



WALNUT STREET THEATRE

Visiting Team: 77 Smedley Tornadoes: 3

MISS NELSON HAS A FIELD DAY



Book, music and lyrics by Joan Cushing

Based on the popular children's book written by Harry Allard and illustrated by James Marshall

STUDY GUIDE



SHOW SYNOPSIS

The Smedley Tornadoes are the worst football team ever! They seem hopeless... until Miss Viola Swamp, the meanest substitute teacher in the whole wide world, shows up. In this fun-filled musical adventure, she'll teach the kids that teamwork and determination is all they need to win!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

BEFORE THE SHOW

- Has anyone ever been to a live play before? How was it different from television or a movie?
- What is the difference between a play and a musical?
- Have you ever read the book *Miss Nelson has a Field Day*, or any of the other *Miss Nelson* stories? What were they about?
- Have you ever been a member of a team? If so, what kind of team?
- How did you work together with your teammates to solve problems and accomplish your goals?

AFTER THE SHOW

- Did you enjoy this performance? What was your favorite part?
- Who was your favorite character? Why?
- Why did the Smedley Tornadoes lose all of their games in the beginning? What did they do to change?
- Do you think attitude is more important than skill? Why or why not?
- What are some important qualities a team player should have?



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 place at which action 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.

TRY IT YOURSELF!

DIRECTIONS

Give students a chance to act out a scene from *Miss Nelson has a Field Day* 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

LAUREN: The stupid Tornadoes! All they do is lose! EVERY TIME! And they don't care.

KENNY: We do, too.

LAUREN: They're the worst team in the whole state.

KENNY: We are not.

LAUREN: Are too.

PATRICK: We can't help it if we lose.

DANIEL: Yeah.

LAUREN: Every game?

MISS NELSON: Does anybody have any idea why the Tornadoes keep losing?

KENNY: No.

DANIEL: It's bad luck.

LAUREN: I know why. Cause they're always giving the coach the business. And horsing around.

KENNY: It's the coach's fault.

PATRICK: Yeah, and the other teams are bigger.

LAUREN: And better!

MISS NELSON: Well, we can't do anything about bigger, but wonder what makes them better. Maybe we should investigate.

I'll tell you what. What if we thought of the Smedley Tornadoes as a pie?

DANIEL: A what?

LAUREN: A pie?

PATRICK: Is she kidding?

KENNY: What's a pie got to do with it?

MISS NELSON: That's right. A pie. Now how many players are there on a football team? Kenny?

KENNY: Eleven

MISS NELSON: Alright. Eleven players. Plus the coach. That makes...Daniel?

DANIEL: Twelve.

MISS NELSON: Twelve is right. So we have a whole pie, which represents the whole football team, and we have twelve pieces, or 12 people, who contribute to the whole. Are you with me? Alright, if a whole team is one hundred percent, and everybody works their hardest, then we have a one hundred percent team. Right?

LAUREN: Miss Nelson, Daniel's blowing spitballs!

MISS NELSON: Now, supposing there is one person on the team who doesn't work very hard. Or two, or three or four or even half? Then do we have a one hundred percent team?

ACTIVITY: HUMAN KNOT

DIRECTIONS

- The group stands in a circle and all come in close with hands stretched into middle of the circle.
- Everyone grabs two hands – not the person next them, and not both hands of the same person.
- Tell the students they must untie the knot without anyone ever letting go of their hands.
- Counsel them to go very slowly and be very gentle.
- Do it once allowing the students to talk and once in silence.



FOLLOW-UP

- After students untangle the knot for the second time in silence, discuss the differences and difficulties they faced between being able to talk and not being able to talk.
- What ways did you find to communicate once you weren't allowed to speak?
- Discuss the importance of communication in working as a team and relate it back to the Smedley Tornadoes at the beginning of the play and at the end of the play.
- walk as a starting point.



ACTIVITY: ANYTHING FABRIC

Miss Nelson uses a clever disguise to pretend to be someone else and trick the students At Horace B Smedly. What clever disguises or costumes can we create with our imagination?

DIRECTIONS

- Participants stand in a circle.
- The leader shows the fabric to the participants and asks “What could this piece of fabric be? We’re going to pass it around and each of you will show us something that it could become.”
- The leader demonstrates, turning the fabric into something (ex, a cape, a hat, etc.) and stating what it is.
- The fabric is passed from person to person, with each participant sharing an idea.
- If an idea is repeated, such as “a hat”, the Leader asks the participant to be more specific (a turban, a A variation on this game is to limit the ideas to a category such as clothing, or things that are the color of the fabric.

