



Teacher Resource Guide and Lesson Plan Activities

Featuring general information about our production along with some creative activities which will help make connections to your classroom curriculum, before and after the show.



The production and accompanying activities address **North Carolina Essential Standards in Theatre Arts, Goal A.1: Analyze literary texts and performances.** Look for this symbol throughout the resource guide for other curricular connections.

Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!



By Allison Gregory

Adapted by the books by Barbara Park

Book cover, copyright 2005 by Random House Children's Books, from *Junie B., First Grader: Jingle Bells, Batman Smells! (P.S. So Does May)* Written by Barbara Park and illustrated by Denise Brunkus. Used by permission of Random House Children's Books, a division of Random House, Inc.

Founded in 1948, Children's Theatre of Charlotte has been opening young minds to the wonders of live theatre for over half a century. Today it continues to be one of the most technically imaginative and resourceful theatres in the country. Annually it reaches over 320,000 young people and their families with multiple program areas: Mainstage productions, Tarradiddle Players Professional Touring Company and a full scope of Education classes for both community and schools. Children's Theatre of Charlotte is housed in **ImaginOn: The Joe & Joan Martin Center**. The facility is shared with the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library.

About the Play

First grader Junie B. Jones is super-excited about her school's holiday gift shop, especially the amazing Squeeze-a-Burp toy. When Junie B. draws May's name for Secret Santa, she hatches a plan to give her nemesis a lump of coal while snagging the Squeeze-a-Burp for herself. Will Junie B. have a last minute change of heart and show her true holiday spirit? A refreshing, new story for the season, this entertaining show has laughs to spare.

About the Author: Barbara Park

Barbara Park never dreamed she would end up writing books for young people. When she graduated from the University of Alabama in 1969 she thought she would teach high school History and Social Studies...but her life took a different direction. After college she moved with her husband to Phoenix, Arizona where she raised two sons and began her work as an author. Humor has always been part of Barbara Park's life; like Junie B., she spent her share of time in the principal's office for saying something when she should have been listening. To date, Barbara Park has written 2 picture books, 13 middle grade novels (including *Skinnybones* and *Mick Harte was Here*) and over 30 Junie B. Jones stories.

About the Playwright: Allison Gregory

Allison Gregory was commissioned to adapt Barbara Park's book *Junie B., First Grader: Jingle Bells, Batman Smells (P.S. So Does May)* for the stage by Childsplay Theatre Company in Arizona in 2009. Allison worked closely with Barbara Park in creating the adaptation and drew from two other books in the Junie B. story series: *Shipwrecked* and *Dumb Bunny*.

“Being a Secret Santa to someone you don’t like is the truest form of goodwill there is.”

- Mr. Scary, Junie B.’s First Grade Teacher

Questions for Discussion

1. Why do May and Junie B. have such a difficult time getting along with one another? What are some ways they could have resolved their problems more effectively?
2. Junie B. is clear to point out that May is a tattletale. What’s a tattletale? Do you think May is a tattletale or not? Mr. Scary gives May some rules about tattling. Do you recall these rules? Is it ever OK to tattle?
3. At the beginning of the play, there is a lengthy discussion among students about germs and viruses. Germs can be very common in schools and homes, particularly during winter. What are some ways we can stay healthy and protect ourselves from germs and viruses?
4. Junie B. pulls on May’s sweater and ruins the sleeve. How does that make May feel? Have you ever had someone disrespect one of your personal belongings? Have you ever ruined someone else’s personal property? How did you react?
5. As the class is preparing for the holiday sing-a-long, Junie B. thinks back to the Columbus Day play that she acted out with her classmates. What happened during the Columbus Day play? Was the class working together as a team? What are some other examples of things that can go wrong if you aren’t working together as a team?
6. Junie B. Jones makes a big deal about the letter “B” in the middle of her name and gets very mad at May when she calls her “Junie Jones”. Why are names so important to us? Do people — either intentionally or not — ever mess up your name? How does that make you feel? In the play, Junie B. never tells us what the “B” stands for in her name. From reading Junie B. Jones books, do you know?
7. Some of the scenes in the play take place at the present time. Other scenes are flashbacks. Discuss the use of flashbacks in stories and plays. Why would an author choose to use a flashback? What are some other stories that involve flashback scenes?
8. Discuss with your class the scene where Junie B. is asking her grandfather for money for the gift shop. How did you feel about the way Junie B. spoke to her grandfather? In your opinion, was it respectful? Why is it important for us to treat other people — especially in our family — with respect? Do you agree with the grandfather’s decision to give Junie B. the money? What would you have done if you were her grandpa?
9. At the end of the play, Junie B. has to make a very important choice. What did she decide, and why do you think she came to this decision? When May opened her bag, what did you think she would find there? Were you surprised?

