PERFORMANCE DATES & TIMES

SCHOOL PERFORMANCES:
• September 10 - October 5

PUBLIC PERFORMANCES
• September 14, 21, & 28 at 10am & 12pm

TOUR:
• October 7 - November 22
This classroom guide for The City Mouse & The Country Mouse is designed for Alabama students ranging from grades K-12. It offers activities to help you integrate classroom activities into English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Music, and Theatre curricula.

All activities in this guide are linked to the Alabama State Department of Education content standards.

https://www.alsde.edu/sec/sct/Pages/cos-all.aspx?navtext=Standards/COS
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Greetings!

We are excited for you and your students to attend The City Mouse and The Country Mouse written by Jean Pierce, with music by Jay Tumminello & Barry Austin at the Birmingham Children’s Theatre. We invite you to use this packet in your classroom to prepare for and reflect on your upcoming visit.

This packet is designed to assist you in introducing the play’s plot, characters, settings, language, and themes to your students. We encourage you to use these activities prior to the show to guide your students to a better understanding and enjoyment of what they will see at the theatre, and also after you visit to reinforce the show’s themes and tie them into the STEM curriculum.

Thank you for helping to extend the learning process beyond theatre walls and for instilling an appreciation of the arts in the lives of Birmingham children.

See you at the theatre!

Birmingham Children’s Theatre
Dear Audience Members,

Birmingham Children’s Theatre is excited to welcome you as a member of our audience! Theatre is a world of imagination and fun, where the impossible comes to life. The audience is an extremely important part of our storytelling, so before you attend a performance we want to share a few theatre etiquette guidelines with you.

Do:
• Feel free to laugh, gasp, and applaud!
• Participate when asked
• Arrive on time (30 min early is a good goal)
• Turn off and put away ALL electronics
• Sit in your assigned seating (an usher will help you)

Don’t:
• Talk, wave, or shout during the performance
• Eat or drink

Thank you for playing your part! We are excited to share our production with you!

Birmingham Children’s Theatre
Country Mouse invites her friend, City Mouse, to visit but plans change when City Mouse expounds on the adventures and luxuries of city living. Will Country Mouse be tempted by the excitement of the broader world? Or will the comforts of a small town prevail? Aesop’s traditional story of two mice from two different worlds comes to stage in this much beloved classic.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE:
1. The City Mouse and The Country Mouse is a stage play. What is a stage play?
   • How is a play similar to a TV show or movie?
   • How is it different?

2. Who Performs the parts (roles) in a play?
   • What kinds of skills do you think performers need to have to perform in plays?
   • Who else works on plays?
     (Remember: you may not see them on stage!)

DURING THE PERFORMANCE:
1. When you watch a play, you are a member of the audience. What kinds of things should you do as an audience member?
   Examples:
   • Pay attention
   • Laugh when something funny happens
   • Clap if you enjoy something

2. What kinds of things should you not do as an audience member?
   Examples:
   • Talk to your neighbor
   • Use a cellphone during the performance
   • Yell at the actors (unless they ask you to!)
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS CONT.

AFTER THE PERFORMANCE:
1. What did you think of the play?
   • If you’d read The City Mouse and The Country Mouse beforehand, how was the book similar to the play?
   • How was it different?

2. Describe the performers in the play.
   • What did they do to make their characters special (different from other characters)?
   • How did they use their bodies to play their characters (using voice, movement, etc.)?
   • Did you see anyone else who worked on the play besides the performers on stage?

3. Describe the characters’ costumes.
   • What did each character’s costume tell you about that character?
   • Did any of the performers change costumes?
   • If so, why do you think they needed to change costumes?

4. Describe the set of the play.
   • Did it have a lot of locations?
   • Did it look like a place you’ve been before?
   • How did different lighting change how the set looked for different scenes?

5. Did the play have music in it?
   • If so, was it only in the background, or did it help tell the story?
   • What instruments did you hear in the music?

6. If you were going to direct The City Mouse and The Country Mouse, how would your production be different than the play you saw by BCT?
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

BCT MUST READS

AESOP’S FABLES

- City Mouse-Country Mouse and Two More Mouse Tales from Aesop’s Fables written and illustrated by Brad Sneed
- The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse by Helen Ward
- The Lion & the Mouse by Jerry Pinkney author and illustrator Aesop’s Fables illustrated by Ayano Imai
- Aesop’s Fables written and illustrated by Brad Sneed
- The Classic Treasury of Aesop’s Fables illustrated by Don Daily
- Aesop’s Fables: 11 Leveled Stories to Read Together for Gaining Fluency and Comprehension by Kathryn Wheeler & Debra Olson Pressnall
- Literature Pockets: Aesop’s Fables, Grades 2-3

OTHER BOOKS

- Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold
- Just So Stories by Rudyard Kipling
- Journey by Aaron Becker
- Curious George by H. A. Rey
- What Do You Do With an Idea? by Kobi Yamada
- Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak
- The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend by Dan Santat
- Be Kind by Pat Zietlow Miller, illustrated by Jen Hill
- American Tall Tales by Mary Pope Osborne, illustrated by Michael McCurdy
- The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales by Jon Scieszka
BCT MUST READS CONT.
Read them as a class or let students choose two or more to read. Then use these questions for discussion or book reports:

THEME:
How did the different themes show in each book? Explain.

