

PRE-SHOW EDUCATION PACKET

Welcome to Theatre of Youth's 53rd season and ***DON'T LET THE PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS! THE MUSICAL!***

This packet has been designed with an educator, parent and student in mind! We want to broaden our audience's experience and help you to prepare for future visits to The Historic Allendale theatre! To the right you will find a table of contents that will help you navigate through the packet. All of our activities have been assigned a title to help you connect this experience with the NYS Next Generation Standards. Those titles are COMPREHEND, CHALLENGE, COMMUNICATE, CREATE, COMMENT and CONNECT. We hope that this will help you lead a discussion or inspire you to create your own show and book-based activities.

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Get Ready for Your Trip!

Students that attend performances with their school also have access to our playbill which includes a post-show educational guide. These activities will also be titled for educators to connect the classroom to the children's experience when they visit Theatre of Youth. Activities include vocabulary, an opportunity to be inspired artistically, or to engage in a conversation about a topic or a concern.

THE THEATRE:

The Allendale, one of Buffalo's first neighborhood theatres, was built in 1913 on the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy of Nations. It originally included gold trimmed walls, leaded glass windows and a stunning domed ceiling with dozens of modern light bulbs. At first, the popular movie house specialized in silent films and photoplays of Broadway productions, with a custom-built symphonic organ for accompaniment. The years were not kind to The Allendale Theatre. Fortunately, the Allentown Association saved it from demolition and in 1986, Theatre of Youth entered into a partnership with the City of Buffalo to raise funds and renovate the theatre for its permanent home.



Preserving the original integrity during the "make-over", the theatre is equipped with a proscenium stage, fly and wing space, a sound and lighting system, dressing rooms, rehearsal space, and seating for 469 people.

THEATRE ETIQUETTE:

Theatre etiquette is a simple set of rules to help audience members fully enjoy the show, and for actors and the backstage crew to safely perform their work for you! Here are some important elements of theatre etiquette:

- Arrive on time and get to your seat without running.
- Visit the restroom before the performance begins.
- Respect the theatre. Don't put your feet on the seats and avoid bouncing up and down.
- Turn OFF and put away phones and other electronic devices.
- Please do not talk to your neighbor during the performance.
- No foods or drinks inside the theater.
- If you like something that you see, you may clap or laugh- it shows the actors that you like what they are doing!
- Open your eyes, your hearts and your minds and enjoy the show!



THE SHOW: DON'T LET THE PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS! THE MUSICAL!

Recommended for school ages PK – 2nd

Based on the award-winning children's book, audiences can now hop on board for an unforgettable ride.

Script by Mo Willems Mr. Warburton

Lyrics by Mo Willems

Music by Deborah Wicks La Puma

Based on the book Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! by Mo Willems

Produced through special arrangements with MTI International

Production Sponsor: Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Whatever you do, don't let the Pigeon star in his own musical production! ***Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! The Musical!*** is even more fun than staying up late and having a hot dog party!

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 wild 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.

ACTIVITIES:

THE SCRIPT: Here is a sample of a scene from the *DON'T LET THE PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS!* script.

The script shows you WHO is speaking and WHAT they say!

In the book, *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!*, we primarily focus on the Pigeon's attempts to convince the reader to let him drive the bus. It's a very interactive experience.

Let's look at what this means:

- **WHO is talking:**
 - You'll see the name of the character, like **PIGEON**, before each line. This tells us who is saying the words.
- **WHAT they say:**
 - After the name, you'll see the words the character says. These are called lines.
- **ACTIONS:**
 - Sometimes, you'll see words in *slanted writing* like this: *Pigeon flaps his wings and looks hopeful*. This tells us what the character is doing. It's like a picture of their actions!
- **SONGS:**
 - If you see words in ALL CAPITAL LETTERS like this: "CAN I DRIVE THE BUS?" that might mean the pigeon is singing or saying it in a very loud way!
- **PUNCTUATIONS:**
 - **Exclamation points (!)** mean the Pigeon is saying something with excitement or yelling. Like, "Please!" or "I'll be careful!"
 - **Question marks (?)** mean the Pigeon is asking a question. Like, "Please? Just around the block?" or "CAN I DRIVE THE BUS?"

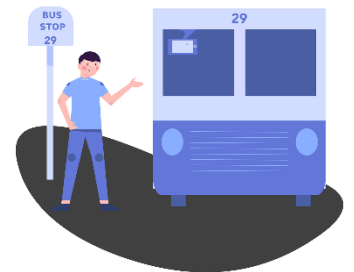
Scene: "I never Get to Do Anything (Part 1)"

THE PIGEON *disgruntled. Music up. (angry)*

PIGEON

Rats.
(frustrated sigh)
 Another day. Another day of not getting anything I want.

