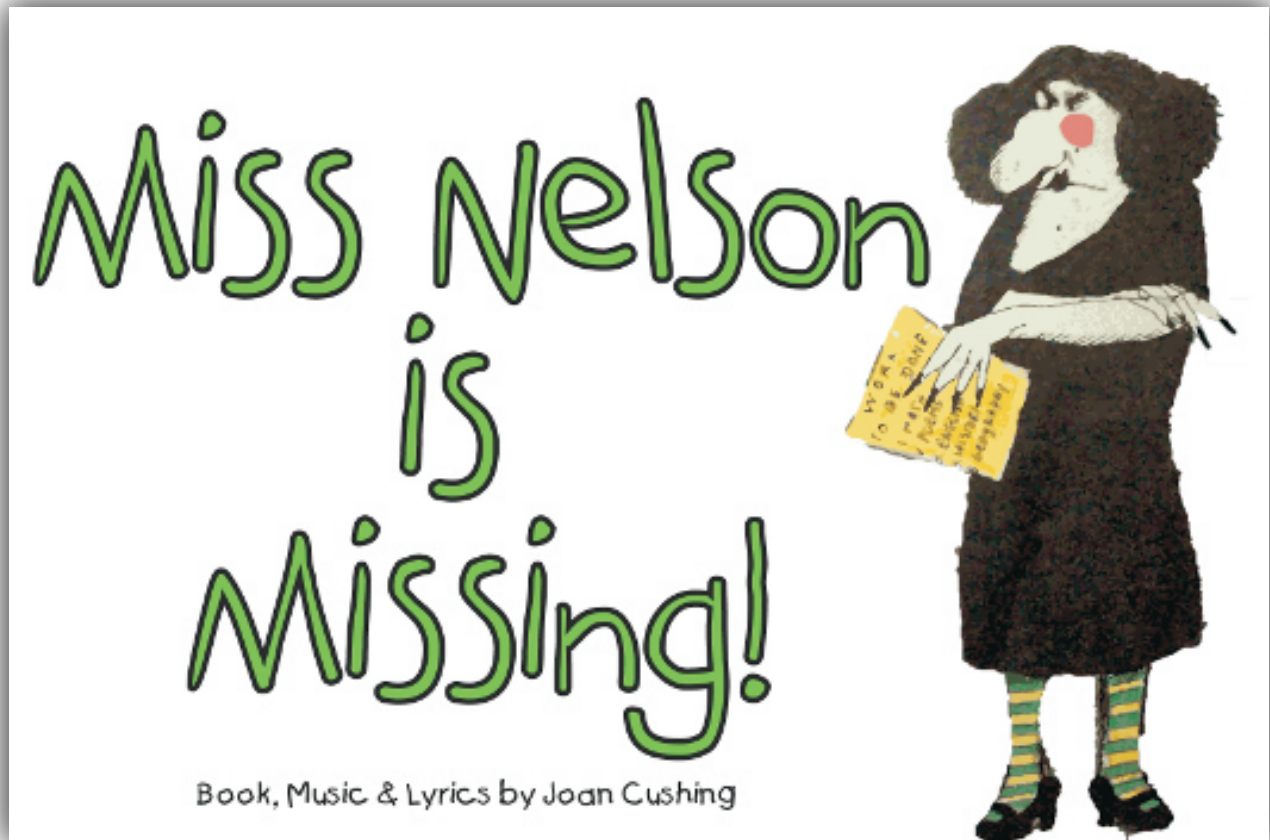




Youth Education Series at Lebanon Opera House



The Musical

Based on the book series by Harry G. Allard Jr.

theatreworksUSA
Bringing the stage to you

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Dear Teacher/Parent:

We have included the following study guide from Theatreworks USA to help make your students' theater experience with *Miss Nelson is Missing* as meaningful as possible. For many, it will be their first time viewing a live theatrical production. We have learned that when teachers discuss the play with their students before and after the production, the experience is more significant and long-lasting. Please use this study guide as inspiration for creating your own activities and areas for discussion. We hope you and your class enjoy the show!

About Lebanon Opera House Youth Education Series

Each year, LOH presents a series of events for school children in the Upper Valley community. Made possible by support from the series' sponsors, the YES! events provide many of the community's school children with their first exposure to live performances. The series features school-day matinees by national touring companies that specialize in shows for young and family audiences.

