

DALLAS CHILDREN'S THEATER On Tour

Astonishing kids & families with the fun of Broadway-like plays & a lot more!

BEHIND THE CURTAIN A CREATIVE & THEATRICAL RESOURCE GUIDE FOR TEACHERS



STUART LITTLE

By Joseph Robinette
Based on the Classic Book by E.B. White

As part of DCT's mission to integrate the arts into classroom academics, the ***Behind the Curtain Resource Guide*** is intended to provide helpful information for the teacher and student to use before and after attending a performance. The activities presented in this guide are suggested to stimulate lively responses and multi-sensory explorations of concepts in order to use the theatrical event as a vehicle for cross-cultural and language arts learning.

Please use our suggestions as springboards to lead your students into meaningful, dynamic learning; extending the dramatic experience of the play.

Dallas Children's Theater on Tour

BEHIND THE CURTAIN

A Creative & Theatrical Resource Guide for Teachers

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Based on the Classic Book by.....E.B. White

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DALLAS CHILDREN'S THEATER, one of the top five family theaters in the nation, serves over 250,000 young people each year through its local main-stage productions, national tour, educational programming and outreach activities. Since its opening in 1984, this award-winning theater has existed to create challenging, inspiring and entertaining theater, which communicates vital messages to our youth and promotes an early appreciation for literature and the performing arts. As the only major organization in Dallas focusing on theater for youth and families, DCT produces literary classics, original scripts, folk tales, myths, fantasies and contemporary dramas that foster multicultural understanding, confront topical issues and celebrate the human spirit.

DCT is committed to the integration of creative arts into the teaching strategies of academic core curriculum and educating through the arts. Techniques utilized by DCT artist/teachers are based upon the approach developed in *Making Sense with Five Senses*, by Paul Baker, Ph.D.

DCT founder and Executive Artistic Director, Robyn Flatt defines the artistic mission and oversees the operations of the organization, consisting of twenty-five full time staff members and more than 200 actors, designers, theater artists and educators.

BEFORE THE CURTAIN RISES...

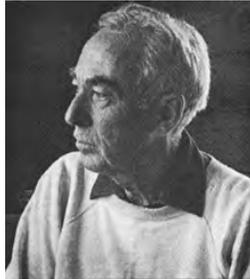
STUART LITTLE

by E.B. White

A Synopsis

Stuart Little is a little guy with a big heart (not to mention whiskers, a little pink nose and a really dapper wardrobe). He searches for a sense of belonging and a place to call home in a decidedly supersized world. When his friend Margalo leaves, Stuart embarks on a series of adventures with a variety of characters - and learns the true meaning of family, loyalty, and friendship.

ABOUT E.B. WHITE



Elwyn Brooks White was born in Mount Vernon, New York in 1899. For many years, he was contributing editor of *THE NEW YORKER* magazine. However, E. B. White is best known for his children's books. The character of Stuart Little first appeared to E. B. White in a dream in the 1920's. White wrote a few episodes about this boy who looked like a mouse and then tucked the stories away in a drawer, thinking he might someday share them with his nieces and nephews. Some twenty years later he expanded and collected the stories as *Stuart Little*, published in 1945. It was White's first children's book. His second book was *Charlotte's Web*, in 1952, which is one of the most popular children's books of all time and was named as "the best American children's book of the past two hundred years" by The Children's Literature Association. From 1933 E.B. White lived on a farm in Maine with his wife Katherine. He died in 1985.

CURTAINS UP ON RESEARCH...

Students should use the library or encyclopedia to find out which of these facts about mice are true. Cross out the sentences that are not true.

FACTS ABOUT MICE

1. Mice only have their babies in the spring.
2. Some kinds of mice live almost everywhere in the world.
3. Mice are rodents.
4. Mice are gray so their enemies cannot see them.
5. You can keep mice away by locking your doors.
6. All mice live in holes in people's houses.
7. Hawks are enemies of the mouse.
8. Mice help people.
9. If you have a mouse in your house it is a sign of good luck.
10. Cows, horses and dogs are the worst enemies of mice.
11. Sometimes meadow mice chew all the way around small trees and kill them.
12. Skunks are an enemy of the mouse.

WRITE TWO MORE FACTS THAT YOU HAVE LEARNED FROM YOUR RESEARCH.

