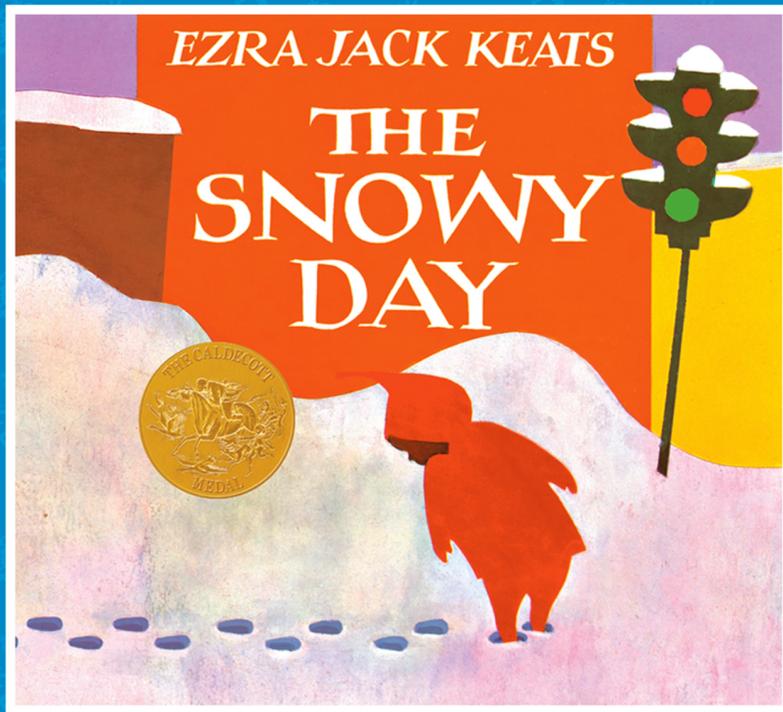


Mesner Puppet Theater Presents



December 5-23, 2017
Mesner Puppet Theater
1006 E. Linwood Blvd.
Kansas City, MO 64109
www.mesnerpuppets.org



The Snowy Day and Other Stories by Ezra Jack Keats

Study Guide

Adapted for the stage by Jerome Hairston *Based on the book by Ezra Jack Keats* *Produced by special arrangement with Plays for Young Audiences*

Educators,

Welcome to your *Snowy Day and Other Stories* study guide! Ezra Jack Keats wrote *The Snowy Day* 55 years ago, and it was the first full-color children's book to feature an African-American protagonist. 55 years later, the book has served as inspiration for TV specials, stage productions, and now puppet shows. Keats' book series, which follows young Peter as he grows up in his neighborhood, touches on subjects such as friendship, bullying, cause and effect, and persistence. In this study guide, you'll find a range of activities, questions, and experiences you can share with your students to expound on some of these themes. Have fun with these ideas, and make them your own to see what you and your students can create! See you at Mesner Puppet Theater!

Alex Espy
Education Director
Mesner Puppet Theater

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The Snowy Day and Other Stories

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Theater Etiquette



Theatre is the perfect place for people to laugh, clap, and enjoy stories together. Just as in class or in the home, there are a few simple guidelines to go over with your students before your trip, to help everyone have the best time possible!



Arrive early to take care of any business before the show starts

Turn off all cellphones and keep them in your pocket

Eat before or after the show, not during

Laugh and clap at appropriate times

Do not throw anything on stage or in the audience

Use walking feet and inside voices while inside the theater

Understand the lights will go out and you might hear loud music or sound effects

Do not touch the puppets, scenery, or props as they can be very fragile

Talk to puppets or actors if they ask questions or encourage talking or singing

"All the World's
a stage."

-William
Shakespeare

"People react
differently to puppets
than they do to human
performers: they
become more playful,
more open."

