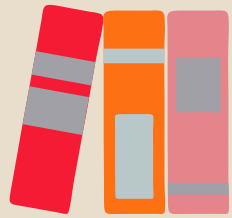
*"Enriching our greater community through
engaging theatrical and educational
opportunities of high artistic quality."*

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

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.
- Standard 4.OA.5: Generate a number or shape pattern that follows a given rule.

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 *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! The Musical!*

It's not easy being the Pigeon-you never get to do ANYTHING! But when the Bus Driver has a crisis that threatens to make her passengers (gasp!) late, maybe that wily bird CAN do something. Featuring an innovative mix of songs, and feathers, *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! The Musical!* is sure to get everyone's wings flapping.

About the Author and Lyricist:

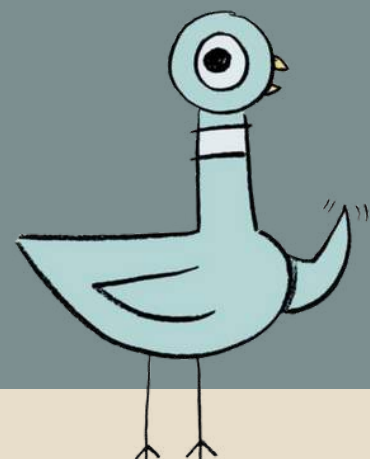
Mo Willems is a number one *New York Times* best-selling author and illustrator. He has been awarded a Caldecott Honor, and was an inaugural inductee into the Indies Choice Picture Book Hall of Fame for *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* His Elephant & Piggie early reader series has been rewarded 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 Author and Lyricist:

Mr. Warburton is best known as the creator of the action-packed original series *Codename: Kids Next Door*. He has helped produce, design, and direct many other animated shows. Recent projects include collaborating with his best pal, children's book author Mo Willems, on a musical based on Mo's best-selling book *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus* for the Kennedy Center as well as an animated production of *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Opera Experience*

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.



Eve Chambers - Pigeon

Eve enjoys theater, singing and dancing, art, writing, and competing in science fairs. She is excited to be a part of this production! Some of her previous productions with FMCT include The Charlie Brown Christmas (Violet), Murder in the Library (also Violet), Elf (Tiara), and Miracle on 34th Street. Eve appreciates her family's support and her younger sisters' patience as they spend time in the car getting her to and from the theater. Attending classes and camps continue to hone skills, but she also finds each opportunity and experience on stage provides incredible lessons beyond the classroom. "Performing in front of an audience is both a giving and receiving experience. The laughs and applause is fuel for a high-energy show."



Michaela Pytlik - The Bus Driver

Michaela is so happy to be a part of such an imaginative and silly play! This is her second TYA play, but her 7th 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 the bus driving Bus Driver, and to be performing in a show from the world of Mo Willems, her favorite children's book author!

Jacob Kalvoda - Business Man, Hot Dog Vendor, Backup Bus 1

Jacob has been in 12 shows with FMCT; being on the stage and playing his bass guitar and/or tuba, BUT this is his first TYA show with FMCT! He is very excited to play the Hot Dog Vendor and the Business Man! Jacob has been in theatre since 3rd grade and not slowing down anytime soon. When he is not on the stage, he works for Tri-City United Soccer Club as a Site Supervisor. That means he's in charge...sometimes! Jacob also plays soccer in the goalkeeping position, and when he's not doing theatre or soccer, he likes spending time with the family or watching/adding movies to his ever-growing Blu-Ray collection.



Miranda Pautzke - Little Old Lady, City Worker, Backup Bus 2

Miranda Pautzke is excited to be in another TYA show with FMCT! She graduated with a theatre DEGREE in 2021, first in her family I might add! She had the honor of directing the last 2 shows "Elephant and Piggie" and "Dragons Love Tacos"! Making people laugh is the ultimate joy in life! BIRD SEED!

Beth Jensen - Teenager, Duckling, Backup Bus 3

Beth is excited to be a part of her first FMCT show! She grew up in Jamestown ND and was a part of numerous theater productions from the ages of 5-18. She graduated in 2013 and moved to Fargo to attend NDSU and took a long break from theater productions until now! She has worked at Aldevron for 3 years and enjoys camping, doing puzzles and crafts and hanging out with her dogs in her spare time.



