



center dance ensemble

CENTER DANCE ENSEMBLE

presents

MORE

POETRY

'N

MOTION

STUDY GUIDE

4th Grade and up

Dear Educators,

Center Dance Ensemble is extremely excited to bring our outreach program “More Poetry ’n Motion” into your school. We hope that this brief Study Guide will aid you and your students in understanding our show.

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 “Oh the Places You’ll Go.” If you have time for nothing else, reading or having your students read this Seuss book should help them follow the story line of the ballet. Also it may encourage post performance discussion questions comparing the book to the ballet. If your school does not have a copy of the Dr. Seuss book please let me know and Center Dance Ensemble will make one available to you.

Please note the poems in this Guide are listed alphabetically by the poets’ last names, not in the order they are presented during the performance.

Hope you are all having a wonderful school year thus far, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Sally Hogan
Educational Outreach Director
480-239-1530 or dancinfo1@cox.net

Poetry ’n Motion Founding Sponsors



Performance Support from



MAYA ANGELOU (Born Marguerite Johnson, 1928-2014)

“I believe every person is born with talent.”

Maya Angelou is best known for her wonderful poetry, but she has had many interesting and diverse jobs in her life. She worked as a fry cook, actress, and as a dancer studying with Martha Graham, performed professionally with Alvin Ailey in the duo “Al and Rita,” and toured Europe in the musical “Porgy and Bess” long before becoming a writer. She has written numerous autobiographies, been a producer and director in both the television and film industry, and has educated and lectured at many universities.

Portions of “Alone”

**Lying, thinking
Last night
How to find my soul a home
Where water is not thirsty
And bread loaf is not stone
I came up with one thing
And I don't believe I'm wrong
That nobody,
But nobody
Can make it out here alone.**

**Alone, all alone
Nobody, but nobody
Can make it out here alone.**

**Alone, all alone
Nobody, but nobody
Can make it out here alone.**

**Now if you listen closely
I'll tell you what I know
Storm clouds are gathering
The wind is gonna blow
The race of man is suffering
And I can hear the moan,
'Cause nobody,
But nobody
Can make it out here alone.**

**Alone, all alone
Nobody, but nobody**

Can make it out here alone.

DOUGLAS FLORIAN (1950-present)

"I do fine art, and not so fine art."

Douglas Florian is a native New Yorker who is a poet and artist. Most of his poems topics are related to nature and animals. He attributes this to his many childhood trips to the Bronx zoo and The New York Museum of Science. Mr. Florian creates all the artwork seen in his poetry books. His art is also displayed at various galleries.

Poems from "Insectopedia"

"The Army Ants"

**Left right left right
We're army ants
We swarm
We fight
We have no home
We roam, we race
You're lucky if we miss your place**

"The IO Moth"

**The i-o moth
Has mammoth eyes
That are not real---
They're a disguise
To ward off birds
And other creatures
Like garter snakes
And science teachers**

"The Hornet"

**The hornet's born with yellow rings
Ending in a point that stings
She builds a pulpy paper nest
In which few choose to be a guest
A hornet is an insect killer
She feeds her babies caterpillars**

Spiders, flies and if she's able
Pudding from your picnic table

"The Walking Stick"

The walking stick is thin not thick
And has a disappearing trick:
By looking like a twig or stalk
It lives another day to walk

"The Giant Water Bug"

The giant water bug can lug his eggs upon his back
He gives them extra care up there and guards them from attack.
The mother glues them to the Dad, and on his back they stay,
But does he ever get a card or gift on Father's Day?

LANGSTON HUGHES (1902-1967)

"Like a welcome summer rain, humor may suddenly cleanse and cool
the earth, the air, and you."

Langston Hughes was a renowned African-American, playwright, novelist and poet. His works were applauded for his "colorful portrayals of black life in America." His poetry largely influenced the "Harlem Renaissance" and his love of jazz music helped to create "jazz poetry." To learn more about the renaissance, and "jazz poetry" visit www.poets.org and go to Langston Hughes.

