

## Study Guide 2019 - 2020

# ***Miss Nelson is Missing!***

BOOK, MUSIC, AND LYRICS BY JOAN CUSHING

Based on the book *Miss Nelson is Missing* and *Miss Nelson is Back* by Harry Allard. Illustrated by James Marshall.



## 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.

# *Miss Nelson is Missing!*

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# *Miss Nelson is Missing!*

## 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. We 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.

Please take a moment to explore our website at [orlandoshakes.org/education](http://orlandoshakes.org/education) for the following ways to add to your curriculum.

- “On your feet “ activities to energize students
- Shortened Shakespeare scripts that range from 60 – 120 minutes long that are perfect for school productions
- Study Guide Spotlights for quick reference to the standards addressed in each production

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

Brandon Yagel  
Education Coordinator



# Miss Nelson is Missing!

## 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.



# *Miss Nelson is Missing!*

## 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.



# *Miss Nelson is Missing!*

## About the Authors

**Harry Allard** was born in Evanston, Illinois on January 27th. He grew up in California, Long Island, and Chicago. He graduated from Northwestern College in 1943 and then performed active duty in Korea. He then lived in Paris for several years and became so fluent in the language that he got a master's degree and then a Ph.D. in French from Yale in 1973. He taught French at the college level for many years. Upon his arrival in Boston, he met James Marshall, whose art and friendship inspired Allard's first book, *The Stupids Step Out*. This successful collaboration paved the way for the publication of other *Stupids* books and the *Miss Nelson* series. *Miss Nelson is Missing* was voted one of the most memorable books of the century.



*Biography courtesy of kidsreads.com. Image courtesy of librarything.com*

**Joan Cushing**, a former elementary school teacher and cabaret performer, is best known for her political satirical revue *Mrs. Foggybottom & Friends*, which opened in 1986 at New Playwrights Theatre, and moved to the Omni-Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C., where it ran for 10 hit years, and four years on the road, including performances at Don't Tell Mama and The Triad in NYC. Also in New York, she performed her solo nightclub act *Lady Sings the News!* at the Ballroom, filling in for Blossom Dearie, appeared in Gary Trudeau's *Tanner for President* series on HBO, directed by Robert Altman, and studied musical theatre writing at the BMI Musical Theatre Workshop with Lehman Engel and Maury Yeston. Her adult musicals include *Flush!* (1999 Washington Theatre Festival, H.D. Lewis Award) and *Tussaud* (Winner, 2001 Washington Theatre Festival), writing for the annual *Hexagon* political revue (since 1976), and *The Crystal Palace Revue* in Aspen, Colorado. Cushing also penned a political satirical column in *Roll Call*, the newspaper of Capitol Hill: *The World According to Mrs. Foggybottom*, a high society bat she created to skewer the sacred cows of Washington.



*Biography and image courtesy of joancushing.com*

# *Miss Nelson is Missing!*

## About the Play

### The Adults

MISS NELSON: the nice, sweet teacher.

MISS VIOLA SWAMP: the substitute teacher who is the opposite of Miss Nelson.

POP HANSON: the Janitor/Narrator

MR. BLANDSFORD: the boring Principal

DETECTIVE McSMOGG: the inept detective

### The Kids

ADAM: has a wild imagination and dark thoughts

ALLISON: bossy, a leader, take-charge type, especially in times of crisis

GREGORY: finds it hard to sit still and pay attention

CHERYL: a follower, silly, a girly girl

### Synopsis

Miss Nelson concludes that something must be done about her crazy class.

Mr. Blandsworth, the principal, explains that Miss Nelson will not be in today. Instead, the students meet Miss Viola Swamp, a very terrifying substitute teacher. She demands respect and explains the consequences of disobedience in class.

The students go in search of their teacher but to no avail. They head to the Police Station to get some official assistance in their search.

At the Police Station, Detective McSmogg is, unfortunately, very little help. They meet at the local Ice Cream Shoppe and write a letter to Miss Nelson, begging her to return and promising to be better behaved.

At school the next day, the students have proven they have changed, when in walks Miss Nelson!

Later that evening, Miss Nelson is at home and singing to herself about a little secret she has been carrying!