Abby Kocher - The Bus, Bus Driver's Mom, Puppy, City Worker 2

Abby is SO excited to be part of this pigeony, bussy performance! This is Abby's second FMCT performance and first TYA show. Abby's favorite things to do as a kid were exploring outside, making up imaginary stories, and reading Roald Dahl books. Currently she enjoys road tripping in her van, hiking, kayaking, and hanging out with her cats Peach and Clementine.

Shanna Franzen - Director/Music Director

Shanna fell in love with TYA shows last year when she played Piggie in "Elephant and Piggie". She is super excited to be back, this time in the director's seat working with this very talented cast. When she's not playing fun characters onstage here, Shanna works as the Community Engagement Director for FMCT. Shanna lives in Moorhead with her 3 awesome kids Asha, Noah & Finn, and her partner Ryan, plus their 3 dogs and 3 cats. She hopes you have the best time ever at this show, and reminds you: don't let the Pigeon drive the bus!





**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.**



After viewing questions:

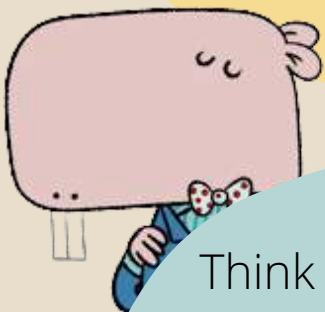
If you were an actor, what character in *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* would you want to play? Why?

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 *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! The Musical*?

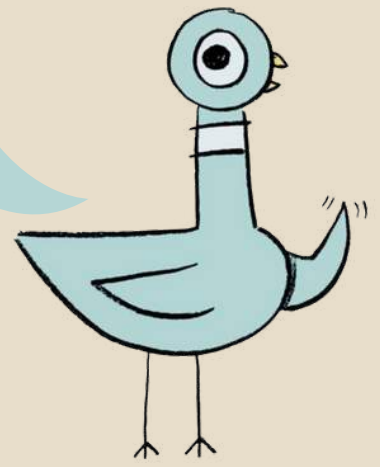
Are there actors who played more than one character? What are some ways you can be the same person and play different characters?



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.

Emporium:

(noun) a store carrying many different kinds of merchandise

Impending:

(adjective)
occurring, or likely to occur soon

Superfluous:

(adjective)
exceeding what is sufficient or necessary, EXTRA

Existential

crisis:(noun)
feelings and questions we have to do with the meaning and purpose of life

Driven:

(adjective)
determined to succeed

Rhetorical:

(adjective) asked merely for effect with no answer expected

Stark:(adjective)
empty, or simple

Aspiration:

(noun) a strong desire to achieve something high or great

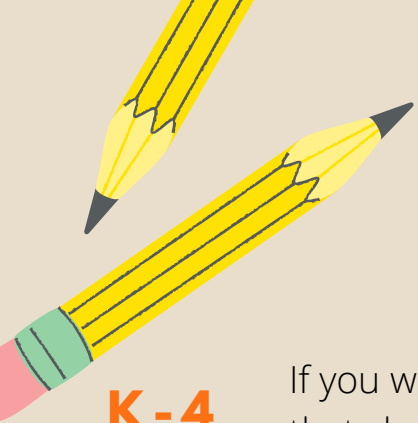
Exasperating:

(adjective)
causing strong feelings of irritation or annoyance

Vendor:

(noun) one that sells





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 as Pigeon. What do you want and what is your obstacle? Make sure to include a beginning, a middle and an end in your story.

2 - 4

Pigeon is tenacious (determined/ambitious). When he finds something he likes, he doesn't give up until he gets what he wants. Write about a time where you REALLY wanted something and how you got what you wanted.

