



Childsplay's
360° Theatre Resources
for:

About *Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!* and Your Theatre Experience

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



WHERE EDUCATION AND IMAGINATION
TAKE FLIGHT

**Junie B. in
Jingle Bells,
Batman
Smells!**



By Allison Gregory

Adapted from the books by Barbara Park

Directed by David P. Saar

Scenic Design by Carey Wong

Costume Design by Kish Finnegan

Lighting Design by Paul Black

Sound & Original Music by Robertson Witmer

Stage Manager: Samantha Monson

The Cast

Junie B. Katie McFadzen
May. Debra K. Stevens
Mr. Scary. Dwayne Hartford
Herb/Grandpa Miller. Jon Gentry
Lucille/Elf Ellen. Kate Haas
José/Mr. Toot. Ricky Araiza
Sheldon/Phillip Johnny Bob. Michael Peck

November 25- December 23, 2012
Tempe Center for the Arts, Theatre
Recommended for AGES 5 AND UP

www.childsplayaz.org

The Story:

Welcome to the world of Junie B. Jones, first grade, and Room One! It is the week before Christmas, and Junie B. and her classmates are excited by all the hustle and bustle of the season—the holiday sing-a-long and choosing Secret Santas. After a disastrous school-wide rendition of Jingle Bells, in which she manages to work in the lyrics “Jingle Bells, Batman Smells, P.S. so does May,” Junie B. and her classmate May are told by their teacher, Mr. Scary that they must resist the temptation to call each other names and tattle on one another or face a daunting trip to the principal’s office. Junie B. recalls a prior disastrous school-wide encounter with May during the Columbus Day play and the two girls agree to a shaky truce. Later that day, the students are excited to draw the names for the Secret Santa gift exchange. Only one name is left when it is time for Junie B. to draw. She is mortified to see the name on the slip of paper---“MAY.” Junie B. plots to teach May a lesson by giving her a lump of coal in her gift bag, but when faced with the potential fallout of her actions, is able to truly feel the spirit of the season and give the gift she never thought possible.

Themes/Curricular Ties:

moral dilemma • following directions • cooperation • listening • holidays • friendship • math/money • keeping secrets • journal writing • page to stage • 6 pillars of character



About Childsplay:

Childsplay is a professional non-profit theatre company of adult actors, performing for young audiences and families.

Our Mission is to create theatre so strikingly original in form, content or both, that it instills in young people an enduring awe, love and respect for the medium, thus preserving imagination and wonder, those hallmarks of childhood that are the keys to the future.

What We Do:

In addition to our weekend public performances, we also offer three theatre experiences for our school audiences: Field Trips, School Tours and Artist in Residence Programs. Field trip performances, where students come to the theater and see a production, can be booked by contacting Beth Olson at 480-921-5757. School Tour Performances, where we come to your school or other location and perform, can be booked by contacting Jaime Fox at 480-921-5751. Artist in Residence Programs, where students do theatre activities in the classroom, can be individually designed to meet the needs of your school or can be based on one of our many existing formats (page to stage, creating original work, use of drama to teach curriculum, professional development for teachers), can be booked by contacting Korbi Adams at 480-921-5745.



Our Home:

The Sybil B. Harrington Campus of Imagination and Wonder at Mitchell Park (formerly Mitchell School) is where you'll find our administrative offices, costume shop, prop shop, rehearsal spaces, and Academy classrooms. We love to hear from our audiences. Send your letters and reviews to:

Address: 900 S. Mitchell, Tempe, AZ 85281

Phone: 480-921-5700

Email: info@childsplayaz.org **Web:** www.childsplayaz.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/childsplayaz

To help enrich and extend your theatre experience, check out the 360° Theatre Resource Center on our website!

We perform at the Tempe Center for the Arts
700 W. Rio Salado Parkway
Tempe, AZ 85281

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- Stay seated during the performance.
- Be respectful to the performers and other people in the audience by not talking during the performance. Remember, the actors can see and hear the audience just like the audience can see and hear them.
- Appropriate responses such as applause or laughter are always welcome.
- Food, candy, gum and beverages will not be allowed in the theater/during the performance.
- Use of cell phones (including text messaging), cameras or any other recording device is not allowed in the theatre/during the performance at any time.
- Following the performance (time permitting) there will be a brief question/answer session where audience members will have an opportunity to ask the actors questions about the production.



About Barbara Park:

Born April 21, 1947 in Mount Holly, NJ, Barbara Park is one of today's funniest, most popular authors. Her series of 27 Junie B. Jones books, which began with *Junie B. Jones And The Stupid Smelly Bus*, is loved by readers of all ages. Her middle-grade novels include *Skinnybones*, *The Kid in the Red Jacket*, *My Mother Got Married (And Other Disasters)*, and *Mick Harte Was Here*. She has won numerous awards, including 25 Children's Choice awards. Barbara has two grown sons, 2 grandsons and lives with her husband and dog here in Arizona.

