



PRESCHOOL TEACHER'S GUIDE

The Arts Start program is supported by



Grow Up Great

Nugget & Fang

Thursday, February 22, 2018
10:30 AM & 12:30 PM



Welcome!

This guide was created for use by teachers in the Springfield Urban League Head Start program, but it will also be sent to other teachers attending the performance who indicate they teach preschool students. Another Teacher's Guide, with content for older students, is available on the Sangamon Auditorium website at <http://www.sangamonauditorium.org/education/class-acts/>. We hope the information and activity ideas included in this guide will help your students better understand the performance they see.

We look forward to seeing you!



Youth programming in the *Class Acts* series and in conjunction with other Sangamon Auditorium events is supported in part by the Helen Hamilton Performing Arts Endowment for Youth Fund, gifts from Elizabeth and Robert Staley, and a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.



The Arts Start program is an initiative of **University of Illinois Springfield's Sangamon Auditorium** and the **Springfield Urban League Head Start**, funded by **PNC's Grow Up Great**® initiative. Through this arts education program, Head Start students, their teachers, and their families will become involved in live performances, enhancing the students' educational opportunities and school readiness.



Write to Us

We would love to hear from you and your students! If your students write about the performance they saw or create artwork related to it, you are welcome to send it to us via email to azepp2@uis.edu or through the mail to:

Amy Zepp
Performing Arts Services
University of Illinois Springfield
One University Plaza, MS PAC 397
Springfield, IL 62703

We love sharing student work with our *Class Acts* sponsors, so they can see the impact of their donations.



Attending a Live Performance

Please use the information below to help prepare your young students for attending a live theatrical performance. For many, this will be their first experience with live theater.

Going to a live theatrical performance is different than watching a movie or TV show – the members of the audience are very important, and the way they behave will affect the performance. That’s why theaters have their own special rules about behavior.

- Tell your students that when they arrive in the parking lot, there will be a lot of other buses there too. They will need to follow the instructions of their teachers and walk in a straight line (or maybe in a buddy-system line) to come into the building. Once inside, they need to stay in line because of all the other students who will be there.
- Ask your students how they think an audience should behave at a live performance. What are some of the things they should do and not do? If it is not covered by the student answers, make sure you talk about:
 - **Listen** to the performance (this ties into “don’t talk,” but it can be helpful to keep all the discussion points phrased in the positive and not in the “don’t-do-this” mode); use a “cupped ear” gesture to emphasize listening when it is mentioned
 - **Watch** the performance; point at both sides of your face near your eyes with your index fingers to emphasize watching when it is mentioned
 - **Clap** at the end of songs and at the end of the performance when the performers take their bows. Take the time to practice clapping with the students. Call one student forward who will pretend to take a bow at the end of a performance and the rest of the room will practice clapping for this student.

Repeat the gestures for the three points above and have the students do it with you.

- Let your students know that like in a movie theater, the area where the audience sits for the performance will be rather dark, but there will be lights on the stage and some small lights will remain on in the aisles. If they need to use the bathroom in the middle of the show, they can come to the end of the row and an usher will use a flashlight to make sure they can find their way to the correct bathroom.



Activities

These activities can be used together in any combination that works for the teacher. It would be best to do some activities before the performance, to help students understand the plot of the story, and some activities after the performance, to reinforce what they have seen.

About the Story

“Nugget & Fang” tells the story of Nugget, a minnow, and Fang, a shark, who are best friends. In fact, they love to play together and spend most of their time with one another. These two pals truly enjoy each other’s company – until Nugget’s first day at Miss Mini’s Minnow School. At Miss Mini’s Minnows School, Nugget learns that minnows are supposed to be afraid of sharks because they are scary and like to eat other fish. Although Nugget knows in his heart that Fang is the nicest of sharks and would never hurt another fish, his teachers and fellow students are certain that since Fang is a shark, he is not to be trusted. To regain Nugget’s trust, Fang tries to show Nugget and his classmates that he really is a nice guy and would never be a threat to them. But nothing works. One day, when Fang is swimming, sad and unnoticed in deep waters, he sees Nugget and his minnow friends caught up in some big trouble and one very big fisherman’s net! Can Fang save Nugget and the other minnows who are caught in the net?

“Nugget & Fang” is adapted from the book of the same title by author Tammi Sauer and illustrator Michael Slack. (Tammi Sauer also wrote the story “Chicken Dance” which was adapted into a musical performed at Sangamon Auditorium in April 2016.) “Adapted” means that ArtsPower based its show on the book, turning the printed words in the book to dialogue spoken by actors who play the characters from the book, including Nugget and Fang. Greg Gunning, the person who wrote the dialogue and lyrics for Nugget & Fang, read the book and worked with author Tammi Sauer in creating the first-ever musical theatre production called Nugget & Fang. Greg had to imagine what the characters from the book would look like as real people, what they would say in addition to their dialogue in the book, and how the set and costumes would work to help the audience think the show is taking place under the sea.

