



**ORLANDO
SHAKESPEARE
THEATER**
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UCF

Study Guide 2017 - 2018



Based on the book by Judith Voirst

Music by Shelly Markham

Book and Lyrics by Judith Voirst

Florida Standards

Language Arts

LAFS.2.W.1: Text Types and Purposes

LAFS.2.RI.1: Key Ideas and Details

LAFS.2.RL.1: Key Ideas and Details

TH.K.C.1: Cognition and reflection

Theater and Visual Arts

TH.2.F.2: Careers in and related to the arts

TH.2.S.1: The arts are inherently experiential.

VA.1.S.1: The arts are inherently experiential.

G

Content appropriate for all audiences.

Children two years of age and younger may sit on laps. Older children must have a ticket.

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day

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Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day

An Introduction

Educators:

Thank you for taking the time out of your very busy schedule to bring the joy of theatre arts to your classroom. Brandon Yagel, Education Coordinator, and I are well aware of the demands on your time and it is our goal to offer you supplemental information to compliment your curriculum with ease and expediency.

1. We've added **Study Guide Spotlights** for quick reference to the standards addressed in each production.
2. We have two **NEW MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL WORKSHOPS** for your students.
 - **Shakespeare Alive Day 2** includes a mini performance by actors in your own classroom.
 - **Text Based Playwriting** helps your students prepare for testing by mapping Shakespeare speeches from *Julius Caesar* to create an acting scene of their own devising.

Additionally, please take a moment to explore our website at orlandoshakes.org/education. We've added 10-15 minute "on your feet " activities that you can do in your classroom to supplement your curriculum. We've also posted edited of Shakespeare scripts that range from 60 – 120 minutes long that are perfect for school productions. As always, we've included Sunshine Standards to assure you that those curriculum needs are being met.

We look forward to hosting you at the Lowndes Shakespeare Theater. Additionally, should you wish to bring our Actor/Educators into your classroom, we will work around your schedule. Feel free to contact us at Orlando Shakes should you have any questions or suggestions on how we can better serve you. We are always learning from you.

Thank you for your tremendous work in nurturing our audiences of tomorrow.

Anne Hering
Director of Education



Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day

Enjoying Live Theater

Theater is a Team Sport

The **Playwright** writes the script. Sometimes it is from an original idea and sometimes it is adapted from a book or story. The Playwright decides what the characters say, and gives the Designers guidelines on how the play should look.

The **Director** creates the vision for the production and works closely with the actors, costume, set and lighting designers to make sure everyone tells the same story.



Stage Manager -
Stacey Renee
Norwood
Photo: Rob Jones

The **Actors** use their bodies and voices to bring the author's words and the director's ideas to life on the stage.

The **Designers** imagine and create the lights, scenery, props, costumes and sound that will compliment and complete the director's vision.

The **Stage Manager** assists the director during rehearsals by recording their instructions and making sure the actors and designers understand these ideas. The Stage Manager then runs the show during each performance by calling cues for lights and sound, as well as entrances and exits.



Sound Designer -
Britt Sanducky
Photo: Rob Jones



Costume Designer -
Denise Warner
Photo: Rob Jones

The **Shop** and **Stage Crew** builds the set, props and costumes according to the designer's plans. The Stage Crew sets the stage with props and furniture, assists the actors with costume changes and operates sound, lighting and stage machinery during each performance.



Creative Team of The Merry Wives of
Windsor
Photo: Rob Jones

The **Front of House Staff** welcomes you to the theater, takes your tickets, helps you find your seat and answers any question you may have on the day of performance.

The **Theater** is where it all takes place. Orlando Shakespeare Theater In Partnership with UCF is the only professional, classical theater company in Central Florida, reaching students and audiences in the surrounding eight counties.

Mission:

To enrich our community with engaging professional theater, inspiring educational experiences, and thought-provoking new plays.

