

2017-2018 Season

CATCO IS
KIDS!

PLAYGUIDE

Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Musical

book and lyrics by Mo Willems

music by Michael Silversher

January 12-21, 2018

Van Fleet Theatre, CPAC, 549 Franklin Ave.



The Story

Girl loves stuffed animal. Girl loses beloved animal. Girl fights to get animal back. Trixie, her father, and her favorite stuffed bunny, Knuffle Bunny, set off for the laundromat. Little does Trixie know that her day is about to be filled with adventure, song, and dancing laundry. Will she ever find her beloved Knuffle Bunny?



About the Author, Playwright, and Lyricist: Mo Willems



An award-winning writer and animator, Mo Willems is best known for creating beloved children's books like *Knuffle Bunny*, the *Pidgeon* books, and the *Elephant and Piggie* series. Besides writing children's books, Willems has an extensive television career. For nine seasons, he worked as a writer and animator for PBS's *Sesame Street*. Willems also created Nickelodeon's *The Off-Beats* and Cartoon Network's *Sheep in the Big City* and served as head writer for Cartoon Network's *Codename: Kids Next Door*. Willems has adapted some of his children's book into plays like the one you are about to see. Apart from writing and animating books, television shows, and plays, Willems also creates sculptures, which can be seen all over the United States.



About the Composer: Michael Silversher



Michael Silversher is a Grammy Award nominee for his work as a songwriter for children's television.

Silversher has worked on *Winnie the Pooh*, *The Muppets*, and has worked with his wife, Patty, on over 100 songs in the Disney catalog. Some of the highlights are the theme songs of *Tailspin* and *Gummi Bears*. Silversher was commissioned by the Kennedy Center to write the music for *Knuffle Bunny*. Silversher has written over 43 musical theatre works, worked with many significant production companies in both film and stage, and co-founded the West Coast Songwriters' Association. Most recently, Silversher worked on a musical adaptation of Lois Lowry's novel *Gathering Blue*, a story in *The Giver Quartet*.

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BEFORE THE SHOW



Curriculum Connections



You can use this Playguide and your visit to CATCO is Kids to help your students meet the curriculum standards required in schools by the Ohio Department of Education and the Common Core State Standards Initiative. Look throughout our Playguide for the icon and you will find academic standards that correspond with the different activities listed.

Curriculum
Connection



Activities

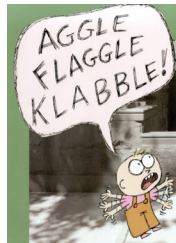
1. With a family member, read the first *Knuffle Bunny* book until the part when Trixie's mom realizes that Knuffle Bunny is gone. Talk with your family member about what you think is going to happen at the end of the story. Why do you think that? Work with your family member to act out your ending. After you are done, finish reading the book. Did it end the way you thought it would? Work with a family member to act out the ending of the book and your own ending.



Curriculum
Connection

Drama/Theatre Kindergarten
Cognitive and Creative Learning
Processes: Creating 4CE

Predict endings of stories or theatre performances.



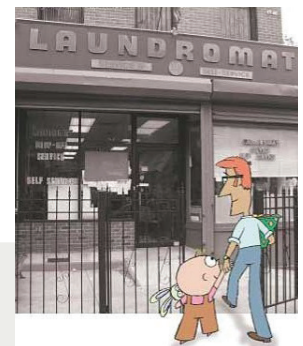
2. With a family member, read the first *Knuffle Bunny* book. How do you think each character in the book would retell the story? With a family member or peer, act out the story as if each character were telling it separately. Think about how Trixie, Trixie's Mom, Trixie's Dad, and the Knuffle Bunny would each tell the story. What is different about each version of the story? What is the same? Make a list and compare the similarities and differences.

Curriculum
Connection

Grade 1
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.1.9

Compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in stories.

3. Find the first *Knuffle Bunny* book at the local library and read it with a family member or peer. Who are the characters in the book? Where does the story take place? Can you list all of the events that happen in the story? What do you think the story is trying to say? Use the answers to these questions to create your own short play based on Knuffle Bunny. What was the hardest part? What was the easiest part? Do you think your play will be similar to or different than this play?



Curriculum
Connection

Drama/Theatre Grade 2
Cognitive and Creative Learning
Processes: Creating 1CE

Describe the characters, setting, central ideas and plot in stories or dramatic and theatrical works.