Pre-show Discussion Questions

Discuss the different types of performing arts (music, dance, theater) to help students understand that they are going to see people perform. Ask if they have ever experienced a live theater performance. What did they see? What was it like?

How is live theater different than movies and TV?

- There are real people on the stage.
- The performance will never be exactly the same again.

Familiarize your students with the following words – theater, play, actor, stage, costume, usher

Literacy and Writing

The story of “Nugget & Fang” is a variation on the traditional Aesop’s fable “The Lion & the Mouse” (included in this Teacher’s Guide). Both stories are about animals who usually don’t get along, but they learn that things are better for everyone if they are friends and work together.

Read your students the story of “The Lion & the Mouse” and talk about ways the story is similar to and different from “Nugget & Fang”.

- The stories have different animals, but both are about a big scary animal interacting with a small timid animal.
- Nugget and Fang were friends at the beginning of their story; the Lion and the Mouse didn’t know each other at the beginning of their story.
- The climax of both stories involves getting caught in a net.
- In “Nugget & Fang” the big scary animal saves the day at the end; in the “The Lion & the Mouse” the small timid animal saves the day at the end.

The Lion & the Mouse

A Lion lay asleep in the forest, his great head resting on his paws. A timid little Mouse came upon him unexpectedly, and in her fright and haste to get away, ran across the Lion's nose. Roused from his nap, the Lion laid his huge paw angrily on the tiny creature to kill her.

"Spare me!" begged the poor Mouse. "Please let me go and some day I will surely repay you."

The Lion was much amused to think that a Mouse could ever help him. But he was generous and finally let the Mouse go.

Some days later, while stalking his prey in the forest, the Lion was caught in the toils of a hunter's net. Unable to free himself, he filled the forest with his angry roaring. The Mouse knew the voice and quickly found the Lion struggling in the net. Running to one of the great ropes that bound him, she gnawed it until it parted, and soon the Lion was free.

"You laughed when I said I would repay you," said the Mouse. "Now you see that even a Mouse can help a Lion."

A kindness is never wasted.

Story available online from the Library of Congress at <http://www.read.gov/aesop/007.html>

Vocabulary – Help your students become familiar with these words from “Nugget & Fang” they may not know:

- minnow
- shark
- marine
- gills
- shocked
- toothy
- mackerel
- fins

Fine Arts



Music – Sing these fun fish songs with your students and add your own movements.

I'm a Little Fishy

(to the tune of "I'm a Little Teapot")

I'm a little fishy; I can swim
Here is my tail, and here is my fin.
When I want to have fun with my friends,
I wiggle my tail and dive right in!

Fishy Pokey

(to the tune of "The Hokey Pokey")

Put your left fin in
Put your left fin out
Put your left fin in
And you shake it all about
You do the fishy pokey
And you turn yourself around
That's what it's all about

repeat with "right fin," "head," "tail fin," "whole self"



Dance/Movement – Tell your students that a group of fish is called a "school," and today your class is going to be a school of fish and swim around in your classroom. Tell your students to pretend that their arms are fins. Then you will show them different movements they can do with their fins. You can also use this activity to reinforce learning about directional words. Here are a few ideas:

- Fins up – both arms above your head
- Fins down – both arms down at your sides
- Swim to the left – lean to the left with your left arm down and right arm up
- Swim to the right – lean to the right with your right arm down and left arm up
- Circle – put your arms straight out and move your "fins" in small circle
- Think of your own "swimming" moves!

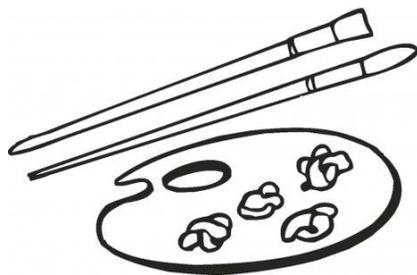
Try putting together different patterns for the students to copy – such as up, down, up, down, circle, circle, circle. Then gradually make the patterns more complex. Encourage your students to move slowly and gracefully, like they are swimming underwater.

Theatre – The characters in “Nugget & Fang” express several strong emotions during their story including happiness, sadness, and fear. An important part of acting in the theatre is learning how to identify different types of emotions and then show those emotions with your facial expressions and body language.



Ask your students to show you each type of emotion using just their face, just their body, or their face and body (but no talking).