"Dream Deferred"

What happens to a dream deferred?
Does it dry up
Like a raisin in the sun?
Or fester like a sore--
And then run?
Does it stink like rotten meat?
Or crust and sugar over--like a syrupy sweet?
Maybe it just sags like a heavy load.

CARL SANDBURG (1878-1967)

“You don’t know what good friends books can be until you try them.”

Carl Sandburg is best known for his poetry and his biography of Abraham Lincoln. Raised in Illinois, many of his poems were based on “Chicago.” He won two Pulitzer Prizes for his works. He quit school at 13 to drive a milk truck, one of many jobs he had before becoming a noted poet. He also was a writer, editor and film reviewer for a newspaper.

“Phizzog”

**This face you got
This here phizzog you carry around,
You never picked it out for yourself
At all, at all-did you?
This here phizzog-somebody handed it to you-am I right?
Somebody said, “Here’s yours, now go see what you can do with it.”
“No goods exchanged after being taken away”
This face you got.**

SHELTON ALAN SILVERSTEIN (1930-1999)

“I believe that if you don’t want to do anything then sit and don’t do it, but don’t expect people to hand you a corned beef sandwich and wash your socks for you...”

Shel Silverstein was a singer, lyricist, musician, composer, cartoonist, and screenwriter as well as a renowned children’s poet. He wrote the music and lyrics for “A Boy Named Sue” made famous by Johnny Cash. His songs have also been recorded by “The Irish Rovers” (“The Unicorn”) and many by Dr. Hook, most remembered for their hit “On the Cover of the Rolling Stone.”

“Ourchestra”

**So you haven’t got a drum, just beat your belly.
So you haven’t got a horn-I’ll play my nose.
So we haven’t any cymbals-
We’ll just slap our hands together,
And though there may be orchestras,
That sound a little better
With their shinny instruments
That cost an awful lot-
Hey we’re making music twice as good
By playing what we got.**

“Long Scarf”

**You ask me to take off my scarf
And sit down and rest for awhile?
That’s sweet of you-but before I do,
I’ll tell you a story my child.
Some years ago I fought a duel with the Count of Doomandread,
And I slipped or tripped
And his sword just clipped
My neck-and sliced off my head,
I scooped it up and put it back,
But it didn’t quite connect,
So I tied this scarf around it
Just to keep it on my neck.
That’s why I always keep it on,
‘Cause if it did unwrap,
This wobbly chopped-off head of mine
Might tumble in your lap.
So now you’ve heard my tale, and if
It will not make you ill,
And you’d still like me to TAKE OFF my scarf... I will!**

“The Voice”

**There is a voice inside of you
That whispers all day long
“I feel that this is right for me
I know that this is wrong”
No teacher, preacher, parent, friend
or wise man can decide
What’s right for you just listen to
the voice that is inside**

MATTHEW JOSEPH THADDEUS STEPANEK (1990-2004)

“I want to be remembered as a poet, a peacemaker, and a philosopher who played.”

In Mattie’s brief life he touched the hearts of countless people including Oprah Winfrey, Maya Angelou, President Jimmy Carter and Jerry Lewis. Mattie was born with the life-threatening disease “dysautonomis mitochondrial myopathy” which is a form of muscular dystrophy, as were his siblings and mother. He began writing poetry in pre-school as a way of dealing with his emotions and grief of losing his brother to the disease. To learn more about Mattie I suggest visiting his personal website, www.mattieonline.com

“Facing the Future”

**Every journey begins
With but a small step
And every day is a chance
For a new, small step
In the right directions
Just follow your heartsong.**

THEODOR SEUSS GEISEL (1904-1991)

“Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don’t matter and those who matter don’t mind.”

Dr. Seuss, Theo. LeSeige, Rosetta Stone, and Theophrastus Seuss are all pen names used by Mr. Geisel. Best loved children’s author noted for his poetic rhymes and tri syllable meter, he wrote 46 children’s books that have been printed in 15 languages. Before becoming an author Seuss was a political cartoonist, wrote slogans and did art work for an advertising agency, wrote articles for various newspapers, and did animation for the United States military.

PLEASE READ *“Oh The Places You’ll Go”*

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



center dance ensemble

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