



ORLANDO
SHAKESPEARE
THEATER
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UCF

Study Guide 2016 - 2017



Based upon the book by

E. B. White

Adapted for the stage by

Joseph Robinette

Sunshine State Standards

Language Arts

LAFS.1.RL.1.3 - Describe Elements of Story

LAFS.2.RL.1.2 - Central Message

LAFS.3.RI.1.1 - Understanding Text

LAFS.4.RI.1.2 - Main Idea

Theater

TH.1.C.2.2 - Elements of Performance

TH.2.F.2.1 - Jobs in the Theater

TH.3.C.3.1 - Effective Theatre

TH.4.S.1.3 - Evaluate Live Performance

Stuart Little

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Enjoying Live Theater	
Theater is a Team Sport	4
The Actor / Audience Relationship	5
About the Play	
The Authors	6
The Playwright	6
The Characters	7
Summary	7
Activities	
Building a Story	8
Discussion Questions	10
Design a Backdrop	11
Friendly Letter Writing	12
Tell Us What You Think!	14



image source: movies-in-theaters.net

Stuart Little An Introduction

Educators:

First, let me thank you for taking the time out of your very busy schedule to bring the joy of theatre arts to your classroom. We at Orlando Shakes 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.

With that in mind, we've redesigned our curriculum guides to be more "user friendly." We've offered you activities that you may do in one class period with minimal additional materials. These exercises will aid you in preparing your students to see a production, as well as applying what you've experienced when you return to school. We've included Sunshine and Common Core Standards to assure you that those curriculum needs are being met.

It is our hope that by streamlining our guides they will invite you to dip in to grab historical background on an author or playwright, a concise plot summary and colorful character descriptions, discussion questions to explore in class or as writing assignments and interactive activities to bring the magic of live performance back to your classroom. And, of course, how to prepare your students to enjoy live theater.

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.

Bravo!

Anne Hering
Director of Education



image source: jrj-socrates.com

Stuart Little

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.

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.

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.

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/Vision:

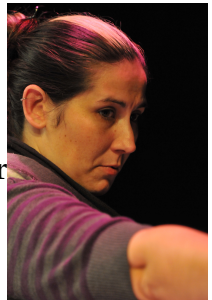
With Shakespeare as our standard and inspiration, the Orlando Shakespeare Theater In Partnership with UCF produces bold professional theater, develops new plays, and provides innovative educational experiences that enrich our community. Our vision is to create theater of extraordinary quality that encourages the actor/audience relationship, embraces the passionate use of language, and ignites the imagination.



Costume Designer
Denise Warner
Photo: Rob Jones



Costume Apprentice
Sheldon Desmond
Lamar Roberson
Photo: Rob Jones



Stage Manager
Stacey Renee
Norwood
Photo: Rob Jones



Sound Designer
Bruce Bowes
Photo: Rob Jones

Stuart Little

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, such as 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:

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



Stuart Little About the Play *The Author*



E. B. White, the author of such beloved children's classics as *Charlotte's Web*, *Stuart Little*, and *The Trumpet of the Swan*, was born in Mount Vernon, New York. He graduated from Cornell University in 1921 and, five or six years later, joined the staff of *The New Yorker* magazine. E.B. White authored over seventeen books of prose and poetry and was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1973. In addition to writing children's books, E. B. White also wrote books for adults, as well as writing poems and essays, and drawing sketches for *The New Yorker* magazine. Some of his other books include: *One Man's Meat*, *The Second Tree from the Corner*, *Letters of E. B. White*, *The Essays of E. B. White*, and *Poems and Sketches of E. B. White*.

Funnily enough for such a famous writer, he always said that he found writing difficult and bad for one's disposition but he kept at it!

