



WALNUT STREET THEATRE

Skippyjon Jones



STUDY GUIDE



SHOW SYNOPSIS

Skippyjon Jones is a little kitten with big ears and even bigger dreams! He longs to be someone different, so he transforms himself into Skippito Friskito, the greatest canine sword fighter in old Mexico. But when Skippyjon is challenged, will he be a 'fraidy-cat' or the top dog?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

BEFORE THE SHOW

- Has anyone ever been to a live musical before? How was it different from television or a movie?
- What is the difference between a play and a musical?
- Do you know any words in Spanish?
- Do you have any pets at home?
- Do you ever play pretend that you're someone else?

AFTER THE SHOW

- Did you enjoy this performance? What was your favorite part?
- Who was your favorite character? Why?
- If you could have an alter-ego like Skippyjon, what would you be? A cat, dog, superhero, celebrity?
- Has there ever been a time that you thought you couldn't do something, but you tried very hard and discovered that you could?



THEATRE 101



Ever wondered how to put on a play?

There are many different elements that go into putting a show up on its feet. Please review the following with your students:

PLAYWRIGHT The playwright writes the script.

DIRECTOR The director is in charge of orchestrating the entirety of the production. They lead the actors, designers, and production crew to put the show on its feet.

COSTUME What the actors wear during the show.

SCENERY Everything on stage (*except props*) used to represent the setting, or the place in which the story is occurring.

PROPS All physical items on stage with the exception of the scenery. This includes lamps, chairs, pens, paper, books, and more!

LIGHTS Stage lights illuminate the actors so that they look their best. The colors used, focus of the light, and amount of lighting can really set the mood and environment of a scene.

SOUND Everything that you hear during a performance that does not come from the actors.

ACTORS The actors are the people that perform the show onstage.

AUDIENCE The lucky people that get to watch the show. New to being an audience member? Follow these rules and you will be a natural!

AUDIENCE RULES

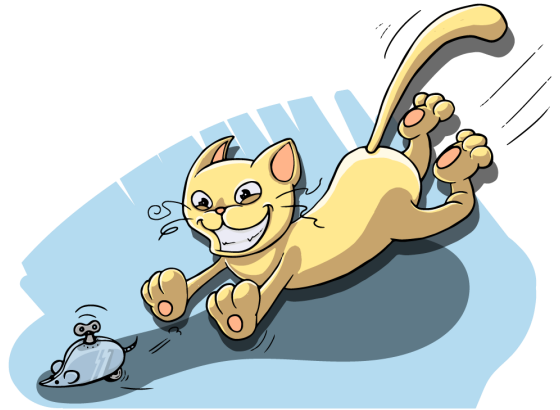


- ◆ Unlike a movie, the actors are performing in front of you. They can see everything that you do. Talking, sleeping, poking your neighbor, or making noise during the performance distracts the actors and others around you.
- ◆ Don't bring electronics to the performance. The use of cell phones, cameras, computers, tablets, and video game devices are **not allowed**.
- ◆ Use your better judgment on when to laugh, clap, and/or cry during the performance. But don't forget to clap at the end of the show!
- ◆ Stay in your seat during the performance.
- ◆ Make sure you go to the bathroom *before* the show starts.

START WITH A WARM-UP: "CAT AND MOUSE"

Get your students on their feet and moving like Skippyjon Jones with this cat-themed warm-up!

DIRECTIONS: All players arrange in pairs. One player is the cat, one player is the mouse, and all other players stay in their pairs with their arms hooked together. Cat chases mouse; when mouse is caught then mouse becomes cat and vice versa. However, the mouse can escape the cat by hooking into any pair of players. At that point the player at the other end of the pair becomes cat and the cat becomes mouse.



TRY IT YOURSELF!



DIRECTIONS:

Give students a chance to act out a scene from **SKIPPYJON JONES**. Before jumping into the performance, think about all of the elements that go into a play. Are there any props that we can use to help improve the scene? Where are the characters when this scene is taking place? What might the scenery look like?

SAMPLE SCENE

JEZEBEL: "Quiz Kitties" is still on, Mama.

JILLY BOO: "Quiz Kitties" is hi-lair-yus!

JEZEBEL: That means it's really funny.

JU-JU BEE: Mama, come sit with us.

MAMA JUNEBUG JONES: Thank you, girls.

EMCEE: And we're back. Mee! Oww! It's time for the "Quiz Kitties" lightning round. We'll start with Sir Mew Mew.. What time is it when twelve cats chase a mouse?

SIR MEW MEW: Twelve after one!

EMCEE: Right! Princess, what's a cat's favorite car!

PRINCESS: But, of course, a cat-illac!

EMCEE: Yes! Scar?

SCAR: Yeah, what?

EMCEE: What sport do cats play?

SCAR: Hair ball!

EMCEE: Meow! Sir Mew Mew, what should you say to a cat when he or she goes out?

SIR MEW MEW: Farewell and have a mice day!

EMCEE: Correct! Princess, why do people love cats?

PRINCESS: Because we're ...purr-fect!

EMCEE: Oh, yes! Scar?

SCAR: Yeah, what?

EMCEE: What do you call a cat who's careless with his trash?

SCAR: A kitty litterer!

EMCEE: Meow! It's a tie after the lightning round!

SCAR: Tie?! I don't like ties! Scar likes to win!

