



# study guide

## JIGSAW JONES and The Case of the Class Clown

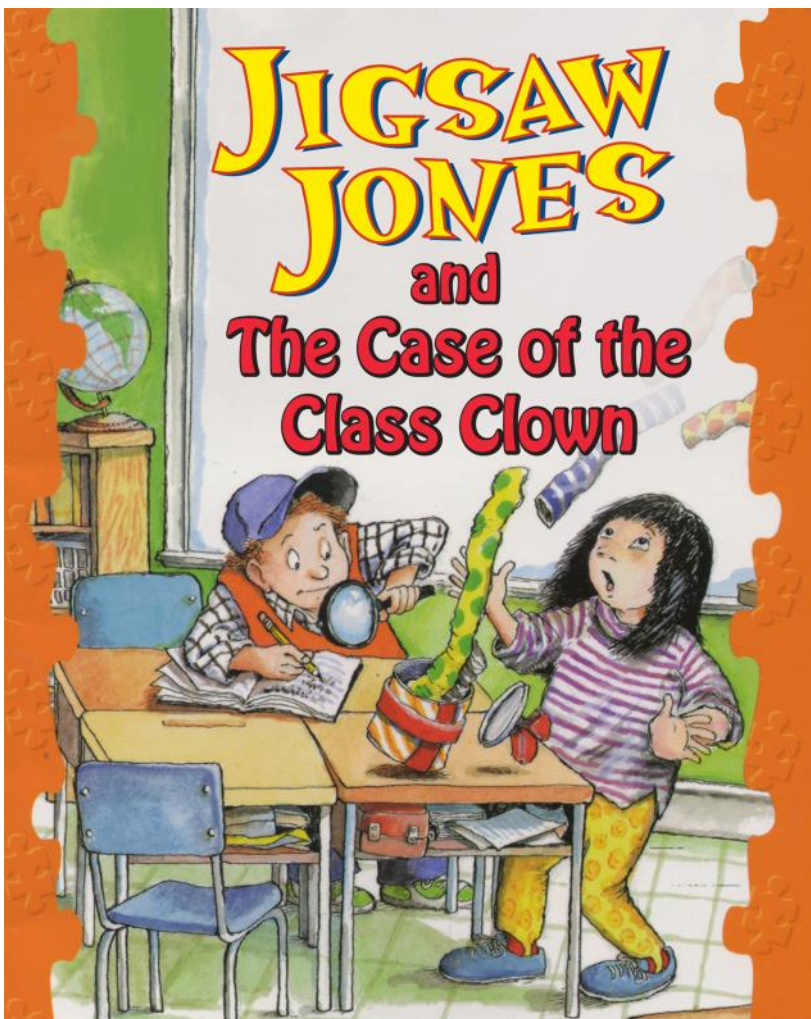
Presented by **ArtsPower**

Tuesday, October 4, 2016 at 10:00 am

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The 2016-17 **Youth Education Series** at Lebanon Opera House is generously supported in part by our sponsors. Thank you to:



*Illustration by R.W. Alley*

**A one-act musical based on the book by James Preller**



**Gary W. Blackman**  
**Mark A. Blackman**  
Founding Co-Directors

**Greg Gunning**  
Artistic Director

Adaptation, Direction and Lyrics by  
**Greg Gunning**

Music and Orchestrations by  
**Richard DeRosa**

Costume Design and Construction by  
**Fred Sorrentino**

Set Construction by  
**Tom Carroll Scenic**

**JIGSAW JONES**  
**Study Buddy**  
©2009 ArtsPower

Study Buddy Written by  
**Mark Blackman**

Based on the book JIGSAW JONES: The Case of the Class Clown by James Preller. Illustrated by Jamie Smith, R.W. Alley. Published by Demco Media, 2002. Presented under an exclusive agreement. All Rights Reserved.

# theatre etiquette

We are looking forward to your visit to Lebanon Opera House! Please take a moment to review our house rules and common theater etiquette with your class before attending the performance. Enjoy the show!

## Do:

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

## Don't:

- Stand in the aisles or stairwells.
- 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.





## Teacher Information

ArtsPower is excited to offer you this study guide assist you and your students in preparing for the performance of *JIGSAW JONES*.

You will find background information about the production as well as definitions of terms, cross-curricular, pre- and post-performance activities, and resources to guide further study and discussion about the content and themes of the production.