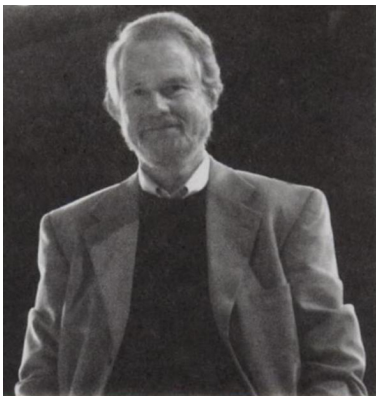
Mr. White has won countless awards, including the 1971 National Medal for Literature and the Laura Ingalls Wilder Medal, which commended him for making "a substantial and lasting contribution to literature for children."

He died on October 1, 1985, and is survived by his son and three grandchildren.

"Many years ago," E.B. White would say, "I went to bed one night in a railway sleeping car, and during the night I dreamed about a tiny boy who acted rather like a mouse. That's how the story of *Stuart Little* got started."

Photo and biography courtesy of scholastic.com

Stuart Little About the Play *The Playwright*



Joseph Robinette is the author or co-author of 44 published plays and musicals including *The Paper Chase*, *Anne of Green Gables*, *Stuart Little*, *The Chocolate War*, *A Rose for Emily* and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. He collaborated with E.B. White on the authorized stage version of *Charlotte's Web*, and with composer Charles Strouse on the musical version. Robinette's plays have been presented by Lincoln Center, the Goodman Theatre, Stage One of Louisville and the Honolulu Theatre for Youth. His works have been produced in all 50 states and in several foreign countries including Germany, Spain, England and South Africa. Robinette is the recipient of numerous awards including the Charlotte B. Chorpenning Award for a distinguished body of work. He is a member of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers and is

a founding member of Opera for Youth. In 2002, as professor of theatre at Rowan University, he received the Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award for Demonstrated Excellence in the University Classroom.

Stuart Little About the Play *The Characters*

Stuart Little	Dog
Mr. Little	Margalo
Mrs. Little	Telephone Repairwomen
Hank	Pigeon
Storekeeper	Harriet Ames
George	Woman with Newspaper
Leroy	
Angie	
Mr. Clydesdale	*In this production, six
Doctor	actors play the twenty one
Snowbell	characters.
Bus Driver	
Dr. Carey	
Zeke	
Bureau Chief	



image source: jrj-socrates.com

Stuart Little About the Play *Summary*

In this adaptation, six actors tell the story of Stuart Little. Stuart Little was born to a family of humans; however, he looked very much like a mouse! His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Little, loved him like family. Snowbell, the household cat, is not pleased to have a mouse be part of the family. Stuart's small size makes getting around difficult. As Stuart grows up, he begins to explore. He explores the New York City buses and sails toy sailboats. Stuart makes friends with Margalo, the bird. When Angie the cat decides to hunt Margalo, Margalo is forced to flee the Little house. Stuart leaves his home to find Margalo. On his journey, he meets a girl just his size named Harriet. They go on a date before Stuart heads further north. As the six actors wrap up the story, we know Stuart feels like he is headed in the right direction.

Stuart Little Activities *Building a Story*

OBJECTIVES:

This lesson fosters vocabulary growth, practices prediction skills and speaking to groups, develops creative writing skills, facilitates collaboration.

The student...

Demonstrates a basic understanding of internal story grammar.

Illustrates the beginning, middle, and end in a story.

Collaborates with classmates to create a resolution to the problem posed within the given story.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- A short story
- Chart Paper
- Crayons

LEAD-IN:

The class may be broken into small groups or arranged in a small circle on the floor around the storyteller.

Explain to the class that today we are going to learn how to build a story.

STEP-BY-STEP:

- Read a short story, stopping to clearly show any pictures or illustrations to the students.
- Stop reading about 3/4 of the way through the story.
- Distribute crayons and the sequencing worksheet provided.
- Ask the students to illustrate the events that occurred in the beginning and middle of the story. These drawings should be placed in the first and second square on the sheet of paper.
- In the last square students should draw how they imagine the story will conclude.
- Have students volunteer to share their conclusions with the rest of the class.
- Teacher proceeds to finish reading the book so that students can see how the author finished.