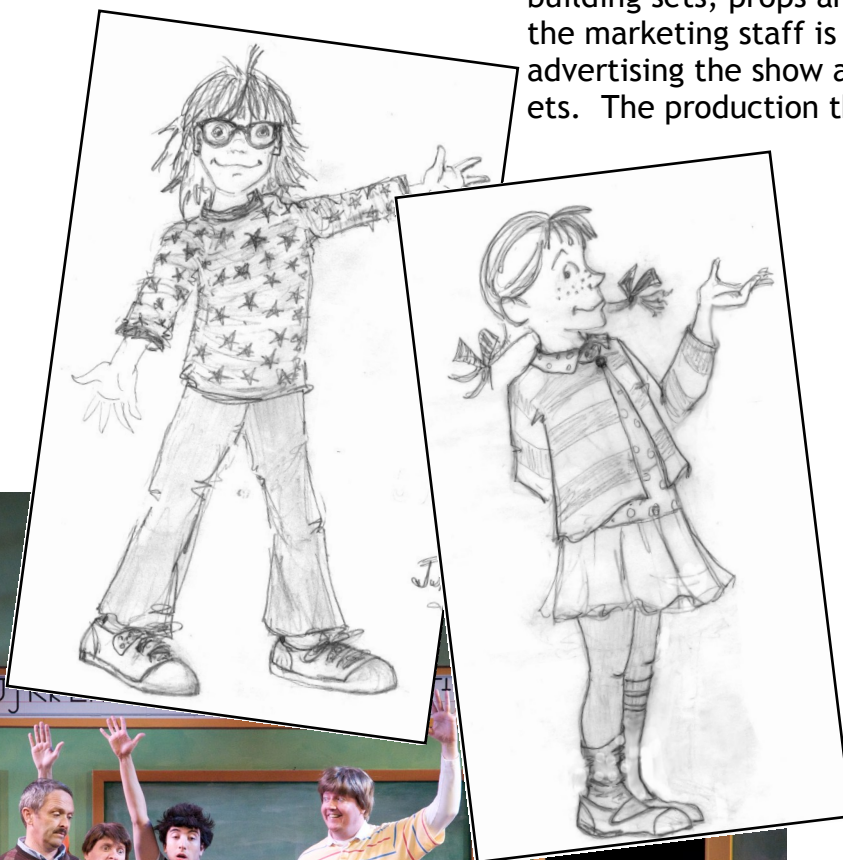
From Page to Stage:

The play is based on three Junie B. books: *Jingle Bells*, *Batman Smells! (P.S. So Does May)*, *Shipwrecked*, and *Dumb Bunny*. The playwright Allison Gregory worked very closely with Barbara Park to adapt the stories for the stage. Theatres like to produce adaptations because typically the plays are based on well-known books that will bring in audiences. But almost always, books are not intended to be turned into plays, and so translating them into

scripts can seem unnatural or awkward. The playwright must find what is theatrical about the book and concentrate on those elements in order to create a successful adaptation. The playwright should decide who the most essential characters are, what the most essential events are, how the action and settings of the story can be confined to the space of the stage, and if there is anything not in the book that should be in the play. Once the script is finished, the director, actors and designers work on bringing the story and characters to life. The actors, director and stage manager spend about 3 weeks in the rehearsal hall learning blocking (the movement of the actors), memorizing lines, and creating the physical and vocal qualities of the characters. At the same time the staffs of the scene shop, prop shop and costume shop are busy

building sets, props and costumes and the marketing staff is hard at work advertising the show and selling tickets. The production then moves into

the theater where scenery, costumes, make-up, lights and sound are added. This portion of the rehearsal process is called technical rehearsal and takes 3 or 4 days. The last addition to the process is, of course, the audience!



Final costumes for the production (front row l to r): Katie McFadzen as Junie B.; Debra K. Stevens as May; Jodie L. Weiss as Lucille. Back row: Dwayne Hartford as Mr. Scary; Tim Shawver as Herb; Israel Jiménez as José; D. Scott Withers as Sheldon



A sneak peek at Childsplay's production of:

Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!

By Allison Gregory
Adapted from the book
by Barbara Park



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The Story:

Celebrate the holidays with the irrepressible Junie B. Jones! The kids in Room One are gearing up for a celebration. But when Junie B. draws tattletale May's name for the Secret Santa giveaway she hatches a plan to leave her nemesis with a stinky old lump of coal. Based on Barbara Park's bestselling books, the hilarious Junie B. and her holiday hijinks will leave kids laughing for days.

Themes/Curricular Ties:

moral dilemma • following directions • cooperation • listening • holidays • friendship • math/money • keeping secrets • journal writing • page to stage • 6 pillars of character

Questions to ask before seeing the production:

- 1) Junie B. has a hard time following the rules. There are times that she does follow the rules even when she doesn't want to. What do you do to make yourself follow rules even when you don't want to?
- 2) Junie B.'s school has a tradition of Secret Santas. What are some other holiday traditions? What's your favorite holiday tradition and why?
- 3) Junie B.'s imagination wanders and takes her into some daydreams. Do you ever daydream? When? Where does your mind go?

Questions to ask after seeing the production:

- 1) At the end of the play, Junie B. has to make a very important choice. What does she decide and why do you think she chose to do what she did?
- 2) At the end of the play, we get the feeling that May and Junie B. might actually get along and be friends. What happened in the story to help us believe this? Do you think they'll become friends or do you think they'll fight again? Why?
- 3) What kinds of school performances have you been in? How did you feel before the performance? After?