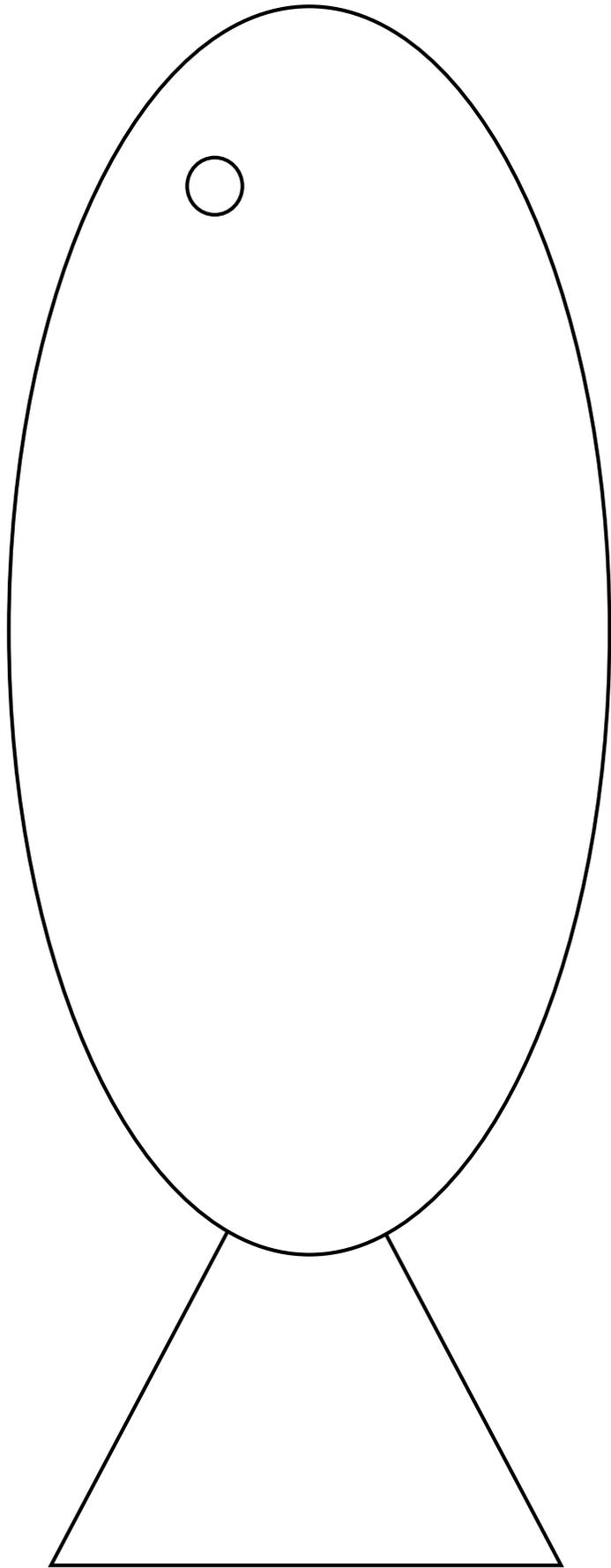
You can also use pictures of emojis to talk with your students about how to portray different emotions. Why does the happy emoji look happy? (big smile showing teeth) Why does the sad emoji look sad? (closed mouth, eyes looking down) Why does the scared emoji look afraid? (open mouth, raised eyebrows)



Visual Art – In the “Nugget & Fang” story book, we see lots of images of Nugget with his minnow friends from school. Nugget and his friends all have different colors and patterns.

First, find a page of the book that shows Nugget with his minnow friends. Ask your students to name all the different colors they see (pink, purple, blue, black, orange, green, yellow). You can also talk about how each fish is different – some have stripes, some have spots, some are mostly one color, some have several different colors.

Make copies of the fish template on the next page, and have your students each create their own colorful fish. You can use crayons, paint, or whatever colorful art supplies you have.



Other Activities

Take home activity – Before or after the performance, send home the coloring sheet found on the last page of this study guide.

Science – Go through the “Nugget & Fang” story book and look for all the different types of ocean animals seen in the illustrations.

- shark
- minnow
- crab
- jellyfish
- lobster
- eel
- squid
- pufferfish
- octopus

Compare the illustrations in the story book to photos of real animals. Maybe your classroom library has a book about ocean animals, or you can use an online resource such as

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/> or <https://www.britannica.com/>

Snack – Goldfish crackers!

Post-show Discussion Questions

After attending the performance, it is very important to talk to your students about their experience, memory, and reaction to the live performance. These are some possible questions:

- Tell me about what you saw on the field trip.
- Tell me about what you heard on the field trip.
- What will you remember about the performance?
- What surprised you about our field trip?
- What was the most exciting part of our field trip for you?



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