2 - 4

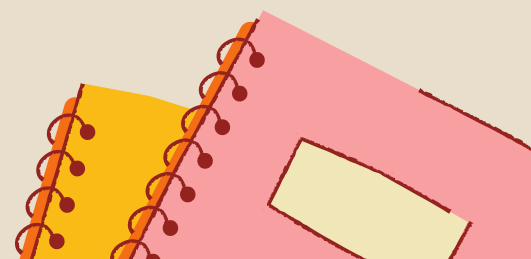
Pigeon and the Bus Driver help each other fulfill their dreams and achieve their goals. They show kindness, compassion, and caring for one another and those around them. How do you show kindness and caring for the people in your life?

K - 4

Should Pigeon get to drive the bus? Why, or why not? Make sure to use punctuation and capital letters!

K - 4

Summarize the story of "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus: The Musical". What happened in the beginning? What happened in the middle? How did it end? Make sure to use details from the story, and use your best writing and editing skills!



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 *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!*, draw a line to match the acceptable cause on the left to its effect on the right.

CAUSE

The Little Old Lady throws
birdseed by the bus.

The Bus Driver teaches Pigeon
to flap his wings.

The City Worker puts up a sign
for the new airport!

Pigeon meets the Bus Driver
and sees the bus for the first
time!

EFFECT

Pigeon learns how to fly and
goes around the city to warn
the bus passengers.

Pigeon wants to drive the
bus!

The bus engine can't start.

Pigeon wants to drive an
airplane!

Activity: Word Scramble

PNIOEG

PFAL

DRIRVE

CPINA

PRAESSGNES

EENNGI

TNROAINTSAPTOR

SBU

Unscramble these letters to discover important words from *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!*



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 _____
and The Bus _____!

Vrooom, vrrooom, vrooom, varoom! The _____ of
the bus is roaring and feeling fine!

The Little Old Lady, the Business Man, and the Teenager are so
happy to have public _____!

Oh no! The _____ has broken down and now the
_____ might be late!

The Bus Driver is worried about the bus engine, but their
bigger worry is the _____ their passengers are
feeling!

The Bus Driver needs Pigeon's help! He needs to fly, but... he
doesn't know how, the Bus Driver needs to teach him how to
_____ his wings!

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!

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus

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

TEENAGER

BUSINESS

MUSTARD

BUS

DUCKLING

PIGEON

DRIVER

ENGINE

PANIC

HOTDOG

LADY

STOP

ACTIVITY: HOTDOG POLL

There are a lot of different toppings you can put on a hot dog. In this show Pigeon wants a hot dog, but the Hot Dog Vendor won't give him one. Help Pigeon decide what toppings to put on his hot dog! Poll your class and discover how your classmates feel about hot dog toppings!

 Ketchup	 Mustard	 Relish	 Cheese	 Chili

Which topping has the most votes? _____

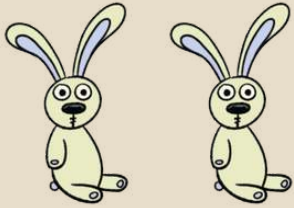
Which topping has the least? _____

There are more people who like _____ than _____

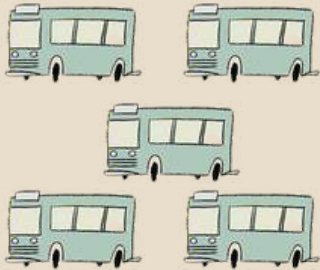
How many people like the same topping as you do? _____

ACTIVITY: FOLLOW THE RULE

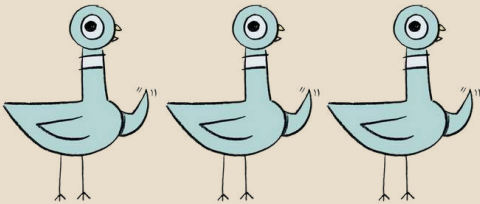
Using the rule "Add 3" find the sum of the objects throughout Pigeon's day!