Some “Junie-isms”

Junie B. Jones has her own personal style of talking. You can tell by the way she uses words that she is experimenting with language and trying to figure out the rules. Below are some of the words or phrases that Junie B. uses in the play. What do you think she means by these?

- “None of your beeswax.”
- “I have flutterflies in my stomach.”
- “I saved our geoses.”
- “Sheldon has the most interestingist family I’ve ever heard of.”
- “That was not my shiniest moment.”
- “Now I have stress in my head.”
- “I tried to settle down but my feet would not stop bouncing.”
- “Some people are born to be givers and some people are born to be shellfish.”
- “These are the bestest gifts I ever bought.”
- “Sometimes grammar makes my head explode.”
- “It’s an invasion of piracy.”
- “Boom... do the math.”
- “It was very peaceful of us. We were having goodwill, I believe.”

The complete title of the book that the play is based on is ***Junie B., First Grader: Jingle Bells, Batman Smells! (P.S. So does May.)*** When the book was adapted into a play, the title was abbreviated to ***Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells.*** Some scenes in the play are drawn from another Junie B. book called ***Junie B., First Grader: Shipwrecked***, which focuses on the Columbus Day Play.



Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy: SL2: Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media

Journal Writing

Junie B. Jones writes in a journal. Her journal entries are an important part of the play. Do you keep a journal? Listed below are some topics from the play that can serve as topics for journal entries. Discuss these ideas in class or write about them in a journal:

- Junie B. has an imaginary friend in Philip Johnny Bob. Have you ever had an imaginary friend? What are some important qualities in an imaginary friend?
- Sheldon describes his Aunt Bunny as a woman with six tattoos and a pointy tooth who makes chicken hash for dinner every Sunday. Lots of families have interesting family members. Is there someone particularly unusual in your family? What about this person makes him or her unique?
- Junie B. learns an important lesson about giving. As we get closer to the holidays, it's easy to get carried away by the things we want to **get**, rather than focusing on things we want to **give**. Giving isn't just about presents; we can give our time, our love and our service to others. Write about some ways you plan to share in the joy of giving this holiday season.

Holiday Gift Shop

When Junie B. Jones and her classmates from Room One visit the gift shop, there are five tables set up with gifts. Below are some of the gift options and their prices:

\$1 Table	Bookmark Tattoos (Pirates, Dragons, Dinosaurs Kitty Cats and Swamp Animals) Coin Purse
\$2 Table	Box of Crayons Tree Ornament Pencil Sharpener
\$3 Table	Coffee Mug Glow-in-the-Dark Barrettes Handkerchiefs
\$4 Table	Magic Markers Mini Football Jingle Bell Necklace
\$5 Table	Toy Train Squeeze-A-Burp Calculator Picture Frame

Write the list of gifts and prices on the board, or create a pretend gift shop in your classroom. Create three or four different options of how to spend the \$10 that Junie B. had to spend on her gifts.



Common Core Standards, Mathematics 1.0A: Represent and solve problems involving addition and subtraction.



North Carolina Essential Standards in Social Studies, 1.C.1.1: Compare traditions and holidays of various cultures.

Holiday Traditions

In the play, the students in Room One participate in a Secret Santa exchange and in a holiday sing-a-long. Both of these are holiday traditions. Discuss some holiday traditions celebrated in your classroom and with your families. Below are a few facts about some holiday traditions celebrated around the world:

In Sweden, Christmas begins with a **Santa Lucia Ceremony**. On Christmas Eve, a magical gnome called a Tomten speaks funny rhymes and leaves gifts.

Boxing Day, celebrated in Great Britain, Australia, Bermuda and some Caribbean Islands, occurs on the day after Christmas and represents the opening of alms (offerings) for the poor.

Kwanzaa is an African-American and Pan-American holiday which celebrates family, community and culture. Kwanzaa emphasizes seven cultural values: Unity, Self-Determination, Responsibility, Purpose, Cooperative Economics, Creativity and Faith. Each night one candle is lit to represent each cultural value.