Information courtesy of [theatricalrights.com](http://theatricalrights.com)



# ***Miss Nelson is Missing!***

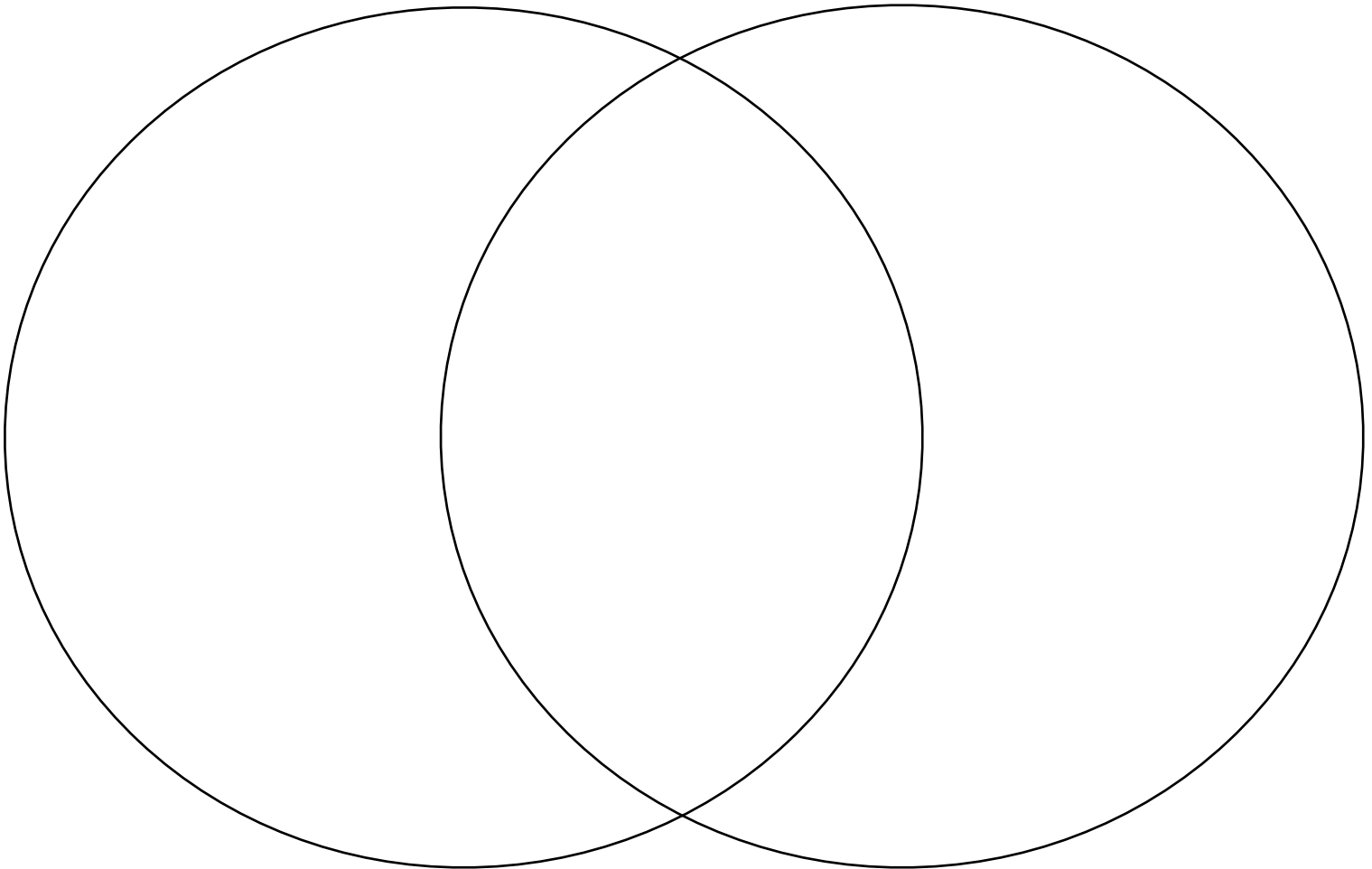
## **Story Comparison**

1. Read *Miss Nelson is Missing!* aloud in class. Discuss the book together.
2. Have students compare the story of *Miss Nelson is Missing!* to that of the play using the venn diagram below.
3. Compare your diagram to other students.

**Just About the Book**

**About Both**

**Just About the Play**



# *Miss Nelson is Missing!*

## 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 Miss Nelson struggling with?
- How did she handle that struggle?