About Theatreworks USA

The mission of Theatreworks USA is to create, produce, and provide access to professional theatre for young and family audiences nationwide, including disadvantaged youth and under-served communities. Since our founding in 1961, we have presented more than 90 million children and their families with opportunities to enjoy our theatrical productions in 49 states and Canada.

Each season, three million children, many of whom have no other access to the performing arts, attend our original productions in venues as varied as local elementary school gymnasiums, regional fine arts centers, and major Broadway-sized theatres. Theatreworks USA tours approximately 16 shows each season from our repertoire of 133 plays and musicals. In addition, Theatreworks USA has an extensive multi-cultural roster of guest artists, including storytellers, puppeteers, poets, and magicians.



Youth Education Series at Lebanon Opera House

Please review this common theater etiquette with your class before attending the performance.

Do:

- Arrive at Lebanon Opera House early.
- Use the restroom before the performance.
- Turn off cell phones, alarms, and other electronic devices.
- Wait for your school or group to be dismissed.
- Keep your feet on the floor.
- Show your appreciation of the performers by applauding.
- Stay with your group or school at all times.
- Watch and listen closely to the performers.

Don't:

- Stand in the aisles.
- Put your feet on the seats or balcony railing.
- Talk, sing, hum or fidget.
- Take pictures or record the actors during the performance.
- Leave the theater during the performance.
- Kick the seat in front of you.
- Eat, drink or chew gum in the theater.
- Leave your seat before the performers have taken their curtain call.

Enjoy the show!



Author: Harry G. Allard Jr. (Illustrator: James Marshall)



Born in Evanston, Illinois, Harry G. Allard Junior graduated from Northwestern College in 1943. He then went on to serve in Korea. After returning home, he moved to Paris and became fluent in French, later earning a Ph.D. in the language from Yale. After that, he taught the language at the college level for many years.

In Boston, he met James Marshall. Marshall's art inspired him and the two became friends. Their first book, *The Stupids Step Out* proved successful and they continued to work together, creating the Miss Nelson character. Mr. Allard resides in Massachusetts.

Book Writer/Lyricist/Composer: Joan Cushing



Ms. Cushing is a humorist, playwright, composer, lyricist and political satirist. She performs in *Mrs. Foggybottom & Friends*, which is a newsical review featuring her wit and humor. She's a former elementary school teacher and cabaret performer. She's written several other children's musicals including *MISS NELSON HAS A FIELD DAY* and *HEIDI*.

For more information check out her website at www.joancushing.com.

Activity: Alma who? / Write your own school song

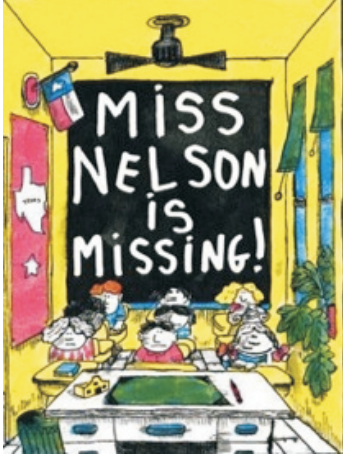


An ALMA MATER is a person's school song and school pride is important. In fact, the first song in the beginning of MISS NELSON IS MISSING, the musical, is their school song (The words are listed below). Read them and try to write your own school song.

See if you can include two or more rhymes and specific details about your school. For example if your school colors are blue and white, perhaps you could try adding that to your song (hint – both of those colors are also easy words to rhyme, for example, blue and true / white and right.)

HAIL TO THEE, OH ALMA MATER.
WE ARE LOYAL, THROUGH AND
THROUGH. PROUD TO BE YOUR SONS
AND DAUGHTERS, TO YOUR COLORS
WE ARE TRUE.
GREEN IS FOR THE TREE OF
KNOWLEDGE. GOLD IS FOR THE
GOLDEN RULE.
HAIL TO THEE, OH
HORACE B.
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL.

Activity: The worst students in room 207!



Miss Nelson has some behavioral issues with the students in room 207. In fact Pop, the principal, calls them “the worst students ever!” They even say “respect for others” is the catch phrase of the week, and “Character Counts!” While these words are used in the plot of the show, they’re important for students to think about.

- Have a dialogue with students about what respect means to them. Ask questions about how would they like to be treated.
- Role-play certain scenarios that demonstrate a situation where someone is behaving poorly and brainstorm the best solutions to the problem.
- Have students make a list of positive buzzwords that demonstrate good character and respect for others. Hang it in the classroom for students to refer to. When one of the words is used put a mark (or a sticker) by that word to keep track of what is used the most. Have the class write a mission of “Good Character” using their most commonly used buzzwords. (These can also be incorporated into the school song/above activity.)
- Losing something is difficult, but the students realize how much they loved Miss Nelson when she was missing. Have students write an essay about an influential person in their life and how they’ve made a difference to them. If the person is still in their life, give them the option to share the essay with the person they write about.