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day

Enjoying Live Theater

The Actor/Audience Relationship

The Audience is the reason Live Theater exists. At Orlando Shakes, we cherish the Actor/Audience relationship, the unique give and take that exists during a performance which makes the audience an ACTIVE participant in the event. The actors see the audience just as the audience sees the actors, and every, laugh, snuffle, chuckle and gasp the audience makes effects the way the actor plays his next moment. We want you to be engaged, and to live the story with us!

There are certain Conventions of the Theatrical Event, like, when the lights go down you know that the show is about to start, and that the audience isn't encouraged to come and go during a performance. Here are some other tips to help you and your classmates be top notch audience members:

- Please make sure to turn off your cell phones. And NO TEXTING!
- Please stay in your seat. Use the restroom before you take your seat and stay in your seat unless there is an emergency.
- Please do not eat or drink in the theater.



Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day

About the Play

The Playwright



Judith Viorst Judith Viorst is the author of several works of fiction and non-fiction for children as well as adults. *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* sold over two million copies and was made into a successful musical that is performed around the country. She also collaborated with Shelly Markham to create the musical: *Alexander, Who's Not Not Not Not Not Not Going to Move*, that was first produced at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. She resides in Washington with her husband, Milton, a political writer. They have three grown sons – Anthony, Nicholas, and of course, Alexander (who does community development lending for a bank).

The Composer



Shelly Markham has written hit musicals in New York and Los Angeles and has written many scores and special musical material for television, including *Friends*, *The Nanny*, and *Touched By an Angel*. About writing music for young audiences, he says, “A good song should work for any age. And kids are a tough barometer. They truly let you know. And that’s a good thing.”

images and photos courtesy of dramaticpublishing.com

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day

About the Play

The Characters

Alexander

Anthony

Nick

Albert

Audrey

Becky

Phillip

Paul

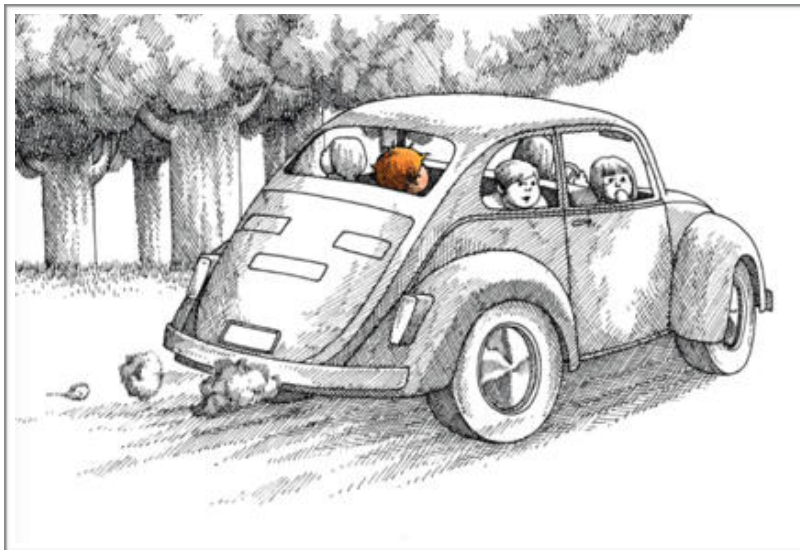
Mother

Mrs. Dickens

Dad

Doctor Fields

Shoe Salesman



**In this production 7 actors play all thirteen characters.*

Summary

Alexander is having a bad day. A terrible day. A horrible day. To be quite honest, it's a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day. But then, everybody has bad days, sometimes. In this delightful adaptation of her popular book, Judith Viorst sets Alexander's rather trying life to music and brings to the stage one of America's feistiest characters. Not only does Alexander wake up with gum in his hair, but his mother forgets to pack him dessert, and his best friend decides he's not his best friend anymore. And if that's not bad enough, Alexander's brothers don't have any cavities but—he does. And just when it can't get any worse, there are lima beans for supper and —yuck!—kissing on TV. It is enough to make anyone want to go to Australia. Alexander's struggles with life's daily dramas will not only entertain but educate young audiences as they identify with Alexander and the obstacles he encounters, encouraging them to share their feelings and to realize that bad days happen—even in Australia.

