

A SICK DAY FOR AMOS MCGEE

PARENT/CAREGIVER GUIDE

APRIL 15, 2019

Use this guide to jump-start a conversation with your child about the performance they saw recently – not only will you get to learn about what your child experienced, but it will also help them to process and reflect upon the onstage material.



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.
- Select favorite acts of kindness and make a list. Make this list accessible so it can be viewed regularly.
- Each morning, pick an act of kindness to take on for the day in school and at home.
- Share with one another what you're experiencing by acting kind. What difference does it make for other people when you're kind?

ANIMAL COSTUME DESIGN

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!

- Have kids 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?

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 sniffling 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 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

- What was the performance about?
- What did the performance make you think about? (Did it spark any new thoughts or give you any new understanding?)
- How did you connect ideas in the performance to ideas or realities in your own life? In the rest of the world?
- Can you remember something about the performance that you particularly liked or disliked? If so, what was it and why did it stand out to you?
- Did you have a favorite moment in the performance? Tell me about it.
- 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?