Interesting Internet Links:

www.randomhouse.com/kids/junieB

-Junie B.'s official website

www.teachingbooks.net/content/interviews/BPark_qu.pdf

-an interview with Barbara Park

<http://journalbuddies.com>

-prompts for journal writing

Books to Check Out:

Junie B., First Grader: Shipwrecked by Barbara Park

Junie B., First Grader: Jingle Bells, Batman Smells! (P.S. So Does May) by Barbara Park

Junie B., First Grader: Dumb Bunny by Barbara Park

Christopher Columbus (Step-Into-Reading, Step 3)

by Stephen Krensky

Know and Follow Rules by Cheri J. Meiners, M.Ed.

Quick Activities Connected to Arizona Common Core Standards

5

Minute Activity

Storytelling usually happens in a linear way (in the order of events as they happen) as opposed to jumping back and forth in time. The play happens in a non-linear way.

With a partner, take turns telling a story about what happened to you yesterday but don't tell it in the linear order of events. Tell it according to the most interesting thing that happened to you, followed by the next most interesting thing, and so on.

Speaking & Listening; Gr 2-4 #4: Tell a story or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details, speaking audibly in coherent sentences.

15

Minute Activity

Divide into pairs and create a short scene where Junie B. is trying to convince Grandpa Miller to give her five dollars. What are the many ways Junie B. can talk Grandpa Miller into giving her money? Make sure your scene has dialogue as well as a beginning, middle and end. Rehearse it several times and then share with the class.

Theatre: Beginning: S1: C2: PO2, Scene Work

30

Minute Activity

Junie B. has an imaginary friend in Philip Johnny Bob. He is a stuffed elephant who lives in Junie B.'s room and gives her advice. Using colored pencils or crayons, and a large sheet of paper, create a portrait of your very own imaginary friend complete with name, age, and a description of his/her personality. What kind of advice would your imaginary friend give you? Share with the class.

Visual Art: Intermediate: S1: C4: PO201, Explain purposeful use of themes, symbols and subject matter in artwork

For more extensive resources go to www.childsplayaz.org



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Childsplay's 360° Theatre Resources: *Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!*

Booklist and Websites

2012-2013 Season

www.childsplayaz.org

*Prepared with the help of
Tim Wadham, author and
librarian

Holidays

Auntie Claus: Home for the Holidays by Elise Primavera
Book Fiesta! Celebrate Children's Day/Book Day by Pat Mora
Judy Moody and Stink: The Holly Joliday by Megan McDonald
Junie B., First Grader: Boo! And I Mean It! By Barbara Park

Moral Dilemma

Stars and Sparks on Stage by Sharon M. Draper
I Did It, I'm Sorry by Caralyn Buehner

Friendship

Abigail Iris: The One and Only by Lisa Glatt
Abigail Spells by Anna Alter
Archie and the Pirates by Marc Rosenthal
Bella and Bean by Rebecca Kai Dotlich
Best Friends and Drama Queens by Meg Cabot
Best Friends for Frances by Russell Hoban
A Birthday for Bear by Bonny Becker
Junie B., First Grader (At Last!) by Barbara Park
Junie B. Loves Handsome Warren by Barbara Park

Journal Writing

More Perfect than the Moon by Patricia MacLachlan
Junie B., First Grader: Aloha-Ha-Ha! by Barbara Park
Junie B., First Grader: Shipwrecked by Barbara Park

Math/Money

How Many? How Much? by Rosemary Wells
A Dollar for Penny by Julie Glass
The Case of the Shrunken Allowance by Joanne Rocklin
Monster Money by Grace Maccarone

Keeping Secrets

Zelda and Ivy Keeping Secrets by Laura McGee Kvasnosky

Listening

Quiet Bunny by Lisa McCue
City Lullaby by Marilyn Singer
Listen, Buddy by Helen Lester

Cooperation

No Girls Allowed (Dogs Okay) by Trudi Strain Trueit
Elvis the Squirrel by Tony Bradman
Two Heads are Better Than One by Anne Mazer

All materials are available through your local
library. Check 'em out!

Interesting Internet Links:

www.randomhouse.com/kids/junieb

-Junie B.'s official website

www.randomhouse.com/teachers/authors/results.pperl?authorid=23194

-an interview with Barbara Park

http://journalbuddies.com/c-Journaling/writing_prompts_for_kids.htm

-prompts for journal writing

www.gigglepotz.com/writingone.htm

-monthly writing calendars to encourage daily writing

www.randomhouse.com/teachers/junieb/guides/guide_jingle.html

-lesson plan and activities connected to the book *Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!* (P.S. So Does May.)





5 Minute Activities:

1) Storytelling usually happens in a linear way (in the order of events as they happen) as opposed to jumping back and forth in time. The play happens in a non-linear way. With a partner, take turns telling a story about what happened to you yesterday but don't tell it in the linear order of events. Start with the most interesting thing that happened to you, followed by the next most interesting thing, and so on.