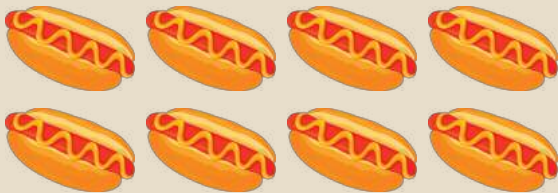
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$$+ 3 =$$



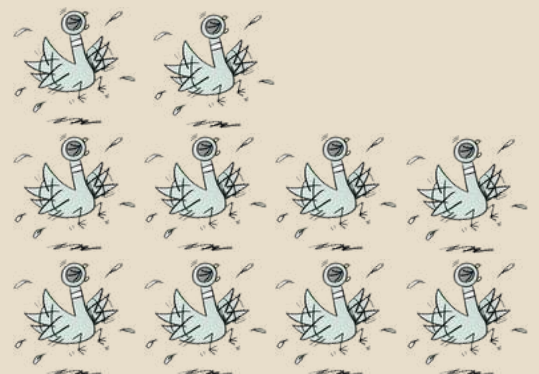
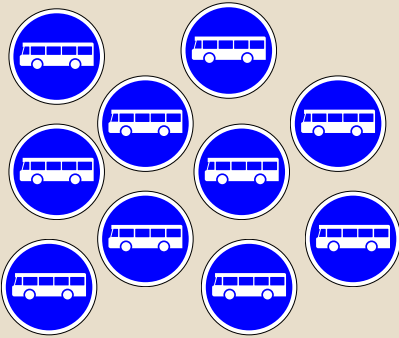
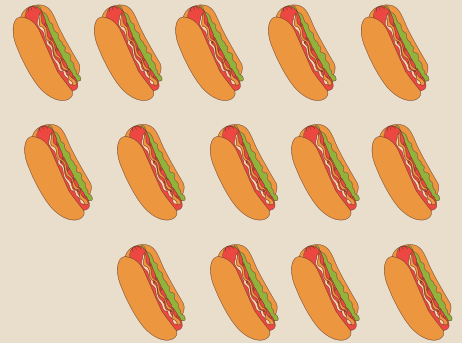
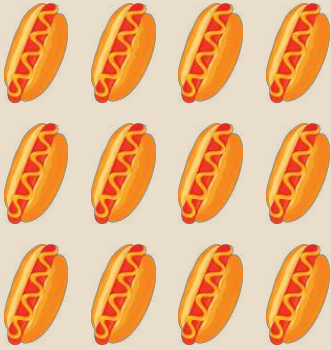
$$+ 3 =$$