-Kathe Koji

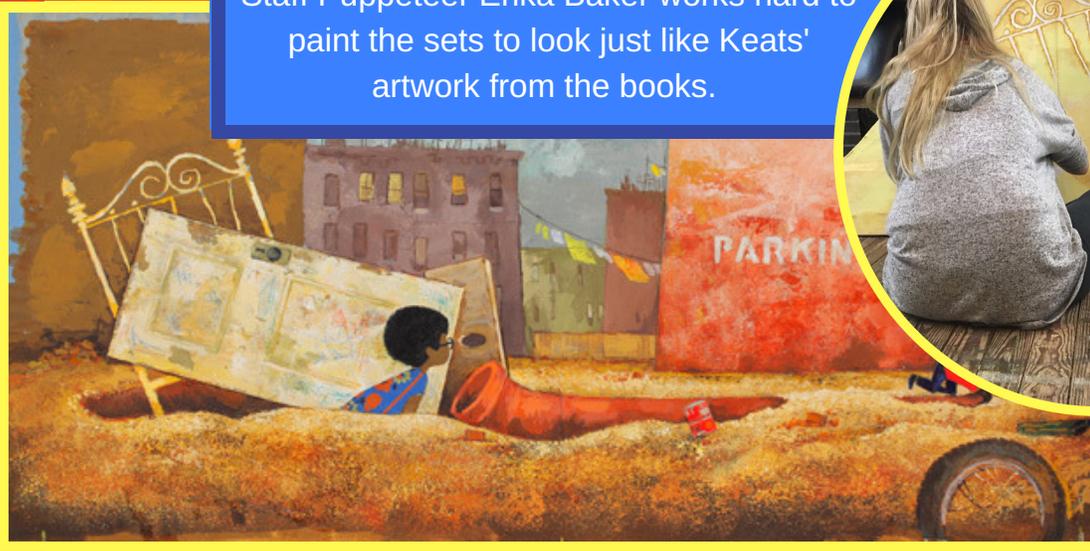
Behind the Scenes

A lot goes into putting on a puppet show. Many people spend countless hours designing, building, painting, rehearsing and directing. Oftentimes you never see any of that process, so here's your chance to take a peek behind the curtain and see how we made our show!

"You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have."

-Maya Angelou

Staff Puppeteer Erika Baker works hard to paint the sets to look just like Keats' artwork from the books.



Erika carved the puppet heads out of foam, and then papier-mâchéd them before artist and puppeteer DaLene DePriest painted them to match the skin tones in the books.



Fabric was painted to look just like Peter's clothing

The actors trying out the puppets for the first time.



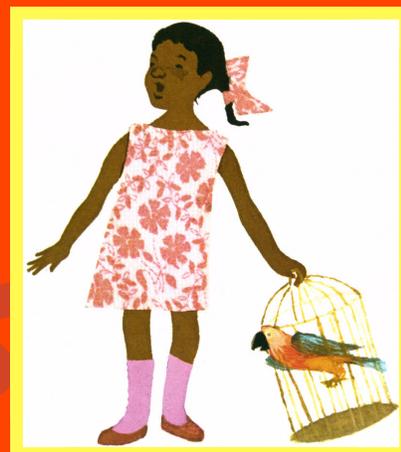
About the Art

Ezra Jack Keats based Peter off of actual photos of a boy he saw in a 1940 issue of *Life* magazine. Keats was primarily a painter, and experimented with collage for the first time with *The Snowy Day*. Collage is when you stick different materials, like photographs and pieces of paper, together onto a surface. Can you find the pieces of paper in these images?



"The idea of using collage came to me at the same time I was thinking about the story. I used a bit of paper here and there and immediately saw new colors, patterns, and relationships forming."

-Ezra Jack Keats



Try collage yourself!

Collage is a fun and easy way to express yourself. All you need are some fun materials, scissors to cut your materials, glue, and a surface like paper or fabric to attach everything onto. You can also choose to paint or color over your collage materials, like Keats did in *The Snowy Day*.