Speaking & Listening; Gr 2-4 #4: Tell a story or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details, speaking audibly in coherent sentences.

2) Junie B. always reminds May about the "B" in her name. She also tells May that "B" stands for blabbermouth. Alone or in pairs, take 5 minutes to write down as many "B" words as you can think of.

Language; Gr 1-2 #2: Demonstrate command of the conventions of...spelling when writing.

3) The word "hate" is not allowed in Mr. Scary's classroom. Come up with a list of other words that Junie B. could use instead of "hate."

Language; Gr K-2 #4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade level reading and content.

4) Journal Entry Prompts:

•Write about a time that you had to perform in front of people. How did you feel? Did things go as rehearsed?

•Junie B.'s favorite toy is Philip Johnny Bob. Write about a favorite toy. Do you talk to your toy?

•Write about the best present you ever gave to someone. How did it make them feel? What about the best present you ever received. How did it make you feel?

Writing; Gr 2 #3: Write narratives in which they recount a...short sequence of events, include details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide a sense of closure.

15 Minute Activities:

1) Divide into pairs and create a short scene where Junie B. is trying to convince Grandpa Miller to give her five dollars. What are the many ways Junie B. can talk Grandpa Miller into giving her money? Make sure your scene has dialogue as well as a beginning, middle and end. Rehearse it several times and then share with the class.
Theatre: Beginning: S1: C2: PO2, Scene Work

2) Sometimes Junie B. has a hard time following the rules at home and in school. What are some of the rules she breaks? If Junie B. had her way, what would her rules be? Come up with a list of Junie B.'s Top Ten Rules. Decorate and post around the classroom.

Language; Gr 2-5 #3a: Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.

3) Junie B. experienced many emotions during the play (anger towards May, excitement about the Squeeze-a-Burp). How many emotions can you remember? Write them down. Actors communicate emotions using voice, body and imagination. Communicate your list of emotions by using just your face and body. Next, choose a sentence from a Junie B. book. Explore saying the sentence in different ways to communicate different emotions (say it as if you are surprised, happy, angry, etc) while also using your body and face. Take turns saying the sentence in front of the class and see if the other students can guess which emotion is being communicated.

Theatre: Beginning: S1: C2: PO101, Movement and Gesture

30 Minute Activities:

1) Junie B. has an imaginary friend in Philip Johnny Bob. He is a stuffed elephant who lives in Junie B.'s room and gives her advice. Using colored pencils or crayons, and a large sheet of paper, create a portrait of your very own imaginary friend complete with name, age, and a description of his/her personality. What kind of advice would your imaginary friend give you? Share with the class.

Visual Art: Intermediate: S1: C4: PO201, Explain purposeful use of themes, symbols and subject matter in artwork

2) Denise Brunkus does all of the illustrations for the Junie B. Jones series. An illustration is a frozen picture that communicates a moment in a story. Choose one or more characters and a moment in a scene from any of the Junie B. stories and create your own illustration of it. Post in your classroom or hallway.

Visual Art: Intermediate: S1: C4: PO101, Use subject matter in artwork

3) As a class or in teams, find a scene (or chapter) from one of the Junie B. stories that the play was based on that you can bring to life. Talk about people, place and problem, then decide who will play the characters. Next, play out the scene making sure it has a beginning, middle and end. Run through the scene a few times and then share with the class or another audience.

Theatre: Beginning: S1: C2: PO102, Sustain a scene



Questions to Ask Before Seeing the Production:

- 1) What are different ways we can communicate? Give as many examples as possible.
- 2) What do you do with your time when you can't play on the computer or watch TV?
- 3) What does imagination mean to you? When do you use your imagination?
- 4) What is the game Rock Paper Scissors? How is it sometimes used?
- 5) What does "an unlikely friendship" mean? Usually we make friends with people around our own age. Do you have a friendship with someone who is much older or younger than you? What attracts you to each other?

Questions to Ask After Seeing the Production:

- 1) Re-tell the story that you saw in the play. How were the actors able to communicate the story without using much language? Give examples from the play.
- 2) What do the characters discover about themselves and each other throughout the play? How are they different at the end of the play?
- 3) How is the game *Rock Paper Scissors* different from a video game? How is it the same?
- 4) Before Yuki arrived, Ollie was very set in his routines. What were the repeated routines that you saw in the play? What routines do you have?
- 5) What do the television and the Gameboy represent for Ollie and Yuki? What do they use them for?
- 6) Each character is costumed in a very specific way. Why do you think the colors and styles of clothing were chosen?
- 7) A live musician is used in the play. In what ways are he and his music used? What does the music communicate in the play?
- 8) Yuki and Ollie are obviously very different characters but in what ways are they similar?
- 9) In the beginning of the play, paper represents drudgery, dullness and a blank life. What does it become during the story?
- 10) The saying "opposites attract" means that very different things often complement each other. In looking at Ollie and Yuki, how is this shown to be true?
- 11) A white blank piece of paper is considered to hold a lot of potential. Why is that? What were the various things that were made from white paper during the play?



Childsplay's 360° Theatre Resources
Activity Pages for:

Today you saw a production of *Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!*, performed by Childsplay at the Tempe Center for the Arts. Here are some things to think about and some activities to do now that you've seen the show!

Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!

By Allison Gregory
Adapted from the book
by Barbara Park



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Scenic Design by **Carey Wong**

Costume Design by **Kish Finnegan**

Lighting Design by **Paul Black**

Sound & Original Music by
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Stage Manager: **Samantha Monson**

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Tell your family and/or friends about the play:

- Who were the characters? Which character was your favorite and why? What did the characters do? Was there a character that you disliked? Why? What was your favorite part of the play? Can you remember something that made you laugh out loud?
- Talk about the costumes, scenery, props, and music that were used in the production. Draw pictures to help describe the different costumes and scenery.
- Talk about the many emotions Junie B. felt in the play. How did she feel when May ripped her journal? How did she feel when May opened her Secret Santa gift? What are some other emotions she felt?

Try these activities:

*The play is based on three Junie B. books: *Jingle Bells, Batman Smells! (P.S. So Does May), Shipwrecked, and Dumb Bunny*. Read these books. Which chapters are included in the play?

*Create your own journal by using the cover design on the last page of this guide. Think of words that you could use to keep people from looking inside your journal (stop, private, do not enter, etc). Write those words in the shapes on the cover. Color the rest of it. Add a few more blank sheets of paper to the journal, then fold and staple it into a book. Write in your journal for 5 minutes a day.

*Junie B. comes up with some not so nice lyrics to "Jingle Bells" about May. How do you think May would change the words to "Jingle Bells" to be about Junie B. Write them down and share with a friend or family member.

*Junie B. tells the story and writes her journal entries from her point of view. How would May tell the stories about Junie B. from her point of view? Write a journal entry as May, writing about something that happened with Junie B.

Find these hidden words in the puzzle to the right. Words can be backwards, diagonal, across, up or down.



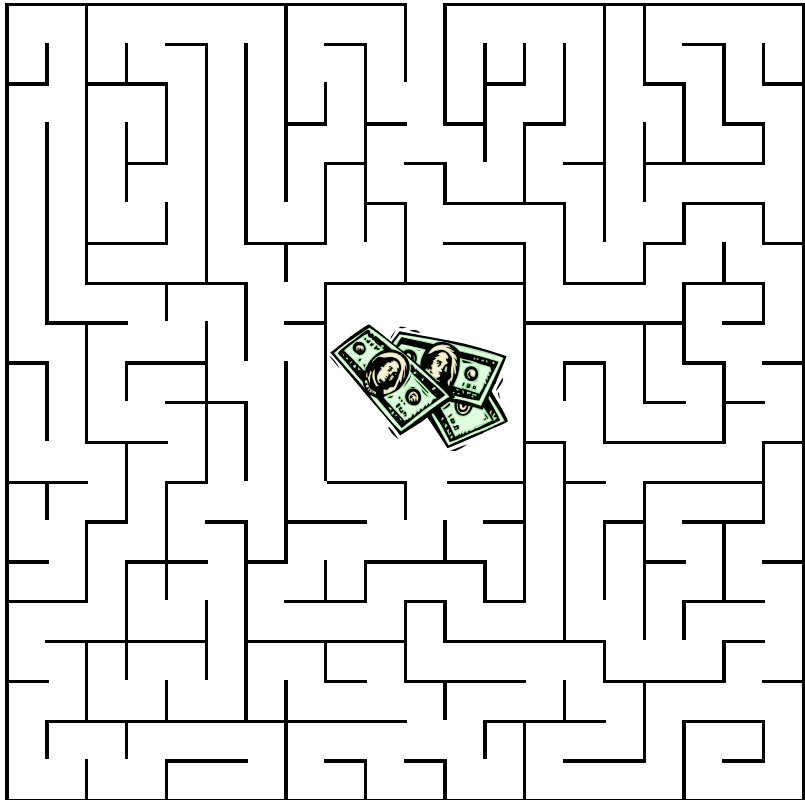
BELLS
BURP
GRANDPA
JOURNAL
TATTLE
ELF
HOLIDAY
JINGLE
MAY



May has a habit of not saying the “B” in Junie B.’s name. Junie B. reminds her that “B” stands for words like “box” and “blockhead.” How many “B” words can you think of? Write them on the lines below:

