



center dance ensemble

CENTER DANCE ENSEMBLE
presents

POETRY
'N
MOTION

STUDY GUIDE K-3

Dear Educators,

Center Dance Ensemble is extremely excited to bring our outreach program “Poetry ’n Motion” into your school. We are well aware of the lack of time teachers have for “extra activities,” but hope this brief study guide will aid you and your students in getting the most out of our show.

I have included the poems we were inspired by, and chose to use. I encourage you to review the packet and share with your students as much as you feel is appropriate. This program has a “mini ballet” that is based on the Dr. Seuss book “Sneetches.” If you have time for nothing else, reading or having your students read this book should help them follow the story line of the ballet. Also it may encourage post performance discussion questions comparing the two. The final page of this Study Guide is an Evaluation Form we’d like you to complete and return to us.

If your school does not have a copy of the “Sneetches” please let me know and Center Dance Ensemble will make one available to you. Hope you are having a wonderful school year thus far, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Sally Hogan
Educational Outreach Director
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Poetry ’n Motion Founding Sponsors



Performance Support from



BOBBY DARIN (1936-1976)

“If you don’t try, if you don’t do something for yourself, you won’t get anywhere.”

“Splish Splash I Was Taking A Bath”

**Splish splash, I was takin' a bath
Long about a Saturday night
A rub-a-dub, just relaxin' in the tub
Thinkin' everything was alright
Well, I stepped out the tub, put my feet on the floor
I wrapped the towel around me and I
Opened the door, and then I
Splish, splash... I jumped back in the bath.
Well how was I to know there was a party going on?**

**They was a-splishin' and a'splashin'
Reelin' with the feelin', movin' and a'groovin'
Rockin' and a'rollin', yeah**

**Bing bang, I saw the whole gang
Dancin' on my living room rug, yeah!
Flip flop, they was doin' the bop
All the teens had the dancin' bug
But there was lollipop with a Peggy Sue
Good Golly, Miss Molly was-a even there, too!
A- well-a, splish splash, I forgot about the bath
I went and put my dancin' shoes on, yeah...**

**I was a rollin' and a strollin', reelin' with the feelin',
Moving and a groovin', splishin' and a splashin', yeah!**

**Yes, I was a-splishin' and a splashin'...
I was a-rollin' and a-strollin'...**

**Yeah, I was a-movin' and a-groovin'
We was a-reelin' with the feelin'
We was a-rollin' and a-strollin'
Movin' with the groovin' splish splash, yeah!**

MARY O'NEILL (1950-present)

“For colors dance and colors sing, and colors laugh, and colors cry...”

from “Hailstones and Halibut Bones”

Like acrobats on a high trapeze
The colors pose and bend their knees
Twist and turn and leap and bend
Into shapes and feelings without end

SHEL SILVERSTEIN (1930-1999)

“I will not play tug o’ war. I’d rather play hug o’ war.”

“Why Is It?”

Why is it some mornings
Your clothes just don’t fit?
Your pants are too short
To bend over or sit,
Your sleeves are too long
And your hat is too tight
Why is it some mornings
You’re clothes don’t feel right?

JACK PRELUTSKY (1940-present)

“We all need ways to express ourselves and poetry is one of mine.”

“Somersaults”

It’s fun turning somersaults
and bouncing on my bed,
I walk on my hands
And I stand on my head.

**I swing like a monkey
and I tumble and I shake,
I stretch and I bend,
But I never break.**

**I wiggle like a worm
and I wriggle like an eel,
I hop like a rabbit
and I flop like a seal.**

KALLI DAKOS (1950-present)

**“When you operate from within the spirit of childhood,
we have the greatest power as educators.”**

***“Why We’re Sitting At Our Desks Wearing Raincoats
and Holding Umbrellas”***

**Drip Drop, Drip Drop
In the middle of the week
Drip Drop, Drip Drop
The roof begins to leak.**

MATTIE J.T. STEPANEK (1990-2004)

“Think gently, speak gently, live gently.”

“Grasp of Truth”

**If you have enough breathe to complain about anything,
You have more than enough reason to give thanks!**

PAUL CURTIS (1952-present)

“Never say something bad about someone you know,
especially when you’re around a bunch of strangers.”

“Unique”

Always remember that you’re unique
Unequalled, uncommon, c’est magnifique
One of a kind quite, special and rare
Singular, original, not one of a pair
Special, the exceptional you embody
You’re really unique, just like everybody

MAURICE SENDAK (1928-Present)

“There must be more to life than having everything”

Screaming and Yelling (from “Really Rosie” based on the Nutshell books)

When everybody screams and yells,
Who calms them down?
Who rings their bells?
When everybody screams and yells
The enchanted one
That’s me.
When everybody screams and yells,
There’s nothing to do!
There’s nothing to see!
Who dreams up a place they’d like to be?
The enchanted one
That’s me.
It takes personality
A lot of personality
To make them see things my way.
It takes personality,
More personality
To turn twelve boring hours
Into a fascinating day!
I CAN DO IT!
That’s a fact
I CAN DO IT
Don’t you see?
And I’ll do it

All for free!
Do you know?
Can you guess
Who I simply have to be?
*STOP SCREAMING AND YELLING
AND I"LL TELL YOU ALREADY!
STOP SCREAMING AND YELLING
AND SCREAMING AND YELLING
AND SCREAMING AND YELLING*
The enchanted one
That's me!