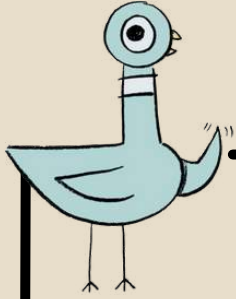
$$+ 3 =$$

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

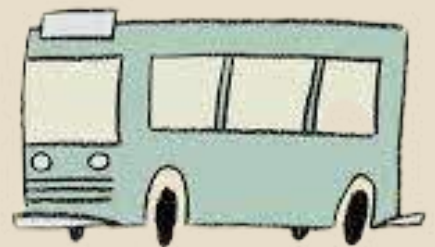
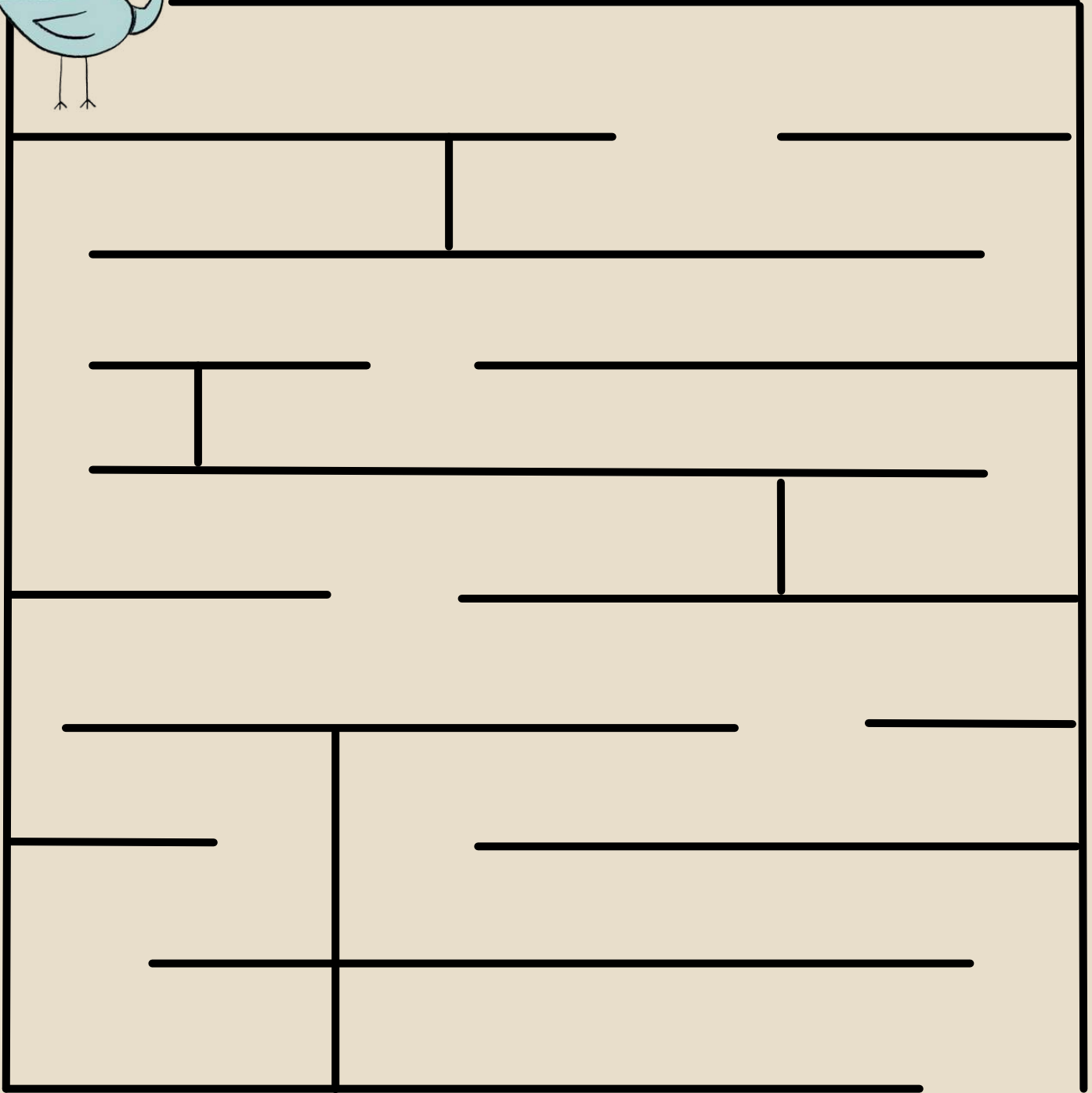
Using the symbols $<$, $>$, and $=$, compare the following sets of objects from Pigeon's day!