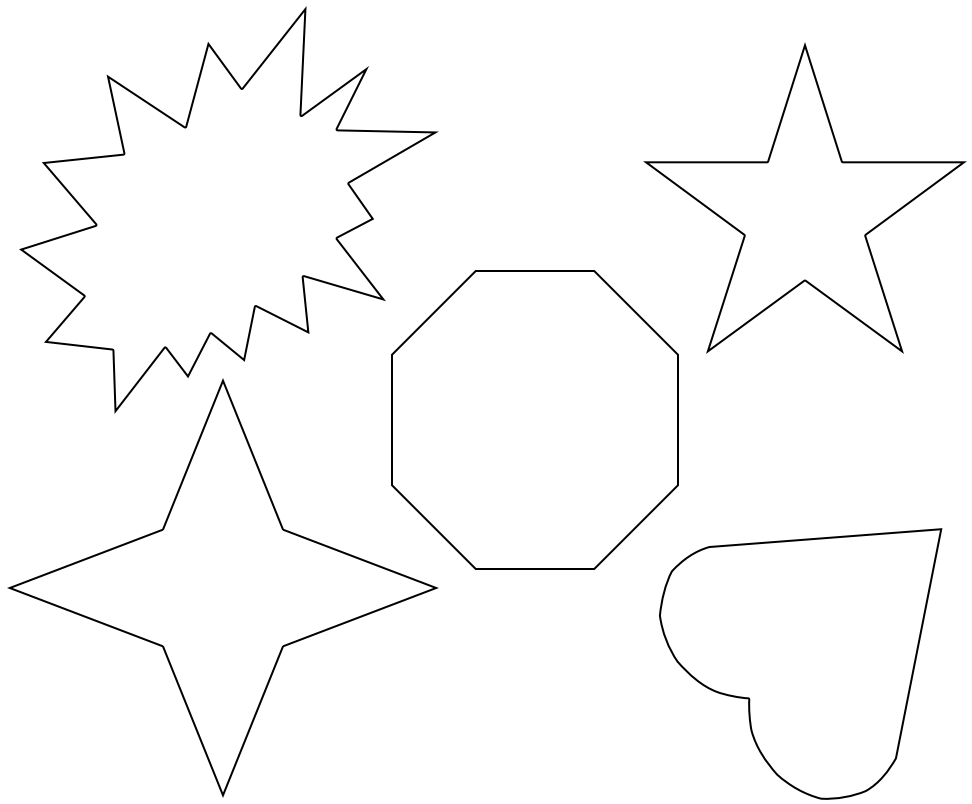
A	W	J	W	A	D	G	Y	W	L
V	P	M	I	Z	L	A	W	D	A
F	B	D	O	N	D	Z	T	L	N
Y	L	X	N	I	G	N	S	B	R
A	C	E	L	A	S	L	P	E	U
M	R	O	T	A	R	W	E	L	O
Y	H	E	N	W	V	G	I	L	J
T	A	T	T	L	E	J	K	S	A
P	A	P	R	U	B	I	M	C	N
I	R	N	O	L	U	W	W	U	C

Help Junie B. find some extra bucks for the Holiday Gift Shop!

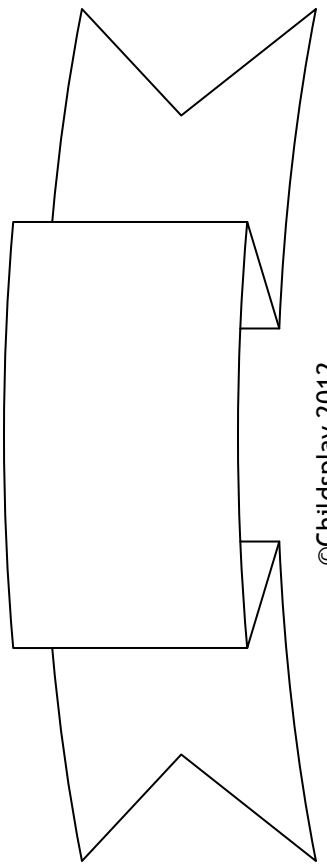
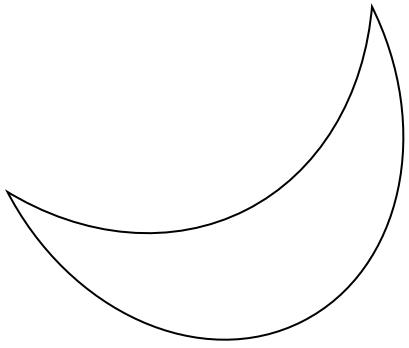
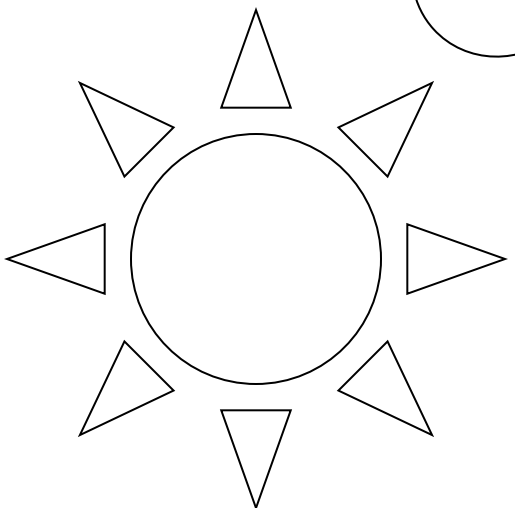
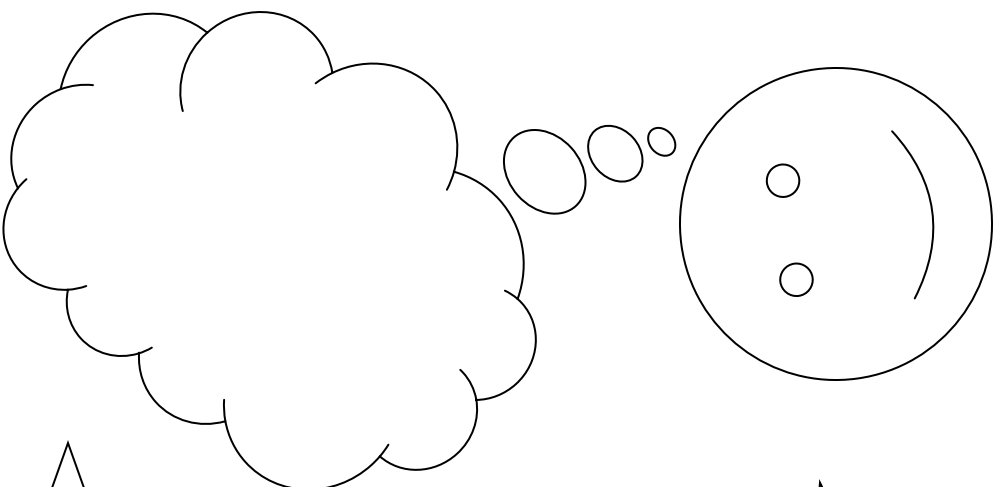