SETTING:
Describe the settings of each book.
• What details can you remember?
• Were the settings similar to a place you know or a place you’ve visited?
• How were the settings similar to each other? How were they different?

CHARACTERS:
1. Who were the main characters of each book?
2. Did any characters show up in more than one book?
3. Were the characters of one book similar another book’s characters in any other ways?
4. How were the characters related to the theme? Explain.

PLOT:
1. What did the main characters of the books want most?
2. Did anyone or anything stand between the main characters and their goals?
3. Did the main characters get what they wanted? How?
4. How were the plots of the books similar? How were they different?
Read the descriptions below, then categorize each picture into the proper category of the venn diagram. Remember, some items will be common to two or more categories. On the back, write a description of the play setting. Explain whether it is rural, urban, or suburban.

**Rural:** The homes in rural communities are separated by farms, woodlands, and meadows. People living in rural communities usually have to drive into a suburban community to do their shopping at stores. Rural communities are very quiet places.

**Urban:** Urban communities include cities. They have more apartment buildings than houses, many office buildings, skyscrapers, stores, and lots of people. They also have cars, subways, buses and other forms of public transportation. Urban communities are very busy places.

**Suburban:** Suburban communities are usually located near urban communities or cities. They are towns where people live in homes or apartment buildings. There are stores in these com-
GEOGRAPHY

USING MAPS

In the play, The City Mouse and The Country Mouse, each character learns that they love the place they call home. Use the population map below to discuss and answer the following questions:

1. Can you find large cities like New York, Miami, Chicago, and Los Angeles on this map? How about large Canadian cities such as Montreal and Toronto?
2. What part of the United States seems to have the most population density - the NE, NW, SE, or SW? 3. Look at the definitions below. Which state is more densely populated, New York or Utah?
4. Explain why you think Alaska and Canada are sparsely populated.


Geography Terms:

map: a drawing or picture showing selected features of an area, usually drawn to scale

population: the number of people living in a country or region

population density: the number of people living per unit of an area (for example, in each square mile)
COLOR THIS PICTURE!
Costume design for Monty, the Town Mouse, by designer Guy Clark.
Complete each sentence with the word that rhymes with the underlined word:

- boot
- twin
- mouse
- barn
- kitty
- bean
- doors
- mice
- song
- food

1. Monty is a _________________ that lives in a town house.
2. Granny sits in her chair in the _________________ while knitting with yarn.
3. Silver is the mouse _________________ who gets hit on the chin with the match.
4. In the city, the house has lots of _________________ and also polished floors.
5. Before William can eat his _________________, he has to make sure his paws and ears are clean.
6. When all the mice are eating the fancy ________, they are all in a excited mood.
7. William is chased by a big _________________ when he is roaming the house in the city.
8. William sings a happy _________________ to help him feel better and strong.
9. William can hide in his home that is an old _________________ when he hears the scary sound of the owl’s hoot.
10. Snowy and Silver are two _________________; one is mean and the other is nice.
We Educate, Enrich and Entertain the lives of children through the magic of professional theatre. Please use this guide as a reflection to the performance you have seen and send back to BCT so we can make your next experience magical!

Dear (who was your favorite character?) ____________________,

I am (how old are you?)_______ and I am in the _____ grade at (what school do you attend?)______________. I saw your performance of __________________________ on _____(date) _____________(month) ______(year)!

I thought the play was (how did the play make you feel and why?) ______________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________. My favorite part of the play was ( what was something that was real to you?) _________________________________.

I really liked the character because (what made you like them?) ______________

__________________________. The set looked like (what did you see?) _____________

_________________________. The music sounded like (what did you hear?) _____________

_________________________. Something else I loved about the play was ____

______________________________. I would really love to see (what is a play that you think is fun?) ____________________________ performed next at Birmingham Children’s Theatre.

Love,

____________________________________(what is your name?)
THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!
QUESTIONS? CONTACT JESSIE KISOR AT
jessie@bct123.org

THE CITY MOUSE & THE COUNTRY MOUSE

written by JEAN PIERCE

music by JAY TUMMINELLO & BARRY AUSTIN