Each year, Muslims observe **Ramadan** for 30 days. During this time, they honor their religion by fasting, praying, receiving religious instruction and feeding the poor. At the end of Ramadan, Muslims observe a three day celebration called Eid al-Fitr (the Festival of Fast Breaking). During this time, celebrants give charity to those in need and celebrate with family and friends.

Los Posados is celebrated in Mexico beginning December 16 and lasting for 9 nights. Children and their families reenact the story of Mary and Joseph by travelling house to house with lighted candles.

Omisoka is a Japanese tradition which celebrates the year and longevity. People gather to eat long noodles called toshikoshi which symbolize crossing over from one year to the next. A kadomatsu decoration is placed on each side of the front door. Made of pine, bamboo and straw, the decoration symbolizes purity, longevity and prosperity.

Celebrated by millions of people across the globe, **Hanukkah** is a Jewish holiday known as the "Festival of Lights". Hanukkah is celebrated for eight days. The lighting of a candle each night represents the rededication of the temple of Jerusalem where oil burned in the Temple for eight days straight.

Theatre Corner

Every play produced by Children's Theatre of Charlotte is created in the city of Charlotte by a talented team of designers, carpenters, stitchers, props masters and lighting technicians, not to mention the director and the actors. Because it is presented live, a play is very different from a television show or a movie. As a class, discuss what you experienced when you went to the theatre.

1. What was the first thing you noticed on the stage?
2. Name three things you noticed about the set. Did the set help tell the story? What sort of set would you have designed?
3. What did you like about the costumes? Did they fit the story? What sort of costumes would you have designed?
4. What role did lighting play in telling the story? How did the lights enhance what you were seeing?
5. Talk about the actors. Were there moments you were so caught up in the story that you forgot you were watching a play? Talk about those moments.
6. Is there a TV or movie version of the play you saw today? What makes a stage play unique?
7. Were there any actors who played more than one character? At what point in the play could you tell that it was the same person? What are some ways that you can be the same person but play different characters?



North Carolina Essential Standards in Theatre, 4.A.1.2: Critique choices made about characters, settings and events as seen or portrayed in, formal or informal theatre

Children's Theatre of Charlotte is sincerely grateful to our generous sponsors and supporters:



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A Conversation with Barbara Park

Random House.com published some of the frequently asked questions to author Barbara Park. Below are her responses to some of the questions.

Where do you get your ideas?

Honestly, my life isn't exciting enough to write about things that have actually happened to me, so I'm forced to make my stories up from scratch. Usually, I start out with a vague story line and a general idea of the characters. Then, once I begin to write, the story starts to flow. If all goes well, it will flow in all sorts of directions that I never could have predicted.

What is it like to be an author?

For me, the best part of being an author is that I get to go to work in my pajamas. Other than that, my life is very normal.

Are you funny in real life, like you are when you are writing Junie B.?

I'm not sure my family thinks I'm as funny as I do. But I'm pretty sure they're wrong.

How many books have you written?

When you write a series, it's hard to keep up with the numbers. But the last time I checked, I'd written two picture books, 13 middle-grade novels, and over 30 Junie B. Jones stories.

How did you come up with the name Junie B. Jones?

If I remember correctly, I started scribbling a bunch of first and last names down on a scrap of paper trying to find a combination that had the right ring to it. And after a few days, I looked down at my notes, and there was Junie B. Jones.

Do you draw the pictures in your books?

Now that would be a disaster. Denise Brunkus is the talented artist that brings such fun to the Junie B. illustrations.

Is it hard to think of what to name your books? Why?

Sometimes titles are very hard to come up with. The problem is that titles have to be short, and yet they have to tell you a little bit about the story. Hopefully, they also will be clever or funny. That can be a pretty tall order.

Who were you most like when you were a kid: Junie B., Grace, or Lucille?

Well, considering I went to visit "Principal," I was definitely more of a Junie B.

How many years have you been writing Junie B. Jones books?

The first book of the Junie B. Jones series was published in 1992, so 2012 is the 20th anniversary of the series!

What is the hardest part of writing Junie B. books?

After so many years of writing about her, the hardest part is trying to come up with new story ideas. I also have to work very hard to make sure Junie B. and her friends don't repeat the same jokes or conversations.