# THE STORY OF *JIGSAW JONES*



## THE CHARACTERS

- Jigsaw (Theodore) Jones  
*a young amateur detective*
- Mila  
*Jigsaw's female assistant*
- Ralphie Jordan  
*Jigsaw's best friend*
- Helen Zuckerman  
*Jigsaw's studious classmate  
(who also doubles in the play as Athena Lorenzo)*
- Athena Lorenzo  
*Jigsaw's classmate and client*

## PLOT SUMMARY



Athena Lorenzo has been slimed and she doesn't think it's very funny. One of her classmates in Mrs. Gleason's class has been playing practical jokes. Junior sleuth Theodore "Jigsaw" Jones knows that he and his trusty assistant, Mila, can crack the case. When the prime suspect turns out to be Ralphie Jordan, Jigsaw's best friend, their investigation becomes very sticky. Can Jigsaw solve the

## MORE ABOUT THE MUSICAL

ArtsPower's musical, *JIGSAW JONES*, features a cast of four professional actors, one of whom **doubles**, or plays two roles in the show. There are seven musical numbers in the show. The actors sing live to a professionally-written and –recorded orchestration on CD that is operated by a stage manager who is also responsible for making sure the show and the tour run smoothly.

Greg Gunning, ArtsPower's Artistic Director, adapted the book into a musical, wrote the lyrics, and directed the show's world premiere. Composer Richard DeRosa wrote, orchestrated, and recorded the soundtrack.

# Pieces of the Puzzle

## THE AUTHOR



James Preller

Author **James Preller**, a self-proclaimed “kid who never grew up,” is the author of the **JIGSAW JONES** series of books. Born in 1961, James grew up in Wantagh, Long Island drawing pictures and making homemade comic books that he sold to friends.

James has written over 80 books but is probably best known for writing the **JIGSAW JONES** mystery series. Currently, he is

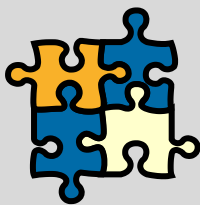
finishing a book entitled “Bystander,” which deals with bullying in middle school. James lives in Delmar, New York with his wife Lisa, their three children, two cats, and a dog named Daisy.

## KEY EVIDENCE

In 2008, ArtsPower decided to create a musical based on James Preller’s book, **JIGSAW JONES: The Case of the Class Clown**. The show opened in October 2009. James not only agreed to let ArtsPower produce the musical but also allowed the playwright to make some changes and additions in order to adapt the book for the stage.

Here are the key people who are involved in creating a professional musical theatre production:

- The **playwright** writes the dialogue and lyrics.
- The **composer** writes the music.
- The **orchestrator** adapts the composer’s music for orchestral instruments so that it can be recorded as accompaniment for singing and as a sound track for scenes and scene changes.
- The **actors** audition for parts and memorize lines and songs. In ArtsPower productions, they are also responsible for moving sets and props during the show.
- The **designers** create sets, costumes, and lighting.
- The **director** creates an overall vision for the show, rehearses the actors, and makes artistic decisions about the production.
- The **stage manager** oversees all of the backstage elements of the production, drives the company van, and is responsible for the safety and well-being of the actors. The stage manager is also the primary point of contact for those people who present the show in their theatre or school.
- The **producers** manage all aspects of ArtsPower’s production, raise money, set and maintain budgets, and manage the entire organization.



## learning activity

### Before the show...

1. Read the book and discuss its plot, characters, and themes (friendship, perseverance, conflict resolution, and problem solving).
2. Talk about how the musical you will see might be a bit different than the book. Can the students identify possible differences between a book and a stage play?
3. Discuss how we sometimes judge other people. Are there people to whom we are more loyal—family members or friends, for example—and might give the benefit of the doubt if a problem arises?



# Leave No Stone Unturned



## DECODING THE LANGUAGE

You will hear some of the following words during the play. They are important terms that detectives use in doing their work to solve cases. Review them before reading "How Detectives Do Their Work" in the next column.

**Case** — a situation that needs action to be taken

**Client** — someone who hires a detective

**Clue** — a hint that helps a person solve a mystery

**Conclusion** — a final decision

**Detective** — a person whose business is solving crimes by identifying the truth in a case and gathering information that is not easy to get

**Evidence** — things that help reveal the truth in a case including materials and conversations with witnesses

**Investigation** — the study and examination of a case

**Prank** — a playful or mischievous act

**Research** — careful study and discovery for the purpose of gaining more knowledge about something

**Suspect** — someone who is thought to be involved in a crime

**Undercover** — acting in secret, like a spy

**Witness** — someone who sees something and is able to report on it

## HOW DETECTIVES DO THEIR WORK

When real **detectives** do criminal investigations, they must use their skills and training to figure out what happened in the **case**. They do this by:

1. Looking at the **evidence**: What is there that the detective can see? Are there things he/she cannot see that might be important to the investigation?
2. Interviewing **suspects**: Who are the people considered to be suspects in the case? Were there any **witnesses** who saw what happened? Have the witnesses spoken to anyone else about the case? If so, what did they say?
3. Doing **research**: Perhaps the crime scene can provide more **clues** that will help the detective figure out what happened there. Maybe the detective has to go **undercover** to better observe the crime scene or the **suspects** believed to be involved.
4. Coming to a **conclusion**: Based on the facts discovered during the investigation, the detective can make a final judgment about what he/she thought happened.