CURTAINS UP ON MOUSE-E MATICS

This game is guaranteed to provide a fun way to practice math facts. It is helpful when the children make this game themselves

Tuck the following into a tiny box:

2 mouse sized pencils

2 dice (3 for older children)

Pieces of cheese paper (you can use sample on next page or have students draw their own.)

Rules for Mous-e-matics

1. Students take turns rolling dice.
2. Students add the numerals shown on the dice together.
3. Students use the guide below to draw the mouse part that matches the sum of the numerals in their roll on cheese paper.
4. First player to complete a mouse, wins the game.

Roll a 3..... draw eyes

Roll a 4..... draw ears

Roll a 5..... draw a tail

Roll a 6..... draw a body

Roll a 7..... draw a head

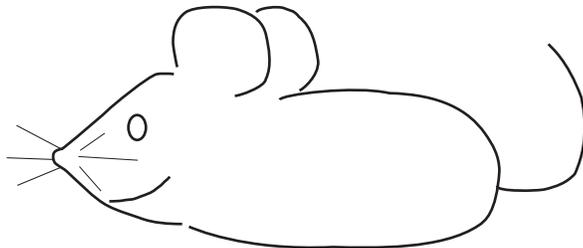
Roll an 8draw whiskers

Roll a 9..... draw a smile

Roll a 10trade mice with another player

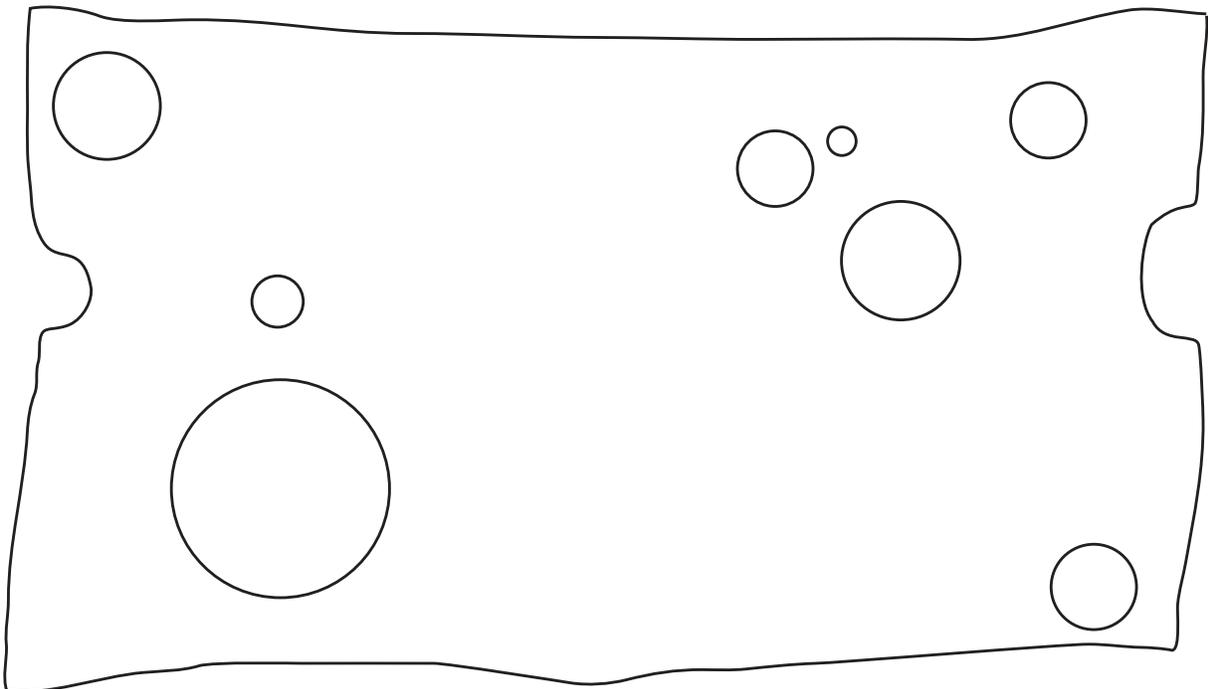
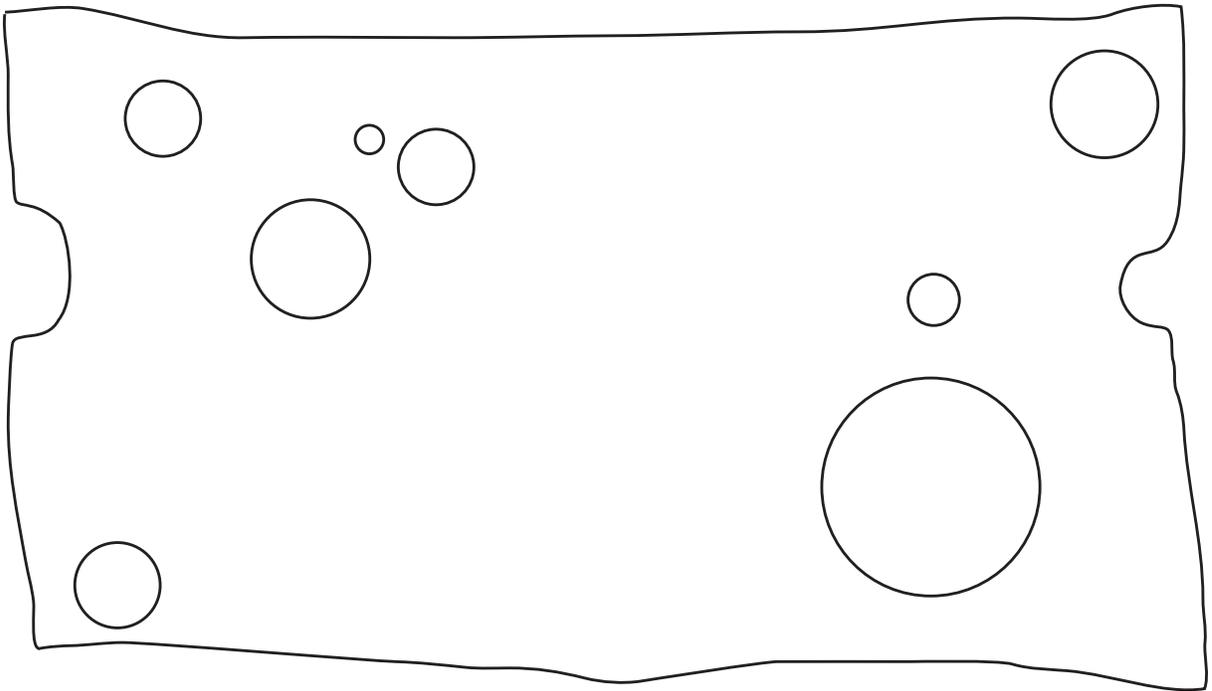
Roll an 11..... lose your turn