VARIATIONS

- Play the same, but allow the fabric to become anything, rather than just a piece of clothing for a disguise. Encourage students to use their imagination and creativity to come up with various objects the fabric can be, for example, a magic carpet or a basketball. Let them act out a scene with their newly created ob-



ACTIVITY: PEOPLE, SHELTER, STORM



1. Clear a large space for the playing area.
2. Divide the class into small groups; three players to a group.
3. Explain that within each group there will be two players who form a shelter, while the other player becomes the person living in the shelter. A shelter is formed by two players facing each other, arms extended high placing their palms flat against each other to create a “roof”. The person living in the shelter should duck underneath.
4. Explain that you are going to call out three words: “People”, “Shelter” or “Storm”.
5. When you call out “People”, the people must leave their shelters and run to a different one while the shelters stay in place.
6. Practice this a few times.
7. When you call out “Shelter”, the shelters must break apart and find a new person to build a shelter over.
8. Practice this a few times, adding in the “People” command as well.
9. Finally, when you call out “Storm”, everyone runs around for 5 seconds. At the end of 5 seconds new groups of 3 should form with 2 shelters and 1 person. During the “Storm”, shelters can become people and people can become shelters.
10. Continue playing the game, alternating between calling out “People”, “Shelter” or “Storm”.

STUDENT WORKSHEET: TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK!

DIRECTIONS

- Think about being a part of a team or group—it can be any kind of team! Whether it be a sports team, an ensemble of a play, or a group for a school project, it is important to work together as a team to reach a goal.
- Draw a picture below demonstrating what your team should look like working together to achieve a positive outcome

LIKE THE SHOW? LET US KNOW!

Send letters or drawings to:
Walnut Street Theatre
ATTN: Education Department
825 Walnut St.
Philadelphia, PA
19107



A large, empty, rounded rectangular area with a light blue border, intended for students to draw a picture demonstrating teamwork.



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 33rd 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!

Last season, 180,000 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

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
EDUCATION PROGRAMS ASSOCIATE
EDUCATION PRODUCTION ASSOCIATE
EDUCATION APPRENTICE
APPRENTICES

Thomas Quinn
Ashley Kerns
Patrick Shane
Amanda Gallup
Angie Confredo
Devon Fields
Donovan Lockett
Jared Calhoun
Kathryn Miller

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

WEB

- **Creative Drama & Theatre Education Resource Site**
<http://www.creativedrama.com/theatre.htm>
- **Walnut Street Theatre Touring Outreach Company**
<https://walnutstreettheatre.org/education/outreach.php>

MISS NELSON CREATIVE TEAM

BOOK, LYRICS, MUSIC
DIRECTOR
MUSIC DIRECTOR
LIGHTING DESIGNER
SOUND DESIGNER
COSTUME DESIGNER

Joan Cushing
Heidi Hayes
Mark Yurkanin
Dominic Chacon
Ryan Peavey

THANK YOU

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Aqua America * Cardone Family Foundation * Louis N. Cassett Foundation * Connelly Foundation * The Peter & Audrey Denton Fund * Dow Chemical Company * eBay Foundation Corporate Advised Fund at Silicon Valley Community Foundation * William Goldman Foundation * Hamilton Family Foundation * Hassel Foundation * Haverford Trust Company * Hellendall Family Foundation * Herman Goldner Company * Syde Hurdus Foundation * William Penn Foundation * Virginia and Harvey Kimmel Arts Education Fund of the Philadelphia Foundation * Lincoln Financial Group Foundation * National Corporate Theatre Fund * PECO * TD Charitable Foundation * Truist * United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey and Greater Portland * Universal Health Services * Vulcan Spring & Mfg. Co.



Walnut Street Theatre Educational Opportunities!

2015-2016
SEASON

WALNUT STREET THEATRE TOURING OUTREACH

BRING A SHOW TO YOUR SCHOOL!

Oskar and the Big Bully Battle (Bullying) Grades K-6
Only 13 (Choices) Grades 6-9
Freedom Riders (Diversity) Grades 6-9
The Berenstain Bears Hospital Friends (Family & Good Health) Grades pre K-3
The Adventures of Nick Nutrition and his Dog Fiber (Nutrition) Grades K-6

Open a dialogue with students about issues that affect them!

Call 215-574-3550, ext. 584

WALNUT STREET THEATRE FOR KIDS

BRING YOUR KIDS TO
WALNUT STREET THEATRE!

Shrek the Musical Jr. (September/October)
Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* (December)
Zombie in Love (February)
Freckle Face Strawberry the Musical (March/April)
Miss Nelson Has a Field Day (June)

Tickets just \$10-\$16

Read the books, then see the stories LIVE!

Call 215-574-3550, ext. 504



The Theatre School at WALNUT STREET THEATRE

CLASSES FOR KIDS, STUDENTS
AND ADULTS

For students from 5 to 105! Great for networking, providing a creative outlet and professional training!

Find your inner star at the Walnut!

Call 215-574-3550, ext. 510

RESIDENCY PROGRAM

LET US DESIGN A DRAMATIC
AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM
FOR YOUR SCHOOL!

We support teachers' objectives with personalized programs designed that meet your needs and budget.

Call 215-574-3550, ext. 511

WHEN WE PLAY, LEARNING HAPPENS!