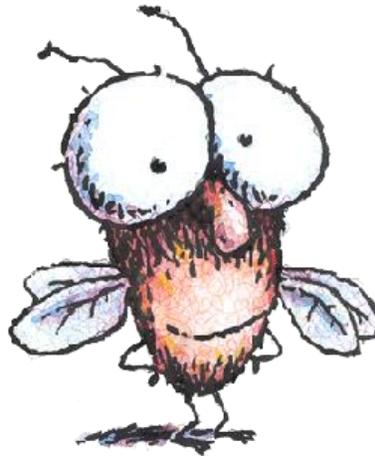


# FLY GUY & Other Story Books

## STUDY GUIDE



Dear Teacher:

We have created the following study guide to help make your students' theater experience with Theatreworks USA's production of *Fly Guy and Other Stories* 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.

This performance highlights seven favorite children's books. The format is that of a musical revue made up of vignettes created by a variety of talented writers and performed by a cast of six actors. (Note: the actors assume various roles throughout the show through quick costume and character changes—a concept which you may need to review for younger children).

Following is an alphabetical list of the books used in the performance. You may choose to read some (or all) of the books to your class before or after seeing the performance (perhaps asking students which books from the show they would like to read). Similarly, depending on the grade level of your students and the time you have available, you can utilize the activities either before seeing the show (as pre-performance preparation) or as follow-up activities.

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## **DIARY OF A WORM**

Based on the book by Doreen Cronin and Harry Bliss.

Adapted by Robert Lopez and Kristin Anderson-Lopez. The couple also won the 2014 Oscar for best achievement in music for motion pictures for their original song "Let it Go" from the Disney movie, **Frozen**.

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**Summary:** It's great to be a worm, but a wormy life also has its difficulties. Follow a worm's adventures as he writes about them all in his diary.

**Theme:** Even little creatures are important and can make big contributions.

-  Discuss the difference between fact and fiction in stories. Make a chart of what is factual in the story (worms eat garbage, dig tunnels) and what is fictional (worms go to school and dance). Add other facts students know about worms.
-  What is a diary? What kind of things would you write in a diary? Have students choose an animal and write a diary entry for that animal. Collect all the pages and make a class "Animal Diary" to display.
-  What would be good about being a worm? Bad? Chart the positives and negatives. Have students decide which animal they would be if they had the choice and why. Students can create an acrostic poem with features of their animals, i.e. BIRD: Beautiful feathers, Intelligent mind, Robin is eating, Dining on worm.

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## **FLUFFY THE CLASSROOM GUINEA PIG: (A Prize for Fluffy)**

Based on the book *Fluffy's Silly Summer* by Kate McMullan.

Adapted by Steven Lutvak and Robert L. Freedman.

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**Summary:** When Fluffy the guinea pig enters a Best Pets contest, he is worried about not having a talent until a pesky flea changes everything.

**Theme:** Everyone has hidden talents and can achieve greatness.

-  Research pets as a class project. Have students use their own pet or one they know and look up facts about them. Create a "trading card" of the pet with a picture and personal facts (i.e. name: Pepper, likes: chasing yarn, etc.) on the front side and statistics about the actual type of animal on the back (i.e. Domestic short hair cats have a life span of 18 years, etc.)
-  Make your own guinea pig. Create pigs from socks filled with pillow stuffing. Tie the end with a ribbon for a tail and draw a face on the other side with felt pieces glued on for ears. Use stuffed guinea pigs to re-enact scenes from the story or make up your own story and put on a show.
-  Vote on a class mascot. List the qualities for a good mascot and come up with animal candidates. Run a campaign with posters for the top choices. Hold an election and create a special area for the winning mascot with the poster listing the animal's attributes.

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## **HORACE & MORRIS BUT MOSTLY DOLORES**

Based on the book *Horace & Morris But Mostly Dolores* by James Howe, Illustrated by Amy Walrod  
Adapted by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul.

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**Summary:** Three mice promise to be best friends forever. But when Horace and Morris join the Mega-Mice club (for boys only!), and Dolores becomes a Cheese Puff (for girls only!), what will happen to their friendship?

**Theme:** Boys and girls can be friends together.

- ✎ Start a list titled “Good Friends”, and have the students come up with qualities they want in a good friend or behaviors that they expect in a friend. Students can trace their hands on colored paper and cut them out. On each hand they can list their most important qualities for a friend. Hang all the hands overlapping each other to form a “Rainbow of Friendship.”
  - ✎ Create a class collage of friendship using old magazines. Let children cut out picture examples of friendship behaviors. Also cut out words having to do with friendship and display in one large collage poster.
  - ✎ Divide the class into Mega-Mice (boys) and Cheese Puffs (girls) and have each group make up a cheer for their club. After each group performs their cheer, bring the class together to make a club that would include everyone and use the best parts of both cheers to make one for the new “all invited” club representing the whole class.
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## **LILLY’S BIG DAY**

Adapted from *Lilly’s Big Day*. Copyright © 2006 by Kevin Henkes.  
Used by permission of HarperCollins Publishers.  
Adapted by Kevin Del Aguila and Brad Alexander.