Roll a 12start over



MORE MOUS-E-MATICS...

Cheese Paper - cut page in half



CURTAINS UP ON FRIENDSHIP..

Stuart Little wants to be everyone's friend. He likes all kinds of people - most of whom are very different than he is. To Stuart it doesn't matter if someone is a bird or human, short or tall. He simply accepts people as they are. Think about your own friends. How are they like you? How are they different? What can you learn from friends who are different?

FRIEND	HOW LIKE ME	HOW DIFFERENT	WHAT I CAN LEARN

Stuart has a special friendship with Margalo but can't become friends with Snowbell the cat.

Describe the friendship with Margalo. What makes it so special? Why doesn't Snowbell want to be friends with Stuart?

Write or improvise a scene between Snowbell and Stuart where Stuart makes Snowbell a friend. Be clear about why Snowbell has a change of heart. Perform your scene for the class. Think about what actions and facial expressions a mouse or a cat would have. You can imitate the actors in the play or use your own interpretations.

CURTAINS UP ON HIGHER LEVEL THINKING

Stuart loved famous quotations and “words to live by”.
Explain the following quotations. Then, make up some of your own.

1 “The way may be long but even a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.”

2. “Size has nothing to do with it. It’s temperament and ability that count.”

3. “Ice cream is important. Very important.”