ASSESSMENTS:

- Demonstrate a basic understanding of internal story grammar.
- Use a Story Map to identify and diagram the characters, settings, problems, and solutions within a story.
- Accurately retells the events in the beginning, middle, and end of a given story.

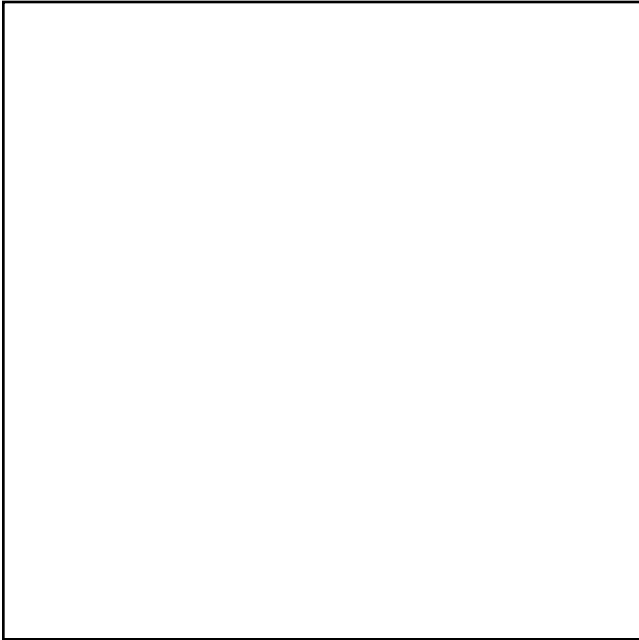
Stuart Little Activities *Building a Story*