Information courtesy of dramaticpublishing.com

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day Activities

Good Day/Bad Day Tableau

1. Read an *Alexander* book aloud in class.
2. Discuss the book together. What makes a good day? What makes a bad day? Can you think of a time when you had a really great day?
3. Have students volunteer to participate in creating a "frozen picture" story about a situation that would make for a really great day. For example: Student suggests "My mommy took me out for ice cream". Select a number of students to come to the front of the class and participate in creating an "ice-cream date" tableau. Students should be encouraged to become both characters and set pieces/props in the scene.
4. Once all students are in place in the frozen picture, ask them if their character/prop/set piece made sound, what would it sound like? If their character/prop/set piece could move, how would it move? Give them a few moments to think about it.
5. On the count of three, instruct the students to bring their frozen picture to life! Discuss with class the things they saw and experienced.

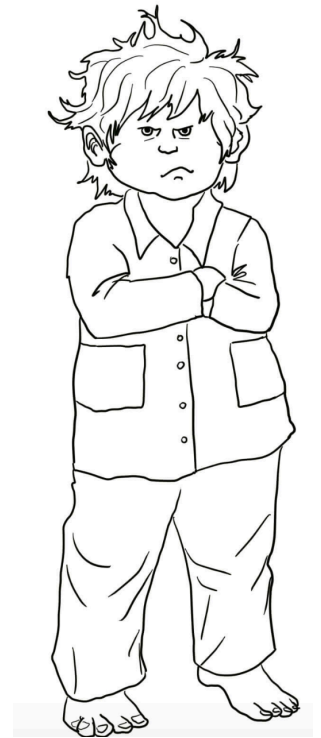


image source:
supercoloring.com

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day

Activities

Discussion Questions

Asking questions that lead students up the “thinking ladder”.

Use the following pattern in asking questions:

1. Ask OPEN questions to encourage and engage children.
2. Ask FOCUSED questions to elicit and organize specific information
3. Ask CONNECTING questions to help children learn to see the relationships between events, characters and ideas.
4. Ask broad questions to help children GENERALIZE/ learn to draw conclusions.
5. Accept, record and read all responses on the board, chart or overhead for all to see.

OPEN question examples:

- What did you notice at the play today....What did you see?
- What about the play was different from the book/story?
- What surprised you?
- What impressed you?

FOCUSED questions: (questions that probe children’s insights)

- What was Alexander struggling with? (_____.)
- How did he handle that struggle? (_____)

ANALYZING/CONNECTING questions:

- Why do you think Alexander had a bad day?
- What did Alexander learn about bad days?
- What lesson can we learn from Alexander? Is there a moral to this story? What from the story makes you think that?



image source: [itunes.com](https://www.apple.com/itunes/feature/illustrations/)

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day

Activities

Design a Costume Piece

In *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*, Alexander wants a new, flashy pair of shoes. If you were to go get a new, flashy pair of shoes, what would they look like?

1. Design your *dream* shoes.
2. What would the shoes look like? Color what you imagine in the rectangle.
3. Share drawings with the class. What makes your shoes special? How are they different from your peers?



Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day

Activities

Friendly Letter Writing

We love to hear from you at Orlando Shakes! So write us a letter to let us know what you thought! Introduce your topic, state your opinion, supply a reason for your opinion and close the letter. Follow to format below to include a heading, salutation, body, closing, and signature. Format an envelope according to the picture and send it our way. Teacher and parent comments are also appreciated! Thank you!

From:

Print Name

Street Address

City

State

Zip

Dear Orlando Shakespeare Theater,

Sincerely,

Sign Name

Print Name



Print Name

Street Address

City

State

Zip



**Orlando Shakespeare Theater
ATTN: Education Department
812 East Rollins Street
Orlando, FL 32803**