#### **ANALYZING/CONNECTING questions:**

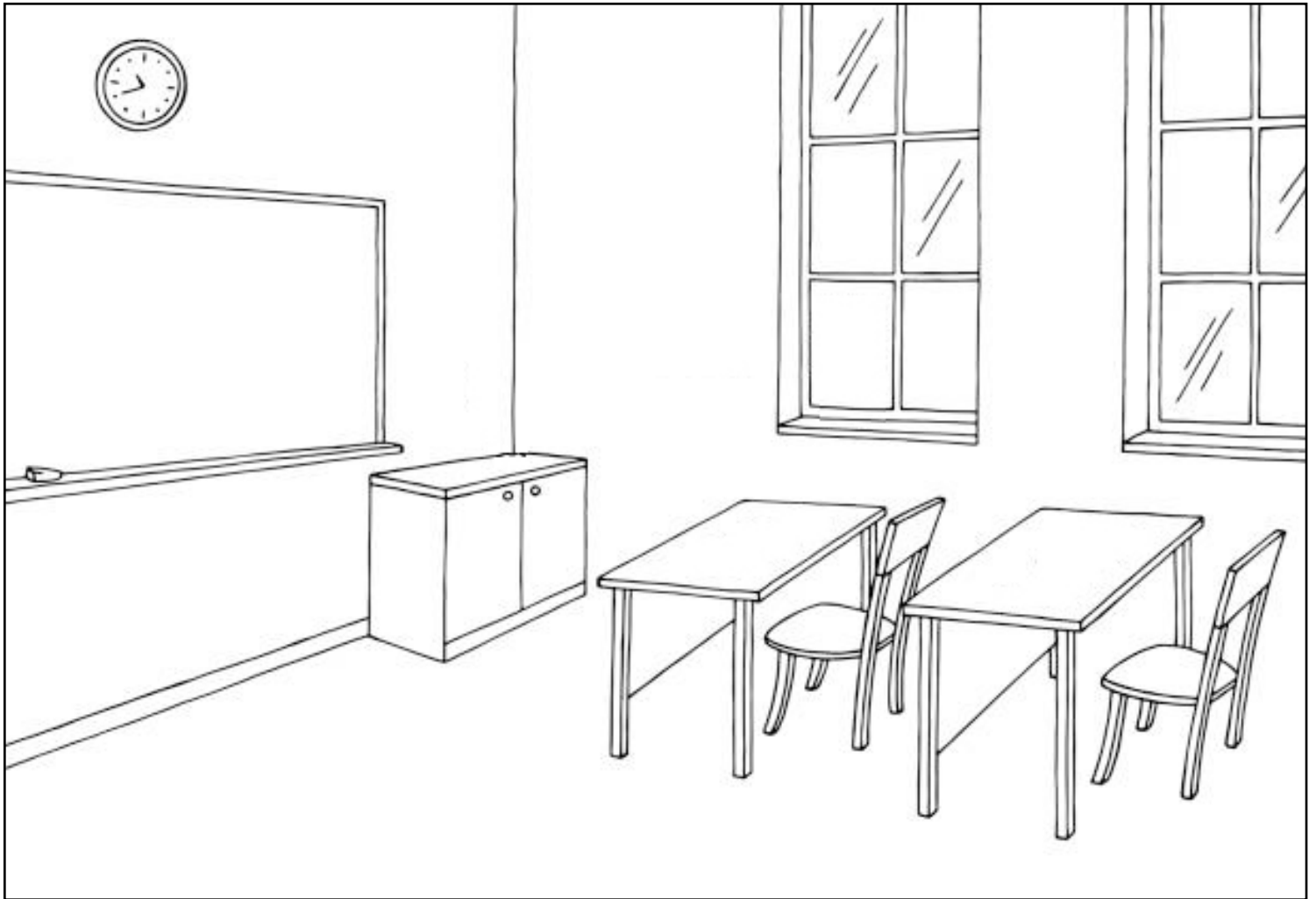
- What lesson did Miss Nelson's students learn?
- What lesson did Miss Nelson learn?

# ***Miss Nelson is Missing!*** **Design Your Classroom!**

## **Design your classroom!**

In *Miss Nelson is Missing!*, Miss Nelson must design her classroom to help her students learn and not misbehave.

Add decorations to the image below. How would your classroom look?





# Miss Nelson is Missing!

## Friendly Letter Writing

### 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 _____	
<b>Orlando Shakespeare Theater ATTN: Education Department 812 East Rollins Street Orlando, FL 32803</b>	