ACTIVITY: MAZE

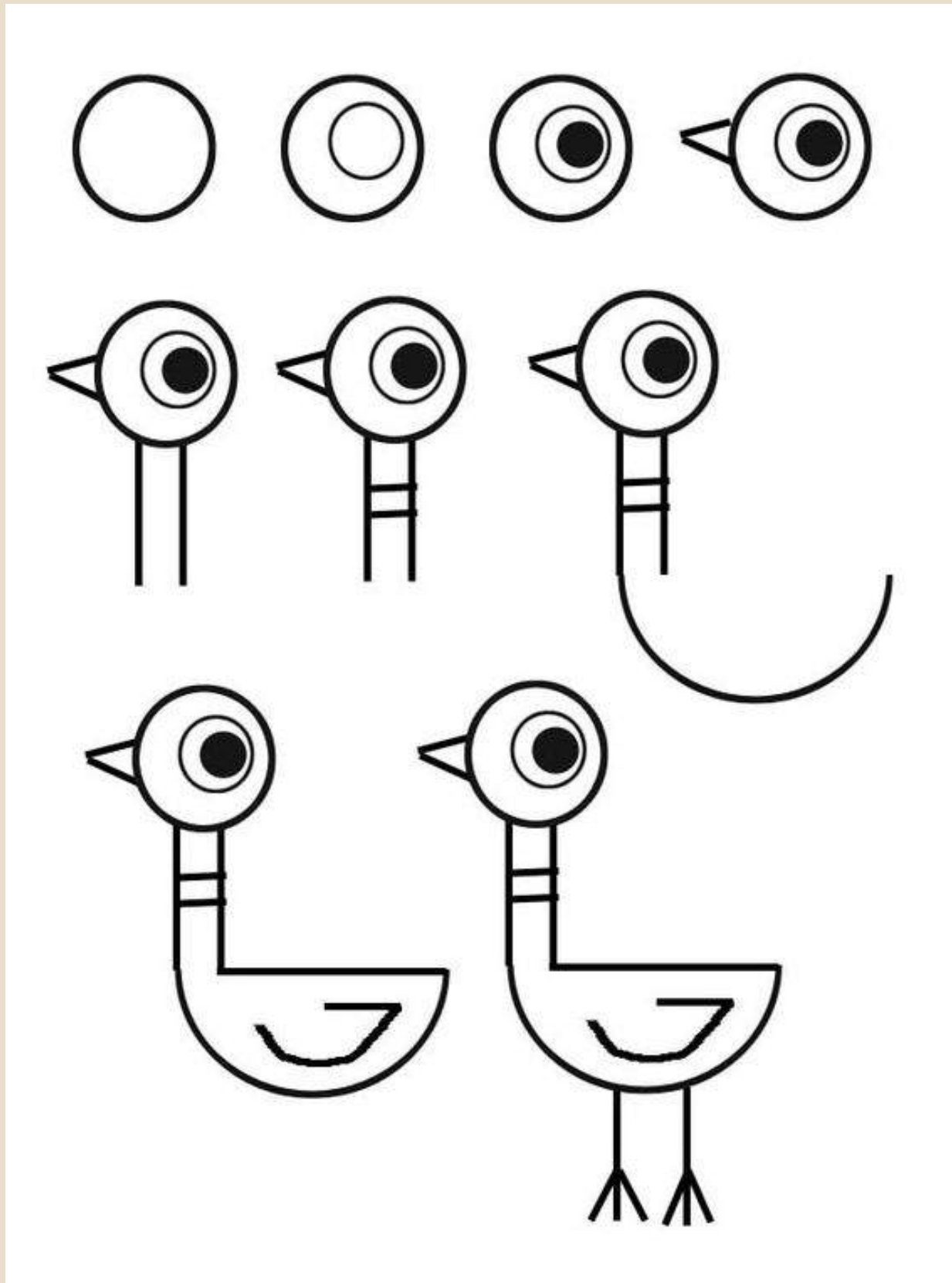


Below is a maze to get Pigeon to the bus before the drive gets back!



Draw the Pigeon

Make your own tenacious pigeon
by following the guided drawing
below!



SUMMER CLASSES 2023



KINDERGARTEN - 2ND GRADE

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON

JUNE 5 - 9

"LEGEND SAYS THAT WHEN THE GROUND QUAKES OR LAVA SPEWS FROM THE EARTH, IT'S DRAGONS." THIS STORYTELLING CLASS WILL INCLUDE READING, WRITING, DRAMATIC PLAY, AND OF COURSE SOME FUNDAMENTAL HERO SKILLS!

DECADES OF DISNEY

JUNE 12 - 16

JOIN YOUR FAVORITE DISNEY CHARACTERS THIS SUMMER TO JOURNEY THROUGH THE AGES. THIS MUSICAL THEATRE CLASS WILL HAVE STUDENTS PRACTICING MUSIC AND DANCE SKILLS, AND HAVE THEM PUTTING THEIR STORY CREATION SKILLS TO PAPER!

ALICE EXPLORES WONDERLAND

JUNE 20 - 24

"WE'RE ALL MAD HERE" STUDENTS WILL EXPLORE MUSIC, CHOREOGRAPHY, AND ACTING BASICS WHILE TELLING THE STORY OF THE CURIOUS YOUNG LADY WHO FALLS DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE.