EMCEE: Well, but, you see, you all answered the questions so well that --

SCAR: I win or it's gonna be a cat-tastrophe!

EMCEE: Sorry that's all the time we have. This is Cat Nip saying thanks for watching.

SCAR: Scar no lose! I'm gonna take a nip out of you, Nip!

EMCEE: Okay, okay, well ... See you next time on "Quiz Kitties!"

SKIPPYJON'S SPANISH VOCABULARY

1. adios - goodbye
2. amigo - friend
3. ¡Ay, caramba! – oh my goodness!
4. bandito – bandit
5. besito - kiss
6. cabeza - head
7. comprende -understand
8. creada para buscar – born to fetch
9. el numero uno – number one
10. fiesta - party
11. frijoles - beans
12. gato - cat
13. gordo - fat
14. gracias - thank you
15. hola - hello
16. la luna – the moon
17. loco - crazy
18. muchacho - guy
19. noche - night
20. perdoname – sorry
21. perrito – small dog
22. peso - money
23. piñata – a decorated container with treats inside to be broken with a stick as a party game
24. por favor - please
25. por que - why
26. ¿que pasa? – what's up?
27. siesta – rest or nap
28. sombrero - hat
29. un tiempo de espera – time out
30. vamos / vamanos – let's go



CLASS DISCUSSION: YOUR DREAM TV SHOW

In *Skippyjon Jones*, Skippyjon's sisters love to watch Quiz Kitties! With your class, talk about their favorite TV shows!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What's your favorite TV show?
2. Why do you like that particular show?
3. If you could be on that show, what character would you be?
4. What episode of this TV show would you choose to be in?

STUDENT ACTIVITY: WHAT TRAITS DO YOU LOOK FOR IN AN AMIGO?

In *Skippyjon Jones*, Skippyjon has many amigos, like Don Diego, Tia Mia, Pintelito, and Poquutio Tito! Skippyjon's friends help him on his adventures as Skippito Friskito.

DIRECTIONS:

Instruct students to circle the qualities that they look for in their own amigos!

FUN BRAVE TRUSTWORTHY CARING
LOYAL SILLY KIND



STUDENT WORKSHEET: ALTER EGO

DIRECTIONS:

- Have students refer back to the discussion question on page 1 that asks: "If you could have an alter-ego like Skippyjon, what would you be? A cat, dog, superhero, celebrity?"
- Have students illustrate below what their alter-ego would look like!
- These illustrations can also be used as decoration around the classroom. Make sure to give your alter-ego a name!

LIKE THE SHOW? LET US KNOW!

Send letters or drawings to:

Walnut Street Theatre
ATTN: Education Department
825 Walnut St.
Philadelphia, PA 19107



MY ALTER-EGO



WALNUT STREET THEATRE

BIOGRAPHY

Walnut Street Theatre has the unique distinction of being the oldest, continuously operating theatre in the English-speaking world, having served Philadelphia audiences for over 200 years!

Today, under the direction of Producing Artistic Director Bernard Havard, Walnut Street Theatre is in its 34th season as a self-producing, non-profit theatre company. Walnut Street Theatre continues to entertain and enlighten diverse audiences with high quality theatrical programming. With more than 50,000 subscribers, the Walnut is also the most subscribed theatre company in the world!

For 15 years the Walnut has been producing shows as part of our Kid Series. The Kid Series takes well known books and brings them to life on stage for children and families. Last season, **172,000** children and adults were impacted by the Walnut's Education Programs: including our theatre school with classes for kids and adults, Camp Walnut, Our Touring Outreach Program to local schools and our artist in residency programs.

WALNUT STREET THEATRE EDUCATION STAFF

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Thomas Quinn

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Ashley Kerns

EDUCATION PROGRAMS ASSOCIATE

Patrick Shane

EDUCATION PRODUCTION ASSOCIATE

Angie Confredo

RESIDENT TEACHING ARTIST

Jasmine Hammond

EDUCATION APPRENTICE

Amanda Pasquini

ACTING APPRENTICES

Anne Bragg

Alexa Cepeda

Dana Orange

Austin Turner

WEB

• Educational Drama Activities

<http://plays.about.com/od/activities/>

• Walnut Street Theatre Touring Outreach Company

<https://walnutstreettheatre.org/education/outreach.php>

• Drama Games

<http://dramaresource.com/drama-games/>

SKIPPYJON JONES

CREATIVE TEAM

DIRECTOR.....Ashley Kerns

CHOREOGRAPHER.....Nate Golden

MUSIC DIRECTOR.....Mark Yurkanin

BOOK BY.....Linda Daugherty

MUSIC/LYRICS BY.....Nick Martin

BASED ON THE BOOK BY.....Judy Schachner

ABOUT JUDY SCHACHNER

Judy Schachner was born in Waltham, Massachusetts to father Edward, mother Mary Francis and brothers Ted and Kevin. Although a shy child, she thrived in art from a young age. After graduating from the Massachusetts College of Art in 1973, Schachner worked for a greeting card factory, designing cards with various themes. After marrying husband, Bob, and having two daughters, Schachner devoted all of her time to a portfolio of children's book art. After a few self-illustrated children's books, Schachner introduced Skippyjon Jones to the world, and has since been nominated and won several awards for her books children's books.

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