

A SICK DAY FOR AMOS MCGEE

ON-THE-BUS GUIDE

A REMINDER FOR STUDENTS ABOUT THEATER ETIQUETTE

- LISTEN, EXPERIENCE, IMAGINE, DISCOVER, LEARN!
- GIVE YOUR ENERGY AND ATTENTION TO THE PERFORMERS.
- PLEASE DO NOT EAT OR DRINK IN THE THEATER.
- TALK ONLY BEFORE AND AFTER THE PERFORMANCE.
- TURN OFF WIRELESS DEVICES.
- NO PHOTOS, VIDEOS, TEXTING, OR LISTENING TO MUSIC.

*These are guidelines... We understand that some students may need to experience the performance in their own way, and we are here to support all students and their unique needs.

ANIMAL COSTUMES

In *A Sick Day for Amos McGee*, you see actors playing the part of an animal. If you got to pick an animal to play in a show, what animal would you pick? Let's create your animal costume!

- For the exercise, the teacher can have students draw an image of their animal costume, make a collage, or create a 3D costume using various recycled materials.
- When the costume design is complete, share them! Why did you choose this animal? What choices did you make for the costume design that clue us in to which animal you picked?

ACTS OF KINDNESS

A Sick Day for Amos McGee is about kindness. Amos and his friends find many different ways to show kindness to each other. What are ways you can show kindness to your friends? To your classmates? To your family? To new people you meet?

- Brainstorm different acts of kindness that you could do at school, home, for friends, family, fellow students, etc.
- Each morning, pick an act of kindness that students will take on for the day in school and at home.
- Have students share throughout the day what they're experiencing by acting kind. What difference does it make for other people when you're kind?

THE STORY

Based on the 2011 Caldecott Medal Winner by Philip and Erin Stead, this rousing new musical tells the story of Amos McGee, a kindly and conscientious zookeeper. Day after day, Amos demonstrates the perfect way to bond with each of his friends: running races with the tortoise; spending quiet time with the timid penguin; and always being there with a handkerchief for the sniffing elephant. One day, when Amos feels under the weather and must remain home in his bed, the animals decide together how to return Amos' favors of kindness and compassion.

The story is originally a children's picture book written by Philip C. Stead and illustrated by Erin E. Stead. In addition to the 2011 Caldecott Medal, Erin Stead won the Best Illustrated Children's Books of 2010 award from the New York Times. The story shares a loving relationship between friends full of kindness and thoughtfulness.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

PRE-SHOW QUESTIONS

- Amos loves his animal friends, and he pays close attention to what his friends need. What does it take to be a good friend? Do you know what your friends need? How could you find out? What are different ways you can show kindness to your friends?
- The animals at the zoo know Amos as punctual and reliable. What does it mean to be reliable? Does being reliable make a difference for other people? How? What are ways you could practice being reliable?
- You'll see actors playing the part of different animals in the show including a Tortoise, Elephant, Penguin, Rhinoceros, and Owl. What are things you know about these animals? What do you think the actors will do to show they're being an animal instead of a human?

POST-SHOW QUESTIONS

- How was the play different from the book? How was it the same?
- What things helped to tell the story on stage?
- What happened in the story that was surprising? Exciting? Funny? Scary?
- Did you have to use your imagination when you watched this play? Explain.