Illustration by R.W. Alley

# UNCOVERING the Mystery



Real detectives do many things to try to solve a case. Jigsaw and his friend Mila use some of the same techniques—like collecting evidence, interviewing suspects, and doing surveillance—that real detectives might use when they do their investigations. Surveillance means that Jigsaw and Mila keep an eye on people who they think might have something to do with the case.

Here are some lines of dialogue from *JIGSAW JONES* that describe what Jigsaw and Mila talk about in trying to solve the case. Try speaking the lines as if you were a real detective trying to uncover a mystery. Feel free to use your favorite detective voice!

**JIGSAW JONES**

Now--in solving crimes, detectives need stuff like...my detective journal. In here, I write down: the name of the case, suspects, clues...Oh, and this, my "Detective Kit." In here are all sorts of cool things.

\*\*\*\*\*

**JIGSAW JONES**

I needed to let Mila know so I gave her a secret coded message after school. I used substitution code—you know—substitute a number for a letter of the alphabet, like the number one is "A," number two is "B." Mila loved coded messages.

\*\*\*\*\*

**JIGSAW**

Okay—let's start with the clues.

**MILA**

Athena's gym socks.

**JIGSAW**

Whoever did this had to be able to get into her gym bag.

**MILA**

Right.

**JIGSAW**

And where's our stuff stored?

**MILA**

The cubbies in the cloak room.

**JIGSAW**

Right.

**MILA**

But no one's allowed back there alone.

**JIGSAW**

Except the person assigned to the neatness of the cubbies.

**MILA**

That's right!

**JIGSAW**

So we need to find out who's been assigned 'cubby patrol' this week.

**MILA**

I can do that.

# PROBLEM SOLVING & DECODING

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Using the code grid above, decode these three sentences:

20-1-11-5      13-5      15-21-20      20-15  
 20-8-5      2-1-12-12-7-1-13-5

9      12-15-22-5      12-5-13-15-14-1-4-5 !

9      3-1-14      4-5-3-15-4-5  
 13-5-19-19-1-7-5-19.

## Cool Stuff Out There

### Books

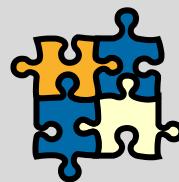
- For ages 4-8: *Encyclopedia Brown Series* by Donald J. Sobol. Published by Puffin Books.
- For ages 4-8: *Scooby Doo Mysteries* by James Gelsey. Published by Scholastic Paperbacks.
- For ages 7-10: *Jigsaw Jones Mystery Series* by James Preller. Published by Scholastic. There are almost 40 books in the series.
- For ages 7-12: *Genius Deck Series* by Chronicle Books.

### Online Spy Games

- <http://pbskids.org/historydetectives/games/eyespy/>
- <http://pbskids.org/arthur/games/effectivedetective/>
- From the FBI website, games for grades K-5 and 6-12: <http://www.fbi.gov/fun-games/kids/kids-games>

### Indoor and Outdoor Detective Games

- <http://lifestyle.howstuffworks.com/crafts/seasonal/winter/detective-activities-for-kids.htm>
- Board game: *Clue, Jr.* by Hasbro



learning  
activity

## Be a Detective

How keen a detective can you be? Here are some riddles that require you to consider your evidence before you come to your conclusion.

- A man and his son were in a car accident. The man and the boy were taken to different hospitals. When the boy went into surgery, the surgeon said, "I can't operate, for that's my son!" How is this possible?
- What sneaks through doors and windows without knocking? What heats an unlit stove? What gives the cat a snug place to rest?
- Billy turns off the light in his bedroom. The light switch is twenty feet from the bed, but he still manages to get into his bed before it is dark. How does he do it?



# BEHIND THE SCENES

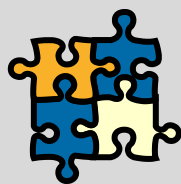
*JIGSAW JONES* is brought to you by ArtsPower National Touring Theatre, a nonprofit theatre company based in New Jersey. Why is ArtsPower called a national touring theatre?

The actors and a stage manager:

- present performances all over the United States and travel together in a large van with their luggage, sets, and sound system.
- pack the set, costumes, lights, and equipment in a van.
- take care of costumes and props.
- stay in hotels and eat all of their meals in restaurants when they travel.
- present as many as 10 performances in 10 different places in a week.

No play is complete without the audience — you! Here are directions for playing your part:

- Watch closely.
- Think about how actors change their voices, body movements, and costumes when they double, or change characters.
- Listen carefully to the dialogue, lyrics, and music.
- Laugh or applaud if you enjoy the play.
- Remember that you and the actors are in the same room.
- Talking, whispering, or making noise during the performance is impolite and makes it hard for actors to do their best.
- Help other audience members with your quiet attention.



