

Spotlight Guide 2025 - 2026

DON'T LET THE PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS!

THE MUSICAL!

Based on the books by Mo
Willems

Book And Lyrics by Mo Willems &

The Summary

In this hilarious and heartwarming musical based on Mo Willems' beloved picture book, The Pigeon has one dream: to drive the bus! But everyone—from the Bus Driver to a sweet Duckling to a wild cast of passengers—thinks it's a terrible idea. As The Pigeon tries every trick to get behind the wheel, the story becomes a musical rollercoaster about listening, patience, and learning that not every wish needs to come true. Through catchy songs, puppetry, and comedy, this fast-paced show reminds us all to keep dreaming—and maybe ask a little more politely.

Ways to Explore the Stories

Build A Story:

Read students *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* stopping to clearly show any pictures or illustrations to the students. When finished, ask the students to illustrate the plot/action as it occurred throughout the story. Have students volunteer to share their illustrations with the rest of the class.

Design a Backdrop

1. Imagine you're the scenic designer for *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* What would the background look like for the musical?
2. Think about the different locations in the show (like the bus stop, the city, the Pigeon's imagination).
3. Draw a backdrop that could be used in one or more scenes.
4. Use color and shapes that reflect the show's energy and humor.
5. Share your design with a classmate—what's similar or different between yours?

Florida Standards

Language Arts – B.E.S.T. Standards

- ELA.K.R.1.1 – Describe the main story elements in a literary text.
ELA.1.C.1.3 – Write opinion pieces about a topic or text.
ELA.2.R.1.1 – Identify plot structure and major story events.
ELA.2.R.3.3 – Compare and contrast details across media formats.

Theater and Visual Arts

- TH.K.F.2.1: Identify jobs in and related to theater.
TH.1.S.1.1: Describe how the arts are experienced through participation and observation.
VA.K.S.1.1: Explore the effects of tools and media on a completed artwork.

G

Content appropriate for all audiences.

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