

Kansas City Young Audiences

Teacher Program Guide

MISS NELSON IS MISSING

Artist: Andi Meyer

Performance Description

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Contact KCYA for more information on this and other programs.

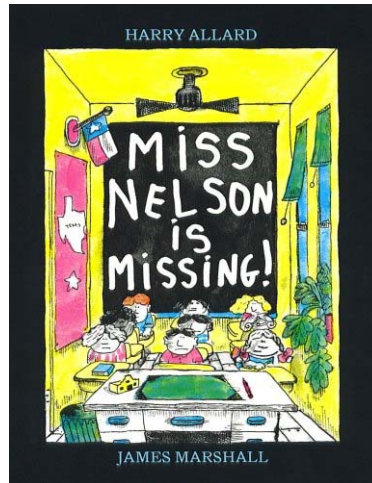
816-531-4022
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Teaching Artist Andi Meyer brings to life the longtime favorite characters of the "Miss Nelson Is Missing" series of stories. In this hilarious dramatic reading of this classic tale of wayward students learning to appreciate their demure instructor, Andi Meyer provides an opportunity for young students to see storytelling come to life. This story follows the outrageous actions that poor Miss Nelson must take when she has the most horribly behaved class in the school. Miss Nelson becomes missing and her substitute is the scary, strict Miss Viola Swamp! No one misbehaves for "The Swamp!"

This program should be noted for

being highly interactive, as many students (and some faculty members!) will be asked to participate. Students will also be asked to make judgment calls throughout the story about the actions and words the characters choose. Empathy towards Miss Nelson is also an important theme to be discussed by the audience. How would THEY feel if they were the teacher and their class was acting that way?

This new program will delight and educate all primary level students, and it is also our hope that they will discover a renewed enthusiasm towards reading.



Educational Objectives and Standards

Students will:

- Learn to relate to familiar situations through the point of view of Miss Nelson
- Be introduced to the series of Miss Nelson books
- See that reading is fun

Behavioral Studies:

- Knows that communicating different points of view in a dispute can often help people to find a satisfactory compromise

Language Arts

- Can talk about characters and their actions in stories

Special Points of Interest:

James Marshall, the illustrator for "Miss Nelson is Missing", is originally from Texas. He drew visual references to his home state throughout the book.

Special REQUIREMENTS:

Maximum audience size is 100. Preferred performance space is a classroom, pod area, or library.

Artist Bio: Andi Meyer

Andi Meyer is a member of Actor's Equity Association and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists. She is a professional actress and holds a BA in theatre. Andi spent 8 months as a principal actor in the "Spirit of Aloha" dinner show for Disney Resorts and has performed locally at the New Theatre Restaurant with The Coterie Children's Theatre, and The Unicorn Theatre. Andi is also a

member of the radio comedy group, Right Between The Ears, which can be heard on KPR and Sirius Satellite radio. Andi teaches a comprehensive Shakespeare curriculum, acting and scene study, and creative dramatics classes for such places as The Heart of America Shakespeare Festival, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, The Coterie, as well as at Young Audiences to a wide variety of ages and cultural backgrounds.



Andi Meyer

Vocabulary

Allegory: The representation of abstract ideas or principles by characters, figures, or events in narrative, dramatic, or pictorial form.

Dilemma: A situation that requires a choice between options that are or seem equally unfavorable or mutually exclusive.

Empathy: Identification with and understanding of another's situation, feelings, and motives.

Morals: Arising from conscience or the sense of right and wrong.

Respect: To feel or show deferential regard for; esteem.

Values: A principle, standard, or quality considered worthwhile or desirable.

Virtues: Moral excellence and righteousness; goodness.

List of Resources

BOOKS

[The Moral Intelligence of Children: How to Raise a Moral Child](#) by Robert Coles
Plume Books; (January 1, 1998)
ISBN: 0452279372

[The Call of Stories : Teaching and the Moral Imagination](#) by Robert Coles
Mariner Books; (January 5, 1990)
ISBN: 0395528151

[Book of Virtues](#) by William J. Bennett
Simon & Schuster; (November 1, 1993)
ISBN: 0671683063

Post-Performance Activities

1. Students will probably figure out who Miss Viola Swamp really is. Have them discuss the clues that led them to that conclusion. Use the book as a guide for "clue seeking."
2. Read "Miss Nelson is Missing" to the class and have students locate places where they would have been angry, annoyed, upset or happy if they had been in
3. Miss Nelson's class. Create an "emotions chart" on the board to fill out with the students.
3. Have students write a letter to Miss Nelson, persuading her to return to the classroom. Included in the letter could be a list of rules the students would follow if Miss Nelson returned.