3RD-5TH GRADE



HARRY POTTER

JUNE 5 - 9

"YOU MIGHT BELONG IN GRYFFINDOR, WHERE DWELL THE BRAVE AT HEART...YOU MIGHT BELONG IN HUFFLEPUFF, WHERE THEY ARE JUST AND LOYAL...OR YET IN WISE OLD RAVENCLAW IF YOU'RE A READY MIND...OR PERHAPS IN SLYTHERIN, THOSE CUNNING FOLK USE ANY MEANS, TO ACHIEVE THEIR ENDS." READING, AND WRITING, AND MAGIC.... OH MY!

DECADES OF DISNEY

JUNE 12 - 16

JOIN YOUR FAVORITE DISNEY CHARACTERS THIS SUMMER TO JOURNEY THROUGH THE AGES. THIS MUSICAL THEATRE CLASS WILL HAVE STUDENTS PRACTICING MUSIC AND DANCE SKILLS, AND HAVE THEM PUTTING THEIR STORY CREATION SKILLS TO PAPER!

SEUSSICAL

JUNE 5 - 9

"OH THE THINGS YOU CAN THINK!" THIS MUSICAL THEATRE CLASS WILL HAVE STUDENTS PRACTICING MUSIC AND DANCE SKILLS, AND HAVE THEM PUTTING THEIR STORY CREATION SKILLS TO PAPER!

ADDAM'S FAMILY

JUNE 12 - 16

THEY'RE CREEPY AND THEY'RE KOOKY! AND THEY'RE COMING TO FMCT THIS SUMMER! THIS MUSICAL THEATRE CLASS WILL HAVE STUDENTS PRACTICING MUSIC AND DANCE, AND HAVE THEM PUTTING THEIR STORY CREATION SKILLS TO PAPER!

MATILDA

JUNE 19 - 23

WE'RE LOOKING FOR "REVOLTING CHILDREN" TO JOIN MATILDA AND THE REST OF CRUNCHEM HALL ELEMENTARY THIS SUMMER! THIS MUSICAL THEATRE CLASS WILL HAVE STUDENTS PRACTICING MUSIC AND DANCE SKILLS, AND HAVE THEM PUTTING THEIR STORY CREATION SKILLS TO PAPER!