## learning activity

### After the Performance

How well did you play your role as an audience member?

Finish this sentence:

**During the performance, I (check all that apply):**

- Watched closely
- Listened quietly and carefully
- Applauded at the right times

Other \_\_\_\_\_



### Answers to Page 8

#### **Decode These Messages**

Take me out to the ballgame.

I love lemonade!

I can decode messages.

#### **Be a Detective**

1. The surgeon is the boy's mother.
2. The sun.
3. He went to bed when it was still light out.

# Write US a Letter!

After you see *JIGSAW JONES*, please write us a letter using the form below and/or draw us a picture on the back showing your favorite part(s) of the performance. You can also visit us at [www.artspower.org](http://www.artspower.org). Click on "Contact Us." Thanks!



9 Sand Park Road  
Suite 6  
Cedar Grove, NJ 07009

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_

School City, State and Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Dear ArtsPower:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, saw *JIGSAW JONES*

at \_\_\_\_\_.

Here's what I enjoyed about the performance: \_\_\_\_\_

Here's why: \_\_\_\_\_

Here's what I would change about the performance: \_\_\_\_\_

Here's why: \_\_\_\_\_



*JIGSAW JONES*  
Study Buddy



# Performance Evaluation

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Name (optional)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your School (optional)

Grade Levels: \_\_\_\_\_

Which performance did you attend?

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jigsaw Jones  | <input type="checkbox"/> ArcAttack |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Out of Bounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Biscuit   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moon Mouse    |                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Story Pirates |                                    |

- ⇒ Was the performance appropriate for your students' grade level?     Yes     No     N/A
- ⇒ Was the post-show discussion valuable to your students?     Yes     No     N/A
- ⇒ Did this performance fit in with your curriculum?     Yes     No     N/A

⇒ How would you rate the following aspects of the performance?

(Circle a number on the scale where 1 means below average and 5 means above average.)

	BELOW AVERAGE		AVERAGE		ABOVE AVERAGE
Entertainment Quality:	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Educational Quality:	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

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

(Circle a number on the scale where 1 means not at all challenged and 5 means very challenged.)

NOT AT ALL CHALLENGED	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	VERY CHALLENGED
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⇒ How did this program compare to similar programs you've attended in the past?

(Circle a number on the scale where 1 means below average and 5 means above average.)

BELOW AVERAGE	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	ABOVE AVERAGE
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⇒ 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"/> Puppetry         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dance               | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Musical Theater     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature Based |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Musical Theater | <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"/> Radio     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Postcard                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Email                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Posters                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Parent    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enrichment/Arts Coordinator |                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                 |                                    |

⇒ Please share any additional comments here:



2016 2017 SEASON



**YES!**  
@LOH

**ARTSPOWER in**  
**JIGSAW JONES:  
THE CASE OF  
THE CLASS CLOWN**

Tuesday, October 4, 2016 // 10 am  
Recommended for grades 1 – 4

*There's a joker on the loose, so it's up to Jigsaw and friends to catch the clown in this story filled with music, charm and humor.*

**WORKING GROUP  
THEATRE in**  
**OUT OF BOUNDS**

Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2016 // 10 am  
Recommended for grades 5 and up

*A girl is caught between new and old friends in a story that explores the vicious world of cyber-bullying and the complicated politics of friendship.*

**LIGHTWIRE THEATRE in**  
**MOON MOUSE\***

Thursday, Jan. 19, 2017 // 10 am  
Recommended for K - grade 4

*The adventure of a lifetime—join Marvin on a trip to the moon on his homemade rocket in a tale that celebrates differences.*

**STORY  
PIRATES**

Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2017 // 10 am  
Recommended for grades 2 - 5

*Story Pirates celebrates the words and ideas of young people by turning kids' original stories into wild sketch comedy musicals.*

For full show descriptions please visit  
[lebanonoperahouse.org/yesloh](http://lebanonoperahouse.org/yesloh)

**ARCATTACK\***

Thursday, Apr. 27, 2017 // 10 am  
Recommended for grades 4 and up

*Students get inspired to pursue interests in physics, mathematics, chemistry and engineering with a show that's unlike any other.*

**ARTSPOWER in**  
**BISCUIT**

Thursday, May 11, 2017 // 10 am  
Recommended for Pre K - grade 3

*Biscuit is a modern classic. See the little puppy explore, make new friends, stir up mischief and learn the joy of having a family.*

School groups and children:  
\$6/orchestra  
\$4/balcony

One free chaperone ticket with 15 students

Additional chaperones at school group price

Other adults: \$10

\*This is a sensory rich show and may be overwhelming for some audiences.

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