

WALNUT STREET THEATRE

Walnut KIDS

The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley

Book by Timothy A. McDonald

Music by Jonathan Waller, David Weinstein with Stephen Gabriel

Lyrics by Timothy A. McDonald, Jonathan Waller and David Weinstein

Based on the *Flat Stanley* books by Jeff Brown, illustrations by Scott Nash

Study Guide

Play Synopsis

Stanley Lambchop is your normal, every day, run-of-the-mill kid. But one night while he's sleeping, the bulletin board on the wall above his bed comes loose and falls – right on top of Stanley! And the next morning, Stanley Lambchop wakes up *flat!* So, Stanley puts himself in a big envelope and travels the world as a human letter! In a whirlwind musical travelogue, Stanley – the ultimate exchange student – is stamped, posted and cancelled from Paris, France to Honolulu and beyond. And whether he's rapping with a Hollywood agent, thwarting a robbery at the Louvre Museum in Paris, or 'hanging ten' off the coast of Hawaii, Stanley Lambchop is closing in on his goal of doing something the world has never seen before!

Pre-Show Activities

- In the musical, an actor will portray Stanley both before and after he is flat. Actors will also portray other flat objects he meets on his adventures including pieces of paper and paintings. Have students brainstorm ways in which they think this can be represented on the stage. As they come up with ideas, remind them to think of all aspects of theatrical performance including costumes, sets, lights, vocal quality, gestures, movements, etc.
- Make a copy of Flat Stanley that you can bring with you to the theatre. Take a picture with your Flat Stanley in the theatre getting ready to watch the show.

Questions for Before the Show

- * *Have you ever read the Flat Stanley books by Jeff Brown? What happened in the story?*
- * *From the title, The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley, what do you expect to happen in the show?*
- * *Have you ever wished for something? What did you wish for? Did you get your wish? Did getting your wish turn out the way you expected?*
- * *How would you react if you woke up flat?*



Questions for After the Show

- * *Stanley slips under doorways and flies like a kite. What would you do if you were flat like him?*
- * *How was this musical version of Flat Stanley different from the book?*
- * *Stanley and the other characters often sing to express their feelings. How does music help tell the story?*
- * *Now that Stanley has returned home, what do you think his life will be like? What other adventures might Flat Stanley have?*





Classroom Activities

Characters in Action

Ask students to stand in a circle. State the name of a character and then pantomime an activity this character does.

Examples:

- Stanley goes surfing
- Mrs. Lambchop rushing Stanley to the doctor
- The thief sneaking into the museum
- Arthur uses Stanley like a kite

Ask everyone to repeat the character's name and copy the motion. Then repeat the process, letting children take turns naming a character and pantomiming an action. Once five children have had turns, ask the group to begin with the first action and repeat all five consecutively. It is okay for children to repeat characters and even to repeat actions—but encourage them to try the action in a different way. For example—the thieves could be sneaky or clumsy, Mrs. Lambchop's rushing could be calm or frantic.

♪♪ MAKING MUSIC ♪♪

The musical composer of *The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley* created music to help tell the story. Invite students to softly beat out, with their hands, different rhythms on the top of their desks – rhythms that match the feelings in the play.

Examples:

- *When Mrs. Lambchop is rushing Stanley from the doctor to the psychiatrist to the trainer—how might the rhythm sound?*
- *When Stanley is stuck in the tree, and thinking being flat might not be a good thing after all—how might the rhythm sound?*

Gather a selection of rhythm instruments: drums, xylophones, “found” instruments such as cans, aluminum plates, old ice cube trays—anything that will make sound—and repeat the rhythm using these instruments. Students can add their own voices to make other melodic sounds. Don't worry about creating a specific melody—just about the mood that your sounds create.

Where in the World is Stanley?

- 1) Make a copy of Flat Stanley (page 5) for each student to color and decorate.
- 2) Help students brainstorm "Where In The World" they can send Stanley. Consider family and friends, or even performing arts centers across the country.
- 3) Have students mail their Stanley to the locations they have identified. Make sure to include a self-addressed envelope for Stanley to return home.
- 4) Include a letter written by the students with Stanley. Here is a sample:

Dear Friend,

Thank you so much for agreeing to host my good friend, Flat Stanley, for a week! You should know that Stanley is a big fan of the arts, so a visit to a musical, concert, play, dance performance or museum are favorite activities for him. I really hope that you can take some pictures with him. Please send them to me when you return so I can see what he did. Thanks a lot!