INTO THE WOODS

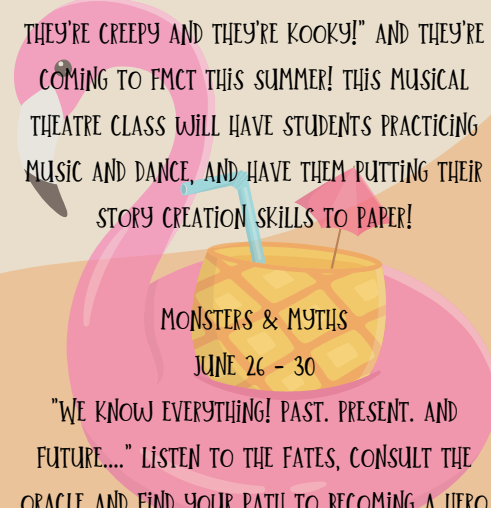
JUNE 26 - 30

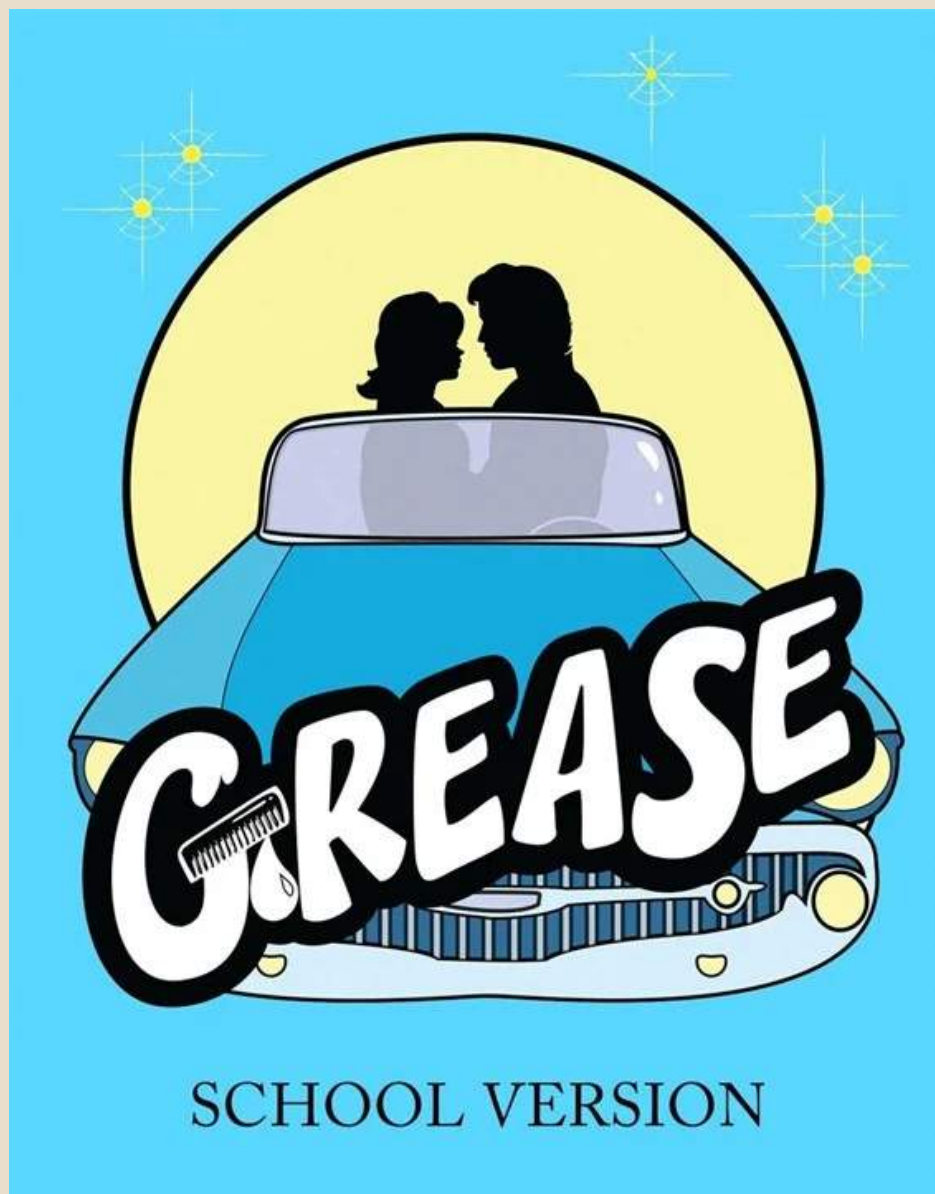
JOIN FMCT IN THIS WEEK OF ADVENTURE WITH CINDERELLA, JACK, AND SO MANY MORE AS WE JOURNEY "INTO THE WOODS AND OUT OF THE WOODS, AND HOME BEFORE DARK!" THIS MUSICAL THEATRE CLASS WILL HAVE STUDENTS PRACTICING MUSIC AND DANCE SKILLS, AND HAVE THEM PUTTING THEIR STORY CREATION SKILLS TO PAPER!

MONSTERS & MYTHS

JUNE 26 - 30

"WE KNOW EVERYTHING! PAST. PRESENT. AND FUTURE...." LISTEN TO THE FATES, CONSULT THE ORACLE AND FIND YOUR PATH TO BECOMING A HERO IN THIS CREATIVE CAMP! THIS STORYTELLING CLASS WILL INCLUDE READING, WRITING, DRAMATIC PLAY, AND OF COURSE SOME FUNDAMENTAL HERO SKILLS!





July 5th – August 13th

AGES 8-12: Here is Rydell High's senior class of 1959: duck-tailed, hot-rodding "Burger Palace Boys" and their gum-snapping "Pink Ladies" in bobby sox and pedal pushers, evoking the look and sound of the 1950s.

Head "greaser" Danny Zuko and new girl Sandy Dumbrowski try to relive the high romance of their "Summer Nights" while the rest of the gang sings and dances its way through their senior year. The hit musical, specially designed for young actors or audiences! Shorter and more suitable in content for teens and preteens, this abridged version retains the fun-loving and immortal songs that make Grease a favorite among rock 'n' roll fans of all ages!

**REGISTER
NOW!**

FMCT
EDUCATION