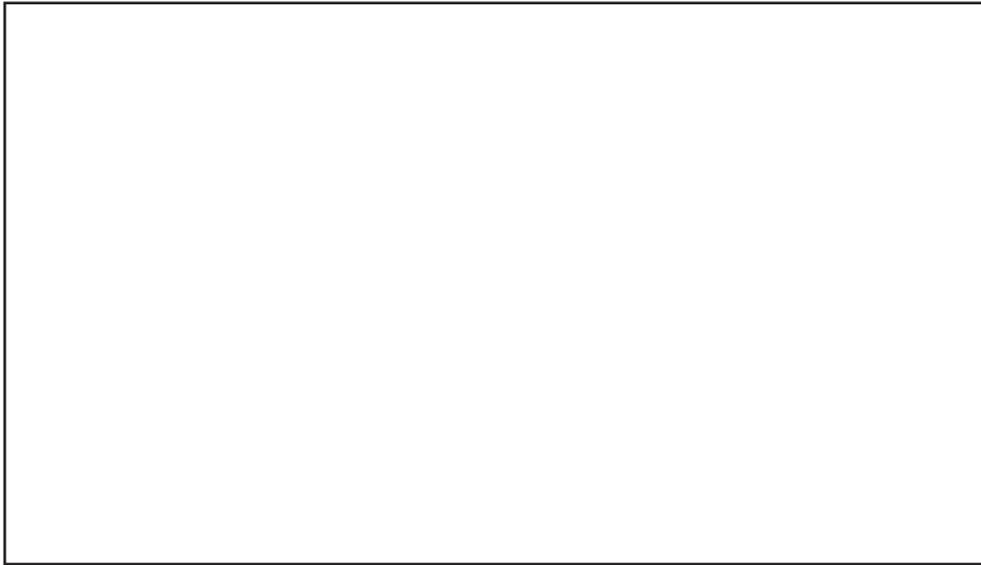
4. Never forget your summertimes, my dears.”

5. “Sleep dwell upon thine eyes, peace in thy breast.”

CURTAINS UP ON THE SEARCH...

When the play ends, Stuart is still searching for Margalo.
Do you think he ever finds her?

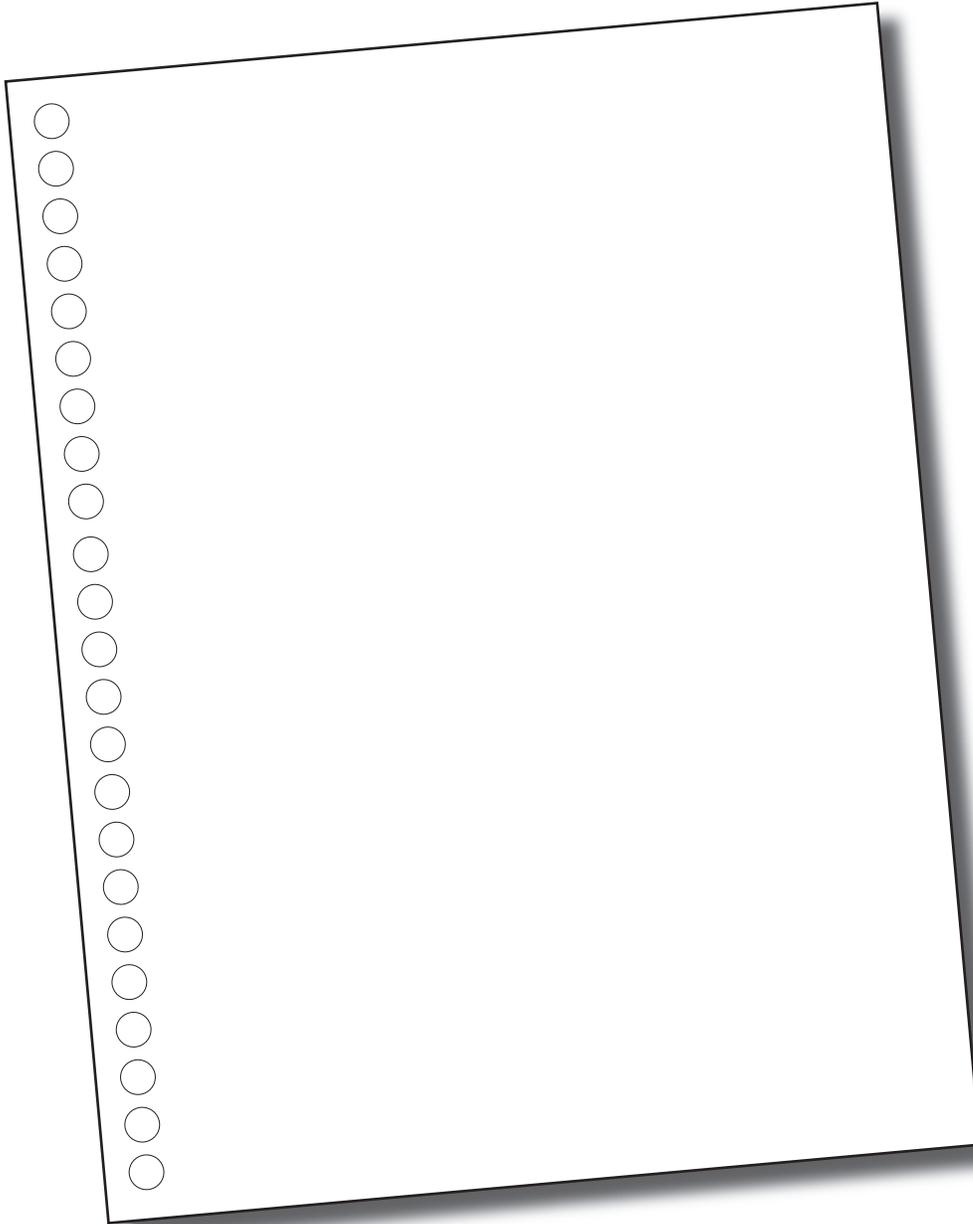
1. Pretend you are Margalo. Write Stuart a postcard telling him about your travels. Draw a picture on the front of the card and write a letter on the back. The only clue we have is that the play takes place in New York City. Make up an address.