- 5) Once your Stanley is returned, chart the locations he visited on a world map in your classroom.
- 6) Display your world-traveling Stanleys and pictures for all to see!





SCIENCE

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star



Stanley and Arthur make wishes on stars. Have you ever wondered what makes a star twinkle? On the next clear night look at a bright star.

- How many blinks does it make in 10 seconds?
- Look at the moon, an airplane or a bright planet at night. Do these objects twinkle?

A star is a point of light. It is so far away that even the largest telescope cannot show the star's disk. The atmosphere changing between the star and your eye causes starlight to twinkle.

Make these predictions about twinkling:

- a. Do stars lower in the sky or higher, twinkle more?
- b. Do stars twinkle more on a windy night, or a still night?
- c. Do stars twinkle more at sea level or on a mountain top?
- d. Do stars also change color as they twinkle?

Hint: Count star blink rates to answer the first question.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Bonjour!

When Stanley is in Paris he learns a small amount of French to fit in which helps him to catch the Sneak Thief. Teach your students the same words that Stanley learns.

English

Hello
Goodbye
Yes
Thanks
Please

French

Bonjour
Au Revoir
Oui
Merci
S'il Vous Plait



Taking It Further: Find out if any of your students know the above words in another language that they can teach their other classmates

ART

Create your masterpiece!

Stanley visits The Louvre in Paris to look at some of the famous artworks including the Mona Lisa and Napoleon. Use the websites below to get a copy of each of these paintings for your students to study. Next have your students draw, paint or color their own picture that is inspired by one of these paintings. Encourage them not to just make a reproduction, but to create their own unique piece of art.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mona_lisa
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Napoleon_I

GEOGRAPHY

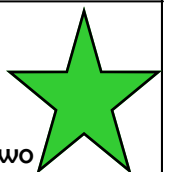
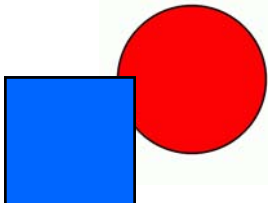
Explore the world with Stanley

Have your students pinpoint all of the places that Stanley visits during the show on a map. Discuss the similarities and differences between where you live and where Stanley visits. Depending on the grade level of your students, they can focus on a multitude of areas ranging from climate, language spoken, food, resources, etc.

MATHEMATICS

2-D vs. 3-D

Once Stanley is flattened by the bulletin board he becomes two-dimensional. Work with your students in understanding the difference between an object that is two dimensional and an object that is three dimensional. Have your students make a pie chart of the things they encounter in their everyday life dividing them into categories of two-dimensional and three-dimensional.



Did you like the show? Let us know!

Write to us at:

Walnut Street Theatre
Education Department
825 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

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WALNUT STREET THEATRE

Walnut Street Theatre has the unique distinction of being the oldest, continuously operating theatre in the English-speaking world, having served Philadelphia audiences for 200 years! It is also the Official State Theatre of Pennsylvania, and a National Historic Landmark.

Today, under the direction of Producing Artistic Director Bernard Havard, Walnut Street Theatre is in its 27th season as a self-producing, non-profit theatre. Walnut Street Theatre continues to entertain and enlighten diverse audiences with high quality theatrical programming. With more than 56,000 season ticket holders, the Walnut is also the most subscribed theatre company in the world!

The Walnut Street Theatre is celebrating 25 years of bringing high-quality professional theatre to schools across the Delaware Valley. Our multi-cultural Touring Outreach Company introduces students to the world of theatre through age-appropriate, curriculum-based pieces, that are socially relevant, entertaining, and exciting. Last season, 110,310 children and adults were impacted by the Walnut's Education Programs.

About the Playwright/Author

Timothy McDonald is the founder and Executive Director of iTheatrics. Tim was the founding director of Music Theatre International's Broadway Junior Collection® as well as creating the School Edition, KIDS Collection™ and TYA Collections of musicals with MTI.

Jeff Brown, in addition to a career as a children's book author, was also a story editor and assistant film producer in Hollywood. His books about the Lambchop family include Stanley and the Magic Lamp, Stanley's Christmas Adventure, and the Flat Stanley picture book.