This journal belongs

to:



Fold and Staple Here





Childsplay's 360° Theatre Resources: *Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!*
Who's who and Ask An Actor
2012-2013 Season
www.childsplayaz.org



Ricky Araiza (Jose/Mr. Toot): is an Arizona based theatre artist and movement specialist. Ricky graduated from Arizona State University with a B.A. in Theatre in 2004. From there he went on to become an ensemble member of Childsplay in Tempe, AZ from 2004-2009. From there, he decided to challenge himself and enrolled in a year long study of Physical Ensemble Based Theatre at Dell'Arte International in Blue Lake, CA. In 2010, Ricky returned to Phoenix and continues to work with Childsplay as well as Phoenix Theatre, Teatro Bravo and most recently Rising Youth Theatre.

Jon Gentry (Herb/Grandpa Miller): has been a member of Childsplay's acting company since 1982. Jon spent 6 months in Europe performing *Steen Papier Schaar* with Speeltheater Holland. Childsplay shows include: *A Year with Frog and Toad*, *The Yellow Boat*, *The Color of Stars*, *Lyle the Crocodile* and *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*. Other roles: Max Bialystock in *The Producers*, Tupolski in *The Pillowman*, Roy Cohn in *Angels in America, Parts One and Two*. Also, *Blue Orange*, *Compleat Wrks of Shspr (Abridged)* and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Directing credits: *In My Grandmother's Purse*, *Stones In His Pockets*, *Belle Of Amherst*, *Rhubarb Jam*, *The Imaginators* (original production) and *Equus*. Jon was awarded a Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship by the Ten Chimneys Foundation, one of 10 actors in the United States to participate in the Inaugural Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship Program.



Kate Haas (Lucille/Elf Ellen): joined the Childsplay ensemble in 2007, playing Mother/Grandmother in *A Thousand Cranes*. She was last seen as Garland in *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse* and Mom in *With Two Wings*. Previous roles include Anne in *The Imaginators*, Isabella in *Androcles and the Lion*, Phoebe in *Miss Nelson is Missing!*, and Miss Pross in *A Tale of Two Cities*. Other Valley credits: *Love's Labour's Lost* (Southwest Shakespeare), *If You Give a Pig a Party* (Cookie Company), *reasons to be pretty* and *Learn to Be Latina* (Stray Cat Theatre), *Times Square Angel* (Nearly Naked Theatre), and *The Ash Girl* (Arizona State University). Kate studies at the Megaw Actors Studio and holds a BA in Theatre from Arizona State University.

Dwayne Hartford (Mr. Scary) first joined the company as an actor in 1990. Some of his favorite company roles are: Toad in *A Year With Frog & Toad*, Father in *The Yellow Boat*, the BFG in *The Big Friendly Giant*, the Moon in *Pero or the Mystery of the Night*, and Joseph in *Wolf Child: The Correction of Joseph*. An associate artist and playwright in residence with Childsplay, his plays *Eric and Elliot* (2005 AATE Distinguished Play Award winner), *The Imaginators*, and *A Tale of Two Cities* have been published by Dramatic Publishing. Other plays include last year's *The Color of Stars* and *Rock the Presidents*, which is currently on national tour. A regular director for Childsplay, he directed last year's *Lyle and Crocodile*, and will direct this season's *Click Clack Moo: Cows that Type* and *A Wrinkle in Time*. Originally from Maine, he received his BFA from Boston Conservatory.





Katie McFadzen (*Junie B.*) is an Associate Artist with Childsplay and has been with the company as an actor and teaching artist since 1993. Favorite roles with Childsplay include: Bird/Mouse in *A Year With Frog and Toad*, The Queen of England in *The Big Friendly Giant*, Miss Nelson/Miss Swamp in *Miss Nelson is Missing*, Mayzie in *Seussical*, Lilly in *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*, Goose in *Charlotte's Web* and Aunt Patti in *Getting Near to Baby*. Other Phoenix credits include *Speech and Debate* for Stray Cat Theatre, *Little Queen* for Teatro Bravo, *The Women* and *Something's Afoot* for Phoenix Theatre, *The Pursuit of Happiness* and *Parallel Lives: The Kathy and Mo Show* for Actors Theatre and *How the Other Half Loves* and *The Great Gatsby* for Arizona Theatre Company. Katie holds a BFA in Acting/Directing from the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater and an MFA in Theatre for Youth from ASU. In addition to acting and teaching, Katie also helps create Childsplay's 360 Resource Guides connected to the productions.