Materials inspiration

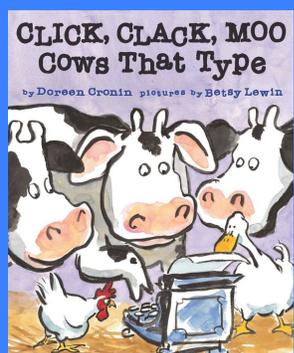
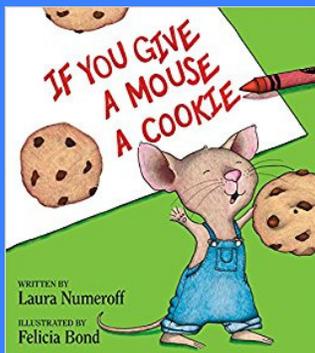
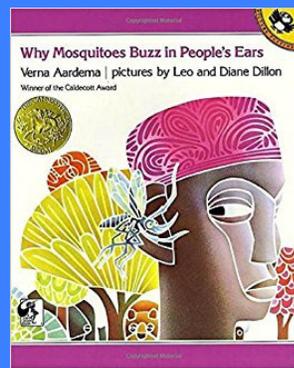
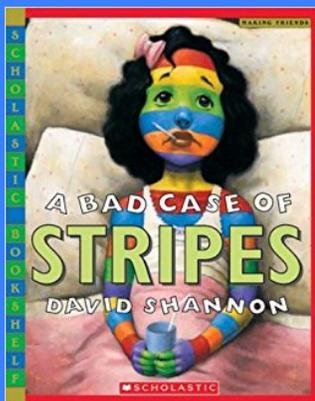
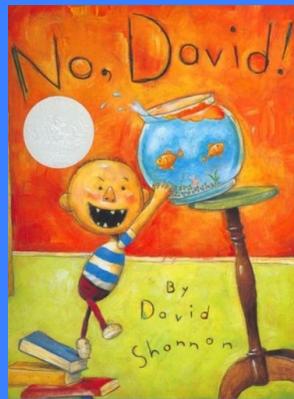
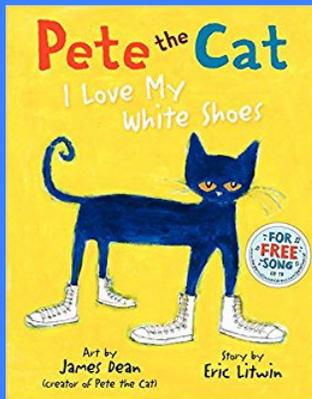
- Newspaper
- Tissue Paper
- Coffee Filters
- Cupcake Cups
- Buttons
- Feathers
- Leaves and Sticks

Cause and Effect

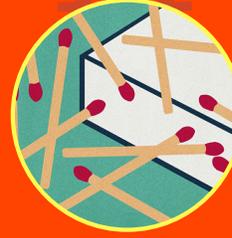
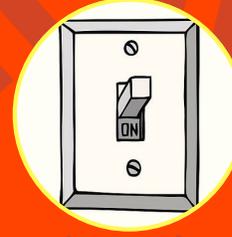
Peter learned that snowballs will eventually melt, especially if they get warm like inside a pocket. This is called Cause and Effect. Can you think of some other moments in the show that is Cause and Effect?



You can find Cause and Effect in every story you read or hear. Here are some great books that explore Cause and Effect.



Match the Cause to the Effect



Persistence

Persistence is when you keep trying and don't give up, like when Peter tried to learn how to whistle. Peter kept practicing and pushing himself until he finally learned. Can you think of something difficult you've tried to learn? How did you work through your frustrations?

How did it feel when you succeeded? Did it make the frustrations worthwhile?



Resiliency Reminders!

Resiliency is the ability to work through frustrations, and keep going even when you want to give up. It can be tough, but it will make you stronger! Below are some tips to help you stay strong when you feel like quitting.



J.K. Rowling was rejected by 12 publishing houses before getting a contract for her first Harry Potter book.



Walt Disney was turned down over 300 times before getting financing to create Disney World.



Michael Jordan was cut from his high school varsity basketball team. He's now considered one of the greatest basketball players of all time.



Dr. Seuss' first book was rejected by 27 publishers. He went on to write *The Cat in the Hat* and *Green Eggs and Ham*.



Oprah Winfrey was fired from a job as a news anchor because she was told she "wasn't fit for television." Today, she's one of the most recognizable people on TV.