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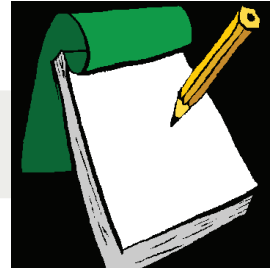
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AFTER THE SHOW



Activities

1. After seeing, CATCO's production of *Knuffle Bunny*, go to the library with a parent or guardian and borrow the first *Knuffle Bunny* book. Read the book with a family member. Take as much time as you need. After finishing the book, think about the play and the book. Make a list of everything you liked about the play and another of everything you liked in the book. Talk with a family member about if you liked the play or the book better. Why do you feel that way?



Curriculum
Connection

Kindergarten
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.K.7

Participate in shared research and writing projects (e.g., explore a number of books by a favorite author and express opinions about them).



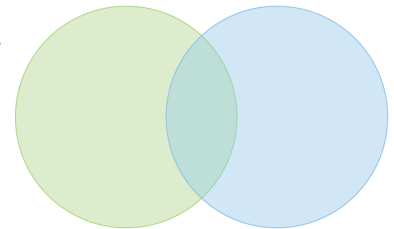
2. Now that you have seen *Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Musical* at CATCO is Kids, work with a family member or peer who also saw the show to make a list of as many of the songs as you can. As you list the songs, think about how each one expresses a character's feelings or something happening in the story. Add those ideas to your list as well. Share your thoughts about how the songs in the play made you feel with a family member or peer. If you were going to write songs for the show, how would they sound? Share those thoughts too!

Curriculum
Connection

Music Grade 1
Cognitive and Creative
Processes: Responding/
Reflecting 2RE

Describe how music communicates feelings, moods, images and meaning.

3. Find the first *Knuffle Bunny* book at the local library and read it with a family member or peer. Compare and contrast the book with the musical version. What was the same? What was different? Create a Venn diagram showing the differences and similarities that you thought of. Share that diagram with the same person with whom you read the book.



Curriculum
Connection

Grade 2
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.2.9

Compare and contrast the most important points presented by two texts on the same topic.

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FROM "A VOYAGE" - JAMES SCARLETT

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FUN FACTS ABOUT RABBITS



Fun Facts



- Rabbits are mammals.
- A baby rabbit is called a 'kit.'
- Most rabbits live in underground burrows. The cottontail rabbit builds above-ground nests.
- Sometimes, rabbits build a group of burrows called a 'warren.'
- Rabbits are herbivores, so they eat only plants.
- Typically, rabbits sleep about eight hours a day.
- More than half of all of the rabbits in the world live here in North America!
- A rabbit's teeth never stop growing.
- Rabbits have 28 teeth.
- A rabbit's foot is often seen as a good luck charm. It is believed this thought started back in 600 BCE.
- Rabbits have litters of kits about two or three times a year.
- An average litter of rabbits has between four and six kits!
- Rabbits are crepuscular, a word meaning that they are most active at dawn and dusk.

Source: www.kidsplayandcreate.com/fun-bunnyrabbit-facts-for-kids/



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CRAFT CORNER



Create Your Own Knuffle Bunny

Supplies needed:

- tempera paint (green, white, yellow, blue, and black)
- paintbrushes
- large sheet of white paper (be sure to use thick paper if you are planning on stuffing the paper doll)
- scissors
- paperclips
- yarn or string
- small hole punch

Directions:

1. Mix green, white, and yellow paint to create a light green. Paint the body of the Knuffle Bunny.
2. Mix white and blue paint to create light blue. Use the light blue to paint circles on the arms for hands and inside of the ears.
3. Paint white circles for the eyes.
4. Use black paint to put dots inside the eyes and to paint a nose and mouth.
5. Let your Knuffle Bunny dry.
6. Skip this step if you are going to stuff the bunny: Use scissors to cut the bunny out.
7. Paperclip your Knuffle Bunny painting to another piece of paper.
8. Ask an adult to help you cut out the Knuffle Bunny through both pieces of paper. Move the paperclips as needed.
9. After the bunny has been cut out, ask an adult to punch small holes along the edges of the bunny as shown.
10. Cut a very long piece of string and lace the two pieces of paper together and stuff them with paper or fiberfill as you go. Be sure to tie off one end right when you start.
11. Finish lacing and stuffing the bunny. Once the bunny is filled, tie off the second end of the yarn.
12. Enjoy your own Knuffle Bunny!



<https://buggyandbuddy.com/knuffle-bunny-art-project-for-kids/>

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