Michael Peck (*Sheldon/Phillip Johnny Bob*): Michael is excited to be working with Childsplay for the very first time. Michael is currently the Production Manager for Stray Cat Theatre in Tempe, AZ, where he has directed and acted, as well. Previously he was one of the founding members of Chyro Arts Venue in Scottsdale where he was also Technical Director and later Managing Director. He's performed on these stages and more, including Actors Theatre, Nearly Naked Theatre, On the Spot Theatre and Theater Works. He has three AriZoni nominations under his belt, including one win for best actor with On the Spot theatre in the Terry Earp original *Love Waits*. Other acting credits include *An Impending Rupture of the Belly*, *Talk Radio*, *This*, *Butterflies are Free* and *Closer*. Michael and his wife Rachel now spend much of their time chasing around their 15 month old son Corbin and fueling his imagination.



Debra K. Stevens (*May*) is an Associate Artist who has been with Childsplay since 1982, and was seen last season on the TCA stage as Mom in *Lily's Purple Plastic Purse* and Mabel in *The Color of Stars*. Other favorite roles include: Homily in *The Borrowers*, Lucy Wainwright in *Getting Near to Baby*, Mme. Defarge in *A Tale of Two Cities*, Charlotte in *Charlotte's Web*, Stacy in *Lost and Foundling*, Nurse and other roles in *Romeo and Juliet*, Annabelle in *Still Life With Iris*, Joy in *The Yellow Boat*, Helen Keller in *The Miracle Worker*, and Emily Dickinson in *The Belle of Amherst*. Other roles for theatres outside of Childsplay include Essie in *You Can't Take It With You* for Phoenix Theatre. For Actors Theatre she portrayed Arlene in *Next Fall*, Nat in *Rabbit Hole*, Sister Woman in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Maya in *The Archbishop's Ceiling*, and Karen in *Dinner with Friends*. Over the past few seasons, she directed *The Crucible* and a new adaptation of *Wiley and the Hairy Man* for Mesa Community College. She also works extensively in classrooms around the state as an Artist-in-Education. Debra received a BA in Speech and Theatre from Western Kentucky University and a Master's in Theatre from ASU.

Ask An Actor!

Just like Junie B. in the Columbus Day play, every actor has to start somewhere. We asked the cast of *Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!* to tell us about their very first performance:

Ricky Araiza (Jose/Mr. Toot):

“The earliest performance I can remember was when I played Joseph in a nativity play in kindergarten. I couldn't be the most important guy on stage, that was baby Jesus and he was played by a doll but I could be the second most important guy onstage, Joseph, husband to Mary. Plus I had a huge crush on the girl who played Mary so it made me feel like we were boyfriend/girlfriend.”



Katie McFadzen as Junie B. and Tim Shawver as Grandpa Miller

Jon Gentry (Herb/Grandpa Miller): “It was a play/musical in 9th grade in a musical called *Senor Pimpernel*—which took place in Costa Rosa. I was in the ensemble, I did my very first ‘bit’ and pratfall, so of course, I loved it.”

Kate Haas (Lucille/Elf Ellen): “My first performance was at my church when I was about 5 years old. The play was the ABC's of the Nativity Story, and I was excited because I had 2 lines! I worked so hard to memorize them that I can still recite them to this day.”

Dwayne Hartford (Mr. Scary): “My first play was *Marvin Mouse* in which I played the title character. This was in third grade. My only memory of the play is putting on the black yarn whiskers in the boys' room with my friends Mike Quimby and Timmy Mosher.”

Katie McFadzen (Junie B.): “The first play I remember was *Hansel and Gretel* when I was in third grade. I played the mother. I remember hearing the audience laugh and feeling pretty darned good about myself.”

Michael Peck (Sheldon/Phillip Johnny Bob): “My first production ever was the non-musical version of *The Secret Garden* my junior year of high school in Omaha, Nebraska. I had never even considered auditioning for anything prior to this and landed the role of Dickon Sowerby. I was super nervous and excited and exhilarated all at the same time. I remember feeling accomplished, establishing this character and relationship that would tell this great story that had once played itself out only in my head. Ultimately, that's what acting became for me - giving a story life the way my subconscious had always wanted to when I read books. Giving characters a world to run around in and become real. I've never experienced that any where else.”

Debra K. Stevens (May): “Although I remember doing many choreographed, lip-synched performances with my sister in the backyard and our classrooms (*My Fair Lady* was a hit!), I seem to remember my first full length play as being *Wilber, the Wonder Rabbit* in 4th grade. I played Wilber and my Dad built me a killer pair of rabbit ears attached to a favorite headband that got a great deal of admiration from all my classmates. We didn't spend much rehearsal time on the 2nd act, but it went really well anyway. Apparently, I USED to be able to improvise!”