"Pierre"

[Prologue:]
There was once a boy named Pierre
Who only would say, I don't care!
Read his story, my friend, for you'll find
At the end that a suitable
Moral lies there

[Chapter I]
One day his mother said
When Pierre climbed out of bed
Good morning, darling boy, you are my only joy
Pierre said-I don't care!
What would you like to eat?
I don't care!
Some lovely cream of wheat?
I don't care!
Don't sit backwards in your chair
I don't care!
Or pour syrup on your hair
I don't care!
You are acting like a clown
I don't care!
And we have to go to town
I don't care!
Don't you want to come, my dear?
I don't care!
Would you rather stay right here?
I don't care!
So his mother left him there

[Chapter II]

**His father said-Get off your head
Or I will march you up to bed!
Pierre said-I don't care!
I would think that you could see
I don't care!
Your head is where your feet should be!
I don't care!
If you keep standing upside down -
I don't care!
We'll never get to town
I don't care!
If only you would say, I care
I don't care!
I'd let you fold the folding chair
I don't care!
So his parents left him there
They didn't take him anywhere**

The Moral of the story is: Care!

T.S. ELIOT (1888-1965)

“Whatever you think be sure it is what you think,
whatever want be sure it is what you want;
whatever you feel be sure it is what you feel.”

“The Rum Tum Tugger” (from “Old Possum’s Book of Practical Cats”)

**The Rum Tum Tugger is a Curious Cat:
If you offer him pheasant he would rather have grouse.
If you put him in a house he would much prefer a flat,
If you put him in a flat then he'd rather have a house.
If you set him on a mouse then he only wants a rat,
If you set him on a rat then he'd rather chase a mouse.
Yes the Rum Tum Tugger is a Curious Cat--
And there isn't any call for me to shout it:
For he will do
As he do do
And there's no doing anything about it!**

**The Rum Tum Tugger is a terrible bore:
When you let him in, then he wants to be out;
He's always on the wrong side of every door,
And as soon as he's at home, then he'd like to get about.
He likes to lie in the bureau drawer,
But he makes such a fuss if he can't get out.**

**Yes the Rum Tum Tugger is a Curious Cat--
And there isn't any use for you to doubt it:
For he will do
As he do do
And there's no doing anything about it!**

**The Rum Tum Tugger is a curious beast:
His disobliging ways are a matter of habit.
If you offer him fish then he always wants a feast;
When there isn't any fish then he won't eat rabbit.
If you offer him cream then he sniffs and sneers,
For he only likes what he finds for himself;**

**So you'll catch him in it right up to the ears,
If you put it away on the larder shelf.
The Rum Tum Tugger is artful and knowing,
The Rum Tum Tugger doesn't care for a cuddle;
But he'll leap on your lap in the middle of your sewing,
For there's nothing he enjoys like a horrible muddle.
Yes the Rum Tum Tugger is a Curious Cat—
And there isn't any need for me to spout it:
For he will do
As he do do
And there's no doing anything about it!**

DR. SEUSS (1904-1991)

“Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened.”

PLEASE READ “*The Sneetches*”

If your school does not have a copy of the “Sneetches” please let me know and Center Dance Ensemble will make one available to you.

MOVEMENT STUDY

- 1. CHOOSE A SHORT POEM FOR STUDENTS TO MEMORIZE.**
- 2. RECITE POEM AS A GROUP**
- 3. HAVE STUDENTS CLAP THE RHYTHM OF THE POEM WHILE RECITING THE POEM.**
- 4. NEXT READ A LINE, AND THEN CLAP THE LINE. (DO THIS FOR EACH LINE OF THE POEM)**
- 5. THIS BREAKS UP THE READING WITH A NON-VERBAL RHYTHM PHRASE.**
- 6. NOW BREAK INTO AS MANY GROUPS AS THERE ARE LINES IN THE POEM. HAVE EACH GROUP “CREATE” MOVEMENT THAT USES THE RHYTHMS OF THE LINE ASSIGNED TO THEM, OR EXPRESS THE WORDS OF THE LINE.**
- 7. HAVE EACH GROUP TEACH THEIR MOVEMENT TO THE OTHER GROUPS.**
- 8. ONCE EVERYONE KNOWS ALL THE MOVEMENT LINES YOU CAN EXPERIMENT WITH DIFFERENT WAYS OF USING THE WORDS AND MOVEMENT:**
 - A. READ WHOLE POEM, THEN DO ALL MOVEMENT**
 - B. READ SECTIONS WHILE MOVEMENT IS BEING DONE**
 - C. MIX UP USING PARTS OF A&B**
 - D. YOU CAN ALSO FIND MUSIC TO PLAY UNDERNEATH THE READING, OR BETTER YET LET YOUR STUDENTS CREATE A MELODY BY SINGING THE WORDS**

HAVE FUN!



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CENTER DANCE ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Name of production you saw: _____

School: _____ District: _____ Grade: _____

Your Name: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

1. Did you find the performance to be age/grade appropriate?

YES NO

2. Did the students find the show to be entertaining?

VERY SOMEWHAT NOT AT ALL

3. Did the Study Guide help you prepare your students?

YES NO DID NOT USE IT

4. Tell us how you used this performance in your classroom: _____

5. Is there anything else Center Dance Ensemble could have done to make this a better experience for you and your students? _____

6. To have our season brochure mailed to you, your address, please:

Frances Smith Cohen Artistic Director Gary Bacal Managing Director