Activity: A little bit of Detective work



When the students can't find Miss Nelson, a detective is brought in who refers to Sherlock Holmes. Spend a day in class solving a mystery.

- Have students read some of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's short stories about Sherlock Holmes. There are some for younger readers (Grade range, 3rd-7th):

- o *The Extraordinary Cases of Sherlock Holmes (Puffin Classics)*
- o *The Great Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (Puffin Classics)*
- o *Classic Starts: The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (Classic Starts Series)*

Assign roles to students and reenact the story in class with students using the clues to solve the case.

Before students see MISS NELSON IS MISSING have them try to predict what happened to Miss Nelson. Then, after they see the show, discuss what happened and see if anyone guessed correctly.

Activity: Teacher for a day



It's hard to understand how hard something is until you do it yourself. The students in classroom 207 behaved poorly for Miss Nelson and were afraid of Viola Swamp, but none of them understood how hard it is to be a teacher.

Have students think about their favorite subjects and what they would teach if they could.

- Have them make a lesson plan for the length of one class.
- In the lesson plan have them include
 - o *An in-class project*
 - o *At least 3 facts or statistics*
 - o *Questions to ask the students about the topic*
- Have them turn in the lesson plan. For students who are comfortable, have them try and "teach" their lesson plan for a portion of one class period.
- After they present have the students share what they thought of their "teaching" experience.

Activity: Everything is not what it seems



Viola Swamp scared the kids into better behavior. She even looks a little like a witch. But Viola Swamp isn't exactly what she seems. Many famous characters have donned alter egos to help solve problems, for example: Superman, who remained the mild mannered Clark Kent when not fighting crime. Bat Man, whose alter ego was Bruce Wayne.

Have students think about whom they would disguise themselves as to make the world a better place.

- Would they have special powers?
 - o *What would they be*
 - o *What would their disguise look like?*
 - o *What problems/causes would they want to focus on to solve?*

- Have them draw a comic strip of them as their alter ego in action and share them with the class.

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Name _____ School _____
(Optional) (Optional)

What grade levels attended the performance? _____

Was the performance appropriate for this grade(s)? Yes No

Was the post-show discussion valuable to your students? Yes No

Did this performance fit in with your curriculum? Yes No

Was the study guide helpful? Yes No

How would you rate the entertainment quality of the performance?

Outstanding Above Average Average Below Average

How would you rate the educational quality of the performance?

Outstanding Above Average Average Below Average

To what extent were your students challenged by the content of this performance?

Very Challenged Challenged Not Challenged

How did this program compare to similar programs you've attended in the past?

Above Average Average Below Average

Will you bring your students back to another YES! performance? Yes No

What types of shows would you like to see us present in the future?

- | | | |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Dance | <input type="checkbox"/> Musical Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-musical Theater | <input type="checkbox"/> Puppetry | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Literature based | <input type="checkbox"/> Multicultural | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

How did you hear about the Youth Education Series?

- | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> LOH Website | <input type="checkbox"/> Mailing | <input type="checkbox"/> E-mail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LOH Brochure | <input type="checkbox"/> Poster | <input type="checkbox"/> Radio |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper | <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher | <input type="checkbox"/> Parent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enrichment/Arts Coordinator | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

Additional Comments:

Please return your evaluation to:
Lebanon Opera House | PO Box 384 | Lebanon, NH 03766

Evaluations can also be completed online at www.lebanonoperahouse.org/yesloh/

A Note to Families

Dear Family,

Today, Lebanon Opera House presented Theatreworks USA's *Miss Nelson is Missing* to your child's class. This performance was made possible by generous support from our underwriters and sponsors:

Hypertherm HOPE Foundation, The Valley News, and Gnomon Copy.

Below are a few questions that might help initiate a conversation about your child's experience at the performance. For more information about *Miss Nelson is Missing*, including suggested reading and other performance related activities please download a copy of our study guide at www.lebanonoperahouse.org/yesloh/

What type of performance did you see? (Music, theatre, etc.)

What was the performance about?