Director — Jennie Eisenhower
Musical Director — Mark Yurcanon
Choreographer — Jenn Rose

Walnut Street Theatre Education Department Staff

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WEB RESOURCES

Here are some websites that provide more ideas for your classroom activities:

<http://www.flatstanley.com/>
http://edhelper.com/books/Flat_St Stanley.htm

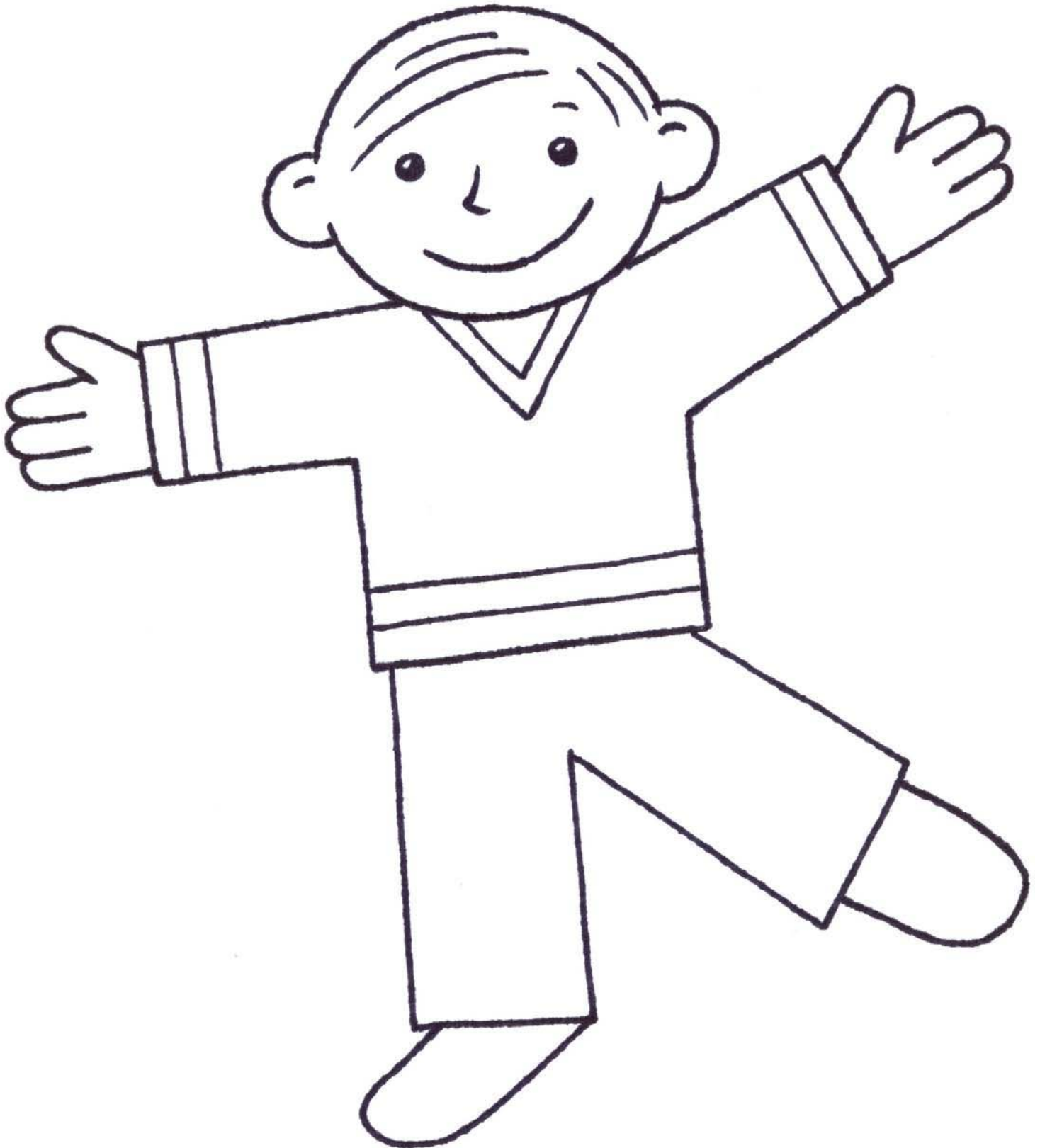
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Name: _____

Date: _____

Decorate your very own Flat Stanley and send him on an adventure!



Name: _____

Flat Stanley's Word Find



agent	archives	atlas	California	curator
disguise	Hawaii	flat	declaration	impossible
Lambchop	Lourve	Paris	museum	Mona Lisa
Stanley	surfer	travel	Washington	world