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**Summary:** Lilly’s teacher is getting married, and she just knows she’ll be a great flower girl, despite the fact that Mr. Slinger has already asked his niece. When she suffers a bout of stage fright, it’s up to Lilly to save the day!

**Theme:** You can make an important contribution even if you are not the center of attention.

- ✎ Color Lilly for her big day. Print out the reproducible sheet at <http://www.kevinhenkes.com/images/fun/weddingcolor.pdf>
- ✎ Plan a party with your class. What are the steps needed to organize a big event? Think of ideas for activities, decorations, food, etc. Put students into groups for different tasks. Parents can help too!
- ✎ Discuss stage fright, what does it mean? Children can give examples of times they were afraid to do something. Brainstorm ways to overcome stage fright. What made you feel better when you were afraid?

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## **THE PAPER BAG PRINCESS**

Based on the book by Robert Munsch. Used with the permission of Annick Press.  
Adapted by David Kirshenbaum.

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**Summary:** When a ferocious dragon smashes Princess Elizabeth's castle, burns all her fancy clothes, and kidnaps her beloved prince, she dons a paper bag and comes to his rescue.

**Theme:** You don't have to wait for Prince Charming to save the day; you can do anything if you believe in yourself.

-  Create characters from the story using real paper bags. Use the template from <http://www.dltk-teach.com/rhymes/princessandfrog/mprincessbag.htm> or use any lunch size bag as a puppet with the head glued onto the bottom folded part of the bag. The rest of the bag can be decorated as clothes or dragon scales. Students can choose the princess, prince or dragon as a character and work in groups to re-enact scenes from the story. Larger bags or boxes can be used to make scenery like the castle.
-  Compare/Contrast: use a Venn diagram to compare The Paper Bag Princess with Cinderella or Sleeping Beauty. What are the similarities and differences? How does the Paper Bag Princess deal with her difficulties compared to traditional Princesses? How would you deal with a dragon?
-  Introduce the idea of genres. The stories in the play come from different genres, identify them (i.e. fairy tale, diary, fantasy) Have the class come up with examples of other stories they know and identify the genre. Make up a chart listing major genres (Fantasy, Adventure, Realistic Fiction, Mystery, Fairy Tale) and categorize their favorite books. Which genre has the most books listed?

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## **FLY GUY**

Based on the book by Tedd Arnold.  
Adapted by Kevin Del Aguila and Eli Bolin

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**Summary:** Fly Guy meets his match when he finds Fly Girl. She can do anything he can do but better and he's totally smitten. Will he marry her and leave Buzz without his best friend?

**Theme:** Don't judge a book by its cover.

-  Fly Facts:
  - A fly can travel up to 13 miles from its birthplace.
  - The wings of a fly beat 20,000 times per minute
  - The normal life span of an adult fly is roughly 30 days (longer in warmer weather).
  - A fly eye has 4,000 separate lenses allowing it to see in all directions
-  See if students can find any other 'fly facts' to present in class.
-  Notice how author Tedd Arnold made loveable characters out of an unappealing subject. Have students try to make up their own characters using other insects. Ask them to draw a picture of the character as well as giving it a name, for example, Molly Mosquito or Randy the Roach. Have them present each of their characters in class. Then, challenge them to write a short story including all of the new characters.
-  Flies are included in the diet of frogs, spiders and even Venus Fly Traps, but they have to catch them first. Ask student's to pick one of the flies natural 'predators' and give a report on how the animal or plant catches its prey.
-  For lots of other 'fly' focused activities, check out AHC Arts and Crafts website at <http://www.artistshelpingchildren.org/fly-flies-crafts-ideas-activities.html>

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## ***KITTEN'S FIRST FULL MOON***

Based on the book by Kevin Henkes.

Adapted by adapted by Kate Anderson and Elyssa Samsel.

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**Summary:** What a night! The moon is full. Kitten is hungry and inquisitive and brave and fast and persistent and unlucky . . . then lucky! Follow kitten on her adventure that starts with a full moon that looks like a bowl of milk.

**Theme:** There's no place like home.

 **Facts about the Moon:**

- The moon is roughly 4 billion years old
- The surface of the moon is filled with craters, valleys and mountains.
- The moon takes a little over 27 days to orbit the earth.
- There is no oxygen on the moon which is why astronauts have to wear spacesuits when they walk on the moon.

 Have one student stand in the center of the room representing the earth. Have another student represent the moon and slowly walk around the earth. Explain to the class that this is why we often only see a part of the moon in the sky – because of where the moon is in relation to the earth.

 Kittens are part of the feline family. Have student's research felines. How many different species of felines are there? Where do they live? Have students give a report on the 'feline' of their choice.

 For other kitten-themed activities check out Danielle's place of crafts and activities at <http://www.daniellesplace.com/html/catcrafts.html>