I NEVER GET TO DO ANYTHING! Huh!
 I BET YOU THINK I'M SET AND GET TO DO MANY THINGS.
 Pshh! Not even close!
 IF YOU'VE GOT WINGS YOUR LIFE IS STARK. YOU GET NOTHING IN THE PARK.
 It stinks!
 I NEVER GET TO DO ANYTHING!
(to audience spoken)
 Think I'm being dramatic? Watch this:
 A HOT DOG VENDOR (ACTOR 3) *enters with a box of hot dogs around his neck* HE holds one up.



HOT DOG VENDOR

(loud) Hot Dog! Hot Dog! Anybody want a Hot Dog?!

PIGEON

(raising voice excitedly) Oh! Oh! Me!

HOT DOG VENDOR

(ignoring Pigeon) Aaaaaanybody at all?

PIGEON

Hot Dog Vendor guy! *(waves wings frantically)* I want a hot dog!

HOT DOG VENDOR

You?

PIGEON

Can't you see me raising my wing?

HOT DOG VENDOR

Wing? You're a pigeon! A pigeon could never appreciate the glory of a hot dog.

PIGEON

What?!

HOT DOG VENDOR

Do you realize that a hot dog is a taste sensation?

PIGEON

So I've heard

HOT DOG VENDOR

That each morsel is a joy?

PIGEON

I love "joy"!

HOT DOG VENDOR

A celebration in a bun!

PIGEON

Hot dog party!

HOT DOG VENDOR

(suddenly eats the dog) Ammah-numb-numb! *(small burp)*

PIGEON

What just happened?

HOT DOG VENDOR

Just talking about Hot Dogs makes me hungry. How am I supposed to sell hot dogs with you around making me eat them?!

PIGEON

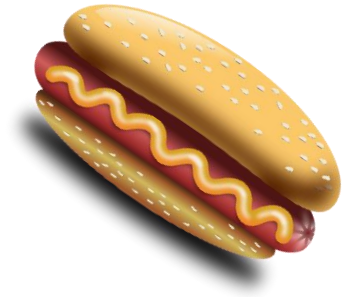
Huh?

HOT DOG VENDOR

Fly off, bird! *THE HOT DOG VENDOR storms off stage as THE PIGEON calls after him.*

PIGEON

I prefer walking!!!



Find the *Pigeon* Soundtrack here:

<https://open.spotify.com/album/1clPJYY81DiBQAPZpzkoCP>

COMMUNICATE: The Pigeon has BIG feelings which can be difficult to navigate. How do you make your friends feel better when they're upset? Finding the right thing to say or do can take practice. Let's write, discuss or act out ways we can make these characters feel better:

"Nobody is letting me drive the bus!" – The Pigeon

The Pigeon is feeling:

----- and/or -----

What should we say or do to help the Pigeon?

"I NEED to get on the bus to get to the movies on time" – The Teenager

The Teenager is feeling:

----- and/or -----

What should we say or do to help the Teenager?



"I must get to the hospital soon, my grandchild is coming" - Little Old Lady

The Little Old Lady is feeling:

----- and/or -----

What should we say or do to help the Little Old Lady?



1. Use your handprint to make the body. You can trace your hand and color it, you can trace your hand on blue paper to cut it out or you can even use paint. Remember to ask permission before using paint or scissors!
2. Using markers or construction paper, add legs, a wing and a yellow beak.
3. Last, add the famous Pigeon eye. We recommend a googly eye!



Good Luck...and whatever you do, DON'T make me look silly! Or, if you do, at least make me look FABULOUSLY SILLY!



CHALLENGE: Spot the Difference!

How many differences can you find? Circle them then count to see if you've found them all. You can even color these images when you're done with the challenge!

Original Image:





New Image:



Answer: There Are Ten Differences

COMPREHEND and CONNECT:

Look at some of the costumes you may see on TOY's stage! Our actors will be using some puppets to bring these animal characters to life. Dive in to the world of these characters by writing, drawing or acting out some of their favorite things to do or say:

 <p>The Pigeon</p>	
 <p>The Bus Driver</p>	
 <p>The Little Old Lady</p>	
 <p>The Ducklings</p>	

Costume photos from production at Marriott Theatre

DISCOVERING DIVERSITY PAGE:



Transportation Around the World

We all know the Pigeon LOVES the bus, but that doesn't stop him from learning about all the different ways people travel during their everyday lives.

"I wonder if everyone takes the bus to school?" - The Pigeon

[Excerpt] - 7 Incredible Ways Children Get to School All Around the World

By David Brand and Erica Sánchez (Global Citizen) - January 19, 2018

1/ Ziplining Over a Canyon

For families living atop an isolated mountain high above the Rio Negro River in Colombia's rainforest, steel cables provide the most efficient route to reach other communities. The zipline phenomena traces back centuries. Natives used to rely on hemp ropes to journey across the canyon.