If you find you're getting too frustrated, it's ok to **Give yourself a break** to rest your mind!

If you need someone to talk to, remember that **adults are there for you!**

It's ok to **ask for help!** Sometimes an extra set of eyes or hands is just **what's needed.**

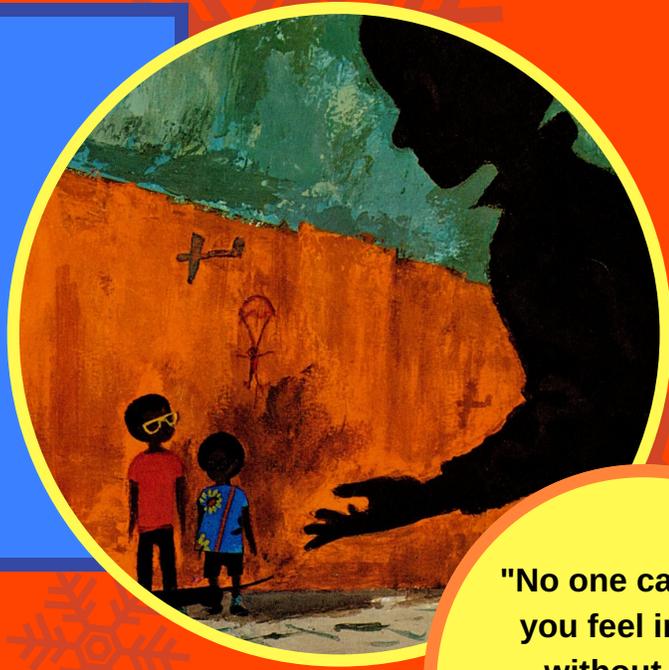
It's ok to **make mistakes!**

Exercising can help you be less stressed and can make you feel **resilient!**

Focus on **Breathing** to calm your body and mind!

Bullying

Peter and his friend Archie encounter some bullies in Ezra Jack Keats' *Goggles!* Has someone ever bullied on you? What did you do when it happened? Did you talk to someone about how it made you feel? How might you handle the bully differently in the future? Here are a few tips to help if you encounter a bully again.



"No one can make you feel inferior without your consent."

-Eleanor Roosevelt

Bullies want you to feel lonely and powerless. Your friends can help you feel powerful, so keep them around and you can support each other.

Be assertive when dealing with a bully. This means using simple and direct language to let them know you won't be victimized. Responding with fear or anger might further provoke the bully, so try and be as unemotional as possible when telling them to stop.

Keep eye contact when you're talking to the bully. Keep a calm voice, say their name when you talk to them. This body language shows you won't be their victim.

"When people hurt you over and over, think of them like sand paper; They may scratch and hurt you a bit, but in the end, you end up polished and they end up useless."

-Chris Colfer

Take action against bullies quickly. The longer it goes on, the worse it can get. Remember, adults are there for you, and you can always talk with them about your problems. Sometimes adults need to step in when dealing with bullies, and it's ok to say you need help.

For more information on bullying, visit:

stopbullying.gov

Friendship

In *A Letter to Amy*, Peter invites a girl to his birthday party. It's ok to have friends who are boys, girls, friends who are taller than us, shorter than us, have different skin tones and hairstyles. How do you think it would have made Amy feel if she knew some people didn't want Peter to invite her?



Good Friends Do:

- Make plans with you and keep them
- Positively encourage each other
- Talk through friendship problems
- Stick up for their friends' to bullies

Good Friends Don't:

- Intentionally hurt their friends feelings
- Make their friends' feel bad or insecure about themselves
- Say bad things about their friends' behind their backs

Brainstorm with your friends

What are some other *do's* and *don'ts* of friendship? Talk with your friends about how you want to be treated, and how they want you to treat them. Friendship is about ***mutual respect!***

"One friend with whom you have a lot in common is better than three with whom you struggle to find things to talk about."

-Mindy Kaling

"Good friends are like stars. You don't always see them, but you know that they are always there."

-Unknown



Snowy STEM Projects

There are so many winter themed activities for you to explore Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Try out some of these for a fun and eye-opening experience!