ADDRESS

CURTAINS UP ON THE SEARCH...

2. Create a daily journal for Margalo describing the places she is visiting. Decide whether she went north or south. Describe her adventures.



3. Together, as a class, brainstorm possible endings to the play. Then have each student choose an option and write out a 1 - 2 page scene with dialogue. Be sure to include stage directions for the actors.

CURTAINS UP ON THE SEARCH...

4. Pretend that Stuart came through your town on his search for Margalo. How did he hear that she was here? How did he get here? What did he do when he arrived? How did he find her?

5. On his journey, Stuart had some amazing adventures. Put the following key words or events in chronological order. Put the letter and the keyword on the line next to the number and elaborate on Stuart's adventure on the lines below.

A. Loveliest town he had ever seen

B. School Superintendent

C. Dr. Carey

D. Telephone Repairman

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

CURTAINS UP ON MAKING A THUMBPRINT BOOK

Make a tiny thumbprint book about Stuart's adventures, following the directions below. Using a stamp pad, children create drawings of the Stuart and Margalo and any other characters they would like to include.

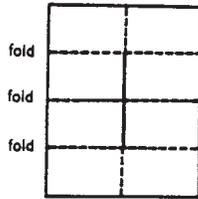


FIGURE 1

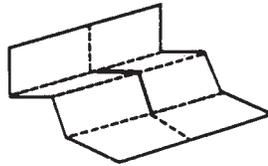


FIGURE 2

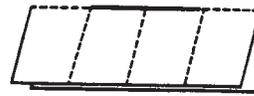


FIGURE 3



1. Cut out along the thin-line outer border to make page look like figure 1
2. Fan-fold the paper across the shorter (7.5 inch) horizontal lines. (figure 2) Open and fold along the longer (10 inch) vertical line so that the pages are facing you as you fold. (figure 3)

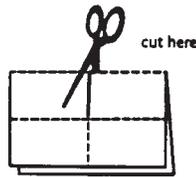


FIGURE 4



FIGURE 5



3. Open the paper and fold it in half across the middle 7.5 inch dotted line. Cut along the center dark line through both halves. (figure 4)
4. Unfold and re-fold in half horizontally across the 10 inch length. (figure 5)
5. Fold the ends in so that page 2 is back-to-back with page 3 and page 6 is back-to-back with the back cover. See figure 6 below--the view looking down from the top of a completed book. (If correctly assembled, the front cover and back cover will be side-by-side facing the back when the book is standing.) CLOSE THE PAGES TO FORM A BOOK!