Name: _____

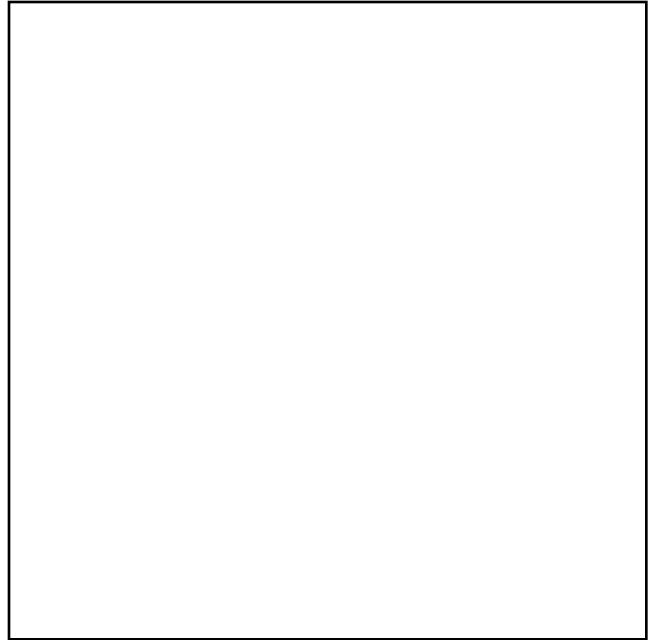
Date: _____

Title: _____

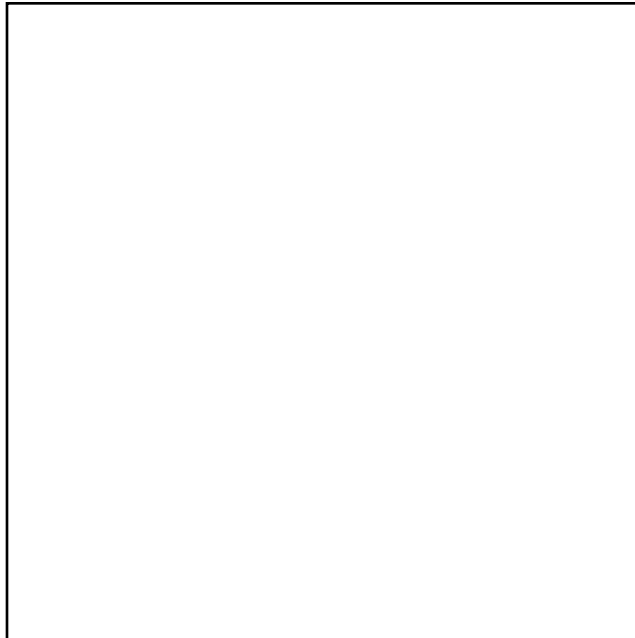
Event 1: Beginning



Event 1: Middle



Event 1: Ending



Using this chart, work with your child to illustrate the events that occurred in the beginning, middle and the end of the short story.

Stuart Little Activities *Discussion Questions*

Asking questions that lead children 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 did Stuart wish for? (_____.)
- How was his wish granted? (_____)

ANALYZING/CONNECTING questions:

- What did Stuart learn about wishes?
- Why do you think the Stuart wanted to go home?



image source: classroomclipart.com

Stuart Little Activities

Design a Backdrop

OBJECTIVES:

This lesson fosters imagination, spatial awareness, and fine motor skills. It facilitates collaboration.

The student...

Demonstrates a basic understanding of set design.

Illustrates a backdrop.

Collaborates with classmates.



1. Imagine New York City is behind Stuart Little.
2. What would be behind him? Draw and color what you imagine in the rectangle.
3. Compare your drawing to a peer's. What is similar? What is different?

**The set designer would give this drawing to the technical director to begin building the set.*

Stuart Little

Friendly Letter Writing

OBJECTIVES:

This lesson teaches children the five parts of a friendly letter. After visiting various websites to learn more about writing friendly letters, your child will be able to write a friendly letters utilizing the writing process.

The student...

Uses the writing process to develop friendly letters.

Uses the Internet to learn more about writing friendly letters.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- Poster board or Paper
- Markers
- Examples of friendly letters
- Computer with internet access

PROCEDURES/ACTIVITIES:

1. Visit the following websites:

pbskids.org/arthur/games/letterwriter/letter.html

readingrockets.org/article/22319/

educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson281.shtml

2. Take time to discuss each part of the letter.

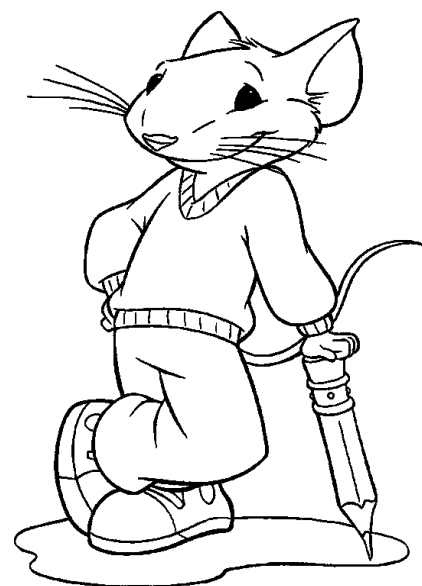


image source: sketchite.com

Friendly Letter Check List	YES	NO
I used capital letters & punctuation correctly.		
My letter has a heading		
My letter has a greeting		
My letter has a body		
My letter has a closing		
My letter has a signature		
My letter is ready to be checked by the teacher.		

Stuart Little Activities

Friendly Letter Writing

1.Heading

Name_____

Address_____

City, State, Zip code_____

2. Salutation

Dear _____,

3.Body

4.Closing

Sincerely,

5.Signature

Your Name_____

Tell us what you think!

After watching the play, write Orlando Shakespeare Theater a “Friendly Letter” and tell us what you think! Tell what you liked or disliked about the story, the characters, costumes, or set. Make sure to use the 5 parts of the letter listed in the lesson and to support your thoughts with examples and reasons.

Mail to: Orlando Shakespeare Theater
Education Department,
812 E. Rollins Street, Orlando, FL 32803.

*Teacher and Parent comments are also
Appreciated!*