Edible Snow Dough

Take 8 cups cornstarch and 1 cup olive oil. Mix in a large zip lock bag. You can also add a couple drops of peppermint to give it a nice scent. Once mixed, you can take your fake snow out of the bag and put it in a large container to explore. Can you form your snow into a snowball? What happens when you press objects into the snow? Does it make any sounds when you squeeze it? How is it similar to real snow? How is it different?

Recipe and photo from powerfulmothering.com



Make Your Own Goggles

Engineer your own pair of goggles, like in the Keats' book *Goggles!* You can use pipe cleaners to bend and shape, or cut and glue some paper towel tubes to make your goggles.

*Pipe cleaner glasses by craftymorning.com
Paper towel glasses by pinkstripeysocks.com*



Experiment with wind

In Keats' Letter to Amy, Peters letter gets swept up in a gust of powerful wind. Find some objects and see which ones get caught up in the wind's force, and which ones don't. After you try the objects outside, try them with a fan and see if the same objects float. If you'd like an extra challenge, try to move the objects by blowing out of a drinking straw! Some objects to experiment: Pom poms, feathers, different types of paper, and leaves.



Puppet Inspiration!

There are lots of puppets you can make that are inspired by *The Snowy Day* stories, Ezra Jack Keats' artwork, and winter days. Here are just a few ideas to get your ideas flowing!



Pepe the Parrot

Amy has a pet parrot named Pepe. You can try making a hand puppet yourself with a brown paper bag, some construction paper, scissors and glue!



Finger Puppets

Here's a fun twist on a finger puppet. Can you take this idea and figure out how to make a Peter puppet? Once finished, can you make your Peter puppet walk in the snow, just like in the story?



Snowperson Ideas

Make a snowy snowperson! You could paint an old wooden spoon white, or you could attach pom poms or paper plates to a popsicle stick!



Make a Willie Marionette!

It's a lot of fun to take objects and recycle them into puppets. Here's a great marionette dog puppet from The Art Room at www.zeeq.in. Now you can have your very own Willie, just like Peter!

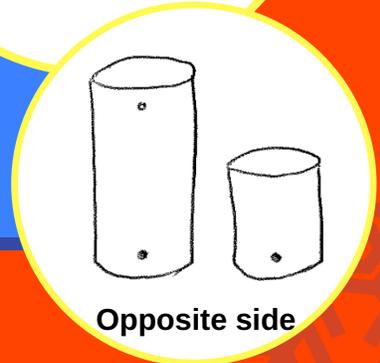
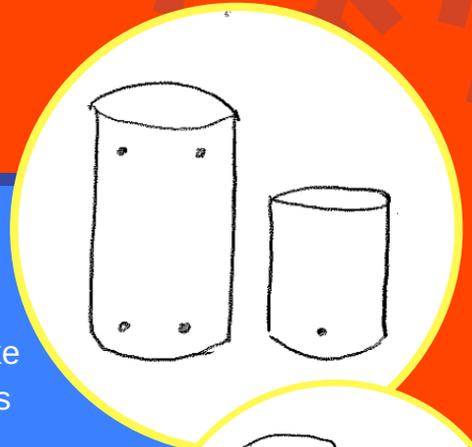


Step 1:

Take two cardboard tubes. With scissors, cut one of them in half. The cut tube will become the dog's head and face.

Step 2:

Paint the body and face as you'd like, and set aside to dry. Once dried, make 6 holes in the large body tube. 4 holes should be on one side (for the legs,) and 2 holes on the opposite side. Then, put two holes on the head piece, on opposite sides of each other, as shown.



Step 3:

Take 4 plastic spoons, and remove the lower stick. Make one hole in each of the spoons. Cut a little bit off your shorter tube (the dog's head) and these will become the ears.



Step 4:

Add some eyes to the head, and glue on the ears. Attach string as shown. Tie the top ends of the string onto a popsicle stick and hold that to make your puppet move. Willie has shorter legs than the dog in the picture, so feel free to make your dog legs shorter if you'd like!