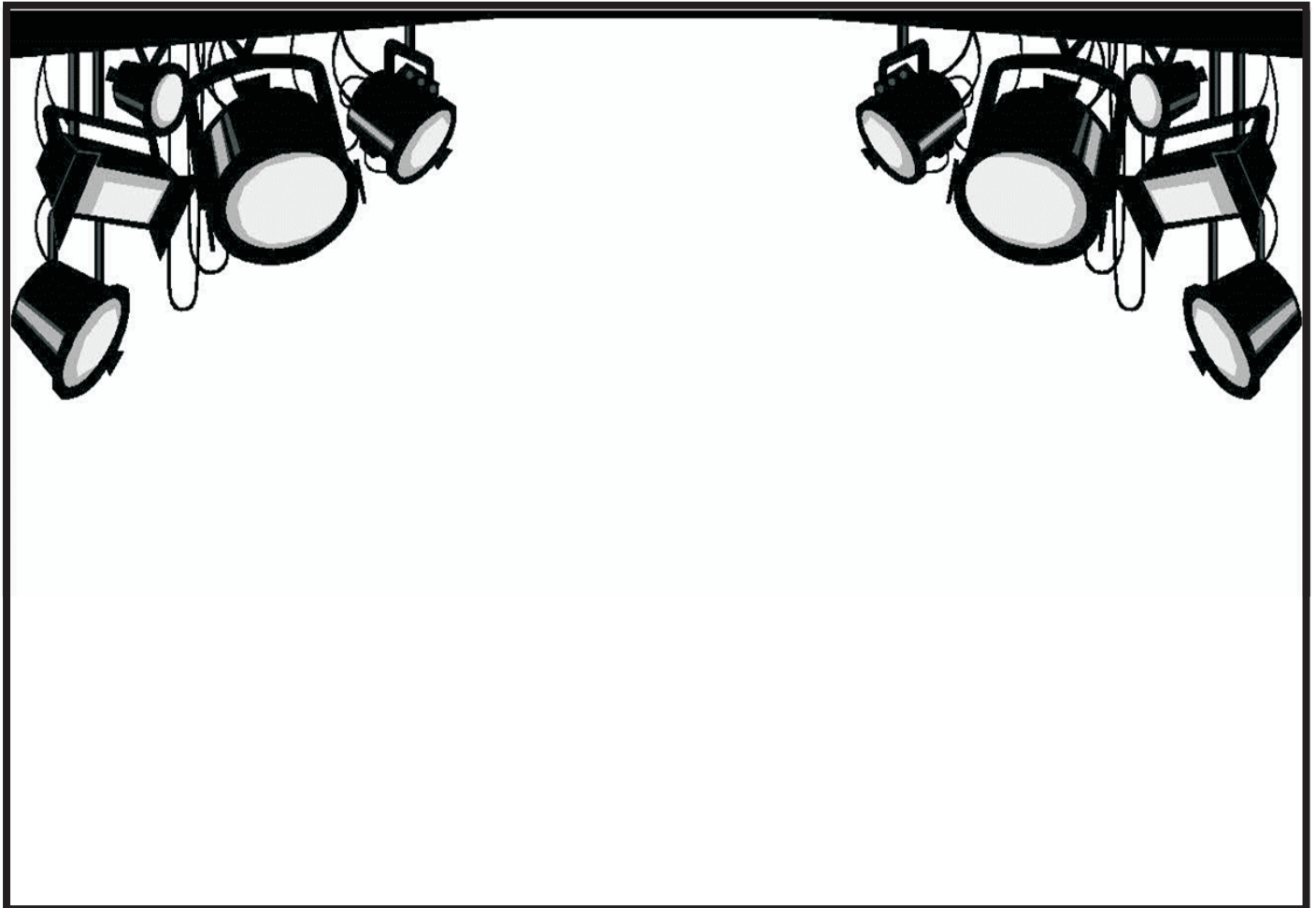
What was your favorite part of the performance?

What did you learn from the performance?

How did the performance make you feel?

If you could be one of the performers/characters, which would you choose and why?

Draw a picture of your favorite moment in the performance:





Youth Education Series at Lebanon Opera House

2014/2015 Programs

Theatreworks USA in
MISS NELSON IS MISSING
Monday, April 20, 2015 @ 10 am
Recommended for K – grade 5

Artspower in
DOG LOVES BOOKS
Tuesday, May 19, 2015 @ 10 am
Recommended for K – grade 2

**WATCH FOR NEXT YEAR'S SCHEDULE
TO BE ANNOUNCED
BEFORE THE END OF THIS SCHOOL YEAR!!**

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