While soaring through the air on their way to school, ziplining students can reach speeds up to 40 mph. Sounds like the foundation of a good physics lesson.



Daisy Mora attaches herself, and the sack containing her five-year-old brother, to a pulley before setting off on a breakneck 60-second journey to the other side of the canyon, and school. Photograph: Christoph Otto

2/ Scaling Treacherous Cliffs

There are no buses for school kids amid the mountains of China's Sichuan Province. There aren't even roads. Instead, students scrambled up a series of rickety wooden ladders propped against sheer cliffs. After photos of children making the perilous trip went viral last year, the Chinese government funded the construction of steel ladders secured to the mountainside.



Cliff-top village builds steel ladder for children to go to school

3/ Walking a Tightrope

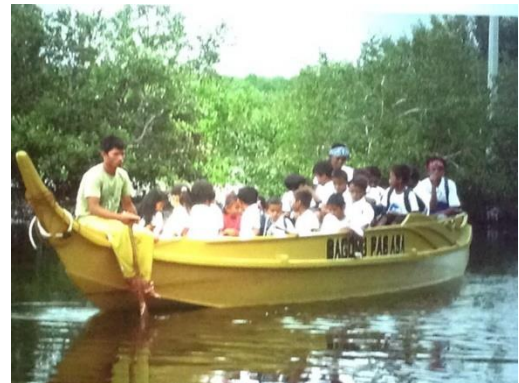
For most kids, a balancing act means managing schoolwork, completing household chores, and maintaining a social life. But in a remote community in Indonesia, kids literally performed a balancing act every time they went to and from school. The children walked on tightropes to cross a river that separated them from class after a flood washed away their village's bridge.



4/ Hopping the Ferry to First Period

In some parts of the Philippines, the school bus driver needs a boating license.

For years, children in some parts of the country had to swim to school until an NGO introduced large yellow canoes to ferry kids to school. The handy ride saves students a lot of energy — and keeps their homework from getting waterlogged.



5/ Riding the Magic School Boat

For other kids in the Philippines, a boat doesn't just serve as the way to get to school, the boat is the school.

The boat school helps reach indigenous children who live scattered among the many islands that make up the Philippines.



6/ Hitching a Ride on a Snowmobile

To get to school on Mackinac Island in Lake Huron, just south of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, children mount snowmobiles and tow their younger siblings on plastic sleds through the blistering cold.

"Generally, we don't have snow days," the school superintendent told Michigan Live. "Once you get your snowmobile stuff on, it's not going to stop you from getting to school."



7/ Journeying Along the "Frozen Highway"

If kids in northern India's Himalayan Mountain range had access to power sports vehicles, their trek would be a bit easier.

Instead, the children embark on a weeklong walk along the mountainous Chada to distant boarding schools after winter holidays end each year. The terrain and rapidly changing weather force them to scramble across ice sheets, over massive boulders, and through blizzards.

Known as the "frozen highway," the route's breathtaking beauty, challenging conditions, and unpredictability attract hordes of hardy international adventurers. But the children traveling the mountain pass don't want to test their grit and endurance; they just want to get back to school.



<https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/unreal-ways-education-kids-commute-transportation/>

ARE YOU READY TO JOIN US?

We're bursting with excitement as we eagerly await your arrival at our theater for the upcoming performance. The stage is all set to whisk you away into a world filled with laughter, emotions, and captivating moments. The talented and hardworking members of our team have poured their hearts into creating a show that will form lasting and treasured memories. All we're missing is you, our audience!

LET'S GO TO THE THEATRE!



After reading through our pre-show education packet, I'm sure you're now familiar with what you may see on stage. Now what about your field trip?

Have you ever been to the theatre before? What's it like?

The day of your trip, you will get on a big school bus and drive to Allentown in

downtown Buffalo. Upon your arrival at TOY, you will quietly enter our beautiful building, visit the restrooms as needed, then find your seats. You'll see lots of chairs, big tall ceilings and a beautiful stage.



Following your instructors, you will sit with your group and start to get excited for the show, but remember to remain seated! This will allow everyone behind you to see properly.

Do you remember some examples of Theatre Etiquette?



REMINDERS:



- After the performance, you will receive a playbill (given to your teacher) that includes our post-show educational workbook to bring back to your class.
- After each on school time performance, the cast and crew will be available for a talk back. This will give you the opportunity to ask us any questions you may have about the show, the characters, the theatre, etc.

Start to brainstorm and see you soon!

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