

Children's Theatre Study Guide



A musical

Dramatized by Joseph Robinette

Music by Ronna Frank

Lyrics by Joseph Robinette and Ronna Frank

*Based on the original story by:
E.B. White*

September 29 – October 30, 2009



Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre

510 Centerville Road

Lancaster, PA 17601

717-898-1900

prathertheatres.com

Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre
Student Study Guide
Stuart Little

MUSICAL THEATRE STAFF

The Story Tellers – How We Put It Together:

In order to present the story of *Stuart Little*, many people worked very hard “behind the scenes” to tell the story and bring it to life on the stage.

The Writer is responsible to read, research and then write the dialogue and lyrics to tell the story.

The Director is responsible to read the script and then interpret the story using the talents of Actors, designers and technicians.

The Musical Director is responsible to read the script and study the music and teach it to the Actors.

The Choreographer is responsible to work closely with the Director to determine what dance steps should be used to tell the story in each scene and then teach the actors/dancers.

The Orchestra Arranger is responsible to work with the writer to determine what musical orchestra sounds will be needed to tell the story and then write and record the music.

The Set Designer is responsible to work closely with the Director to determine the different “looks” that will be used in each scene to tell the story.

The Costume Designer is responsible to work closely with the Director to determine the costumes (clothing) that each performer will wear that will help to tell more about each character in the story.

The Properties Designer is responsible to work closely with the Director and the Set Designer to determine what items each Actor will use in each scene (such as books, skates, toys, etc.) that will help to tell the story.

The Hair and Makeup Designer is responsible to work with the Director and the Actors to determine how each character will look in each scene to tell the story.

The Lighting Designer is responsible to work with the Director and Set Designer to determine what the lights will look like and do in each scene to set the “mood” and further tell the story.

The Actors are responsible, working with the Director, to tell the story through their voices, their faces, their dancing and their body movements.

THEATRE VOCABULARY TERMS

Match up the terms with the correct description.

House	The part of the stage that sticks out past the curtain line, closest to the audience.
The Pit	The area above the stage where scenery is rigged and hung.
Proscenium	The entrance to the theatre used by actors and technicians which leads directly backstage.
Apron	The lowered area in front of the stage where the orchestra musicians play.
Wings	The “control room” where the sound and lighting operator runs the show.
The Booth	The area above the stage where all the lights are suspended.
Stage Door	The arch that separates the “house” from the stage.
The Flys	The area of the theatre where the audience sits.
The Grid	The area on either side stage of the stage where actors wait for their cues.

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Stuart Little

WORD FIND

Find the words in the jumble below.
They can be up, down, diagonal and backwards!

D J F O E N C K M O L S S
F O O G B A B E T T E G C
K F G E O R G E D T O S D
R A A D D R M M E D D K J
M U S I C A L T Y T L A M
S T U A R T L I T T L E A
D N I E S O C G E N I C R
R E O J D R H E E P T D G
C L J W J O A M A B L T A
A T M L B H N T N E R P L
R T L Q Z E K E G Z A T O
E I U D J S L R I C S I P
Y L S T U E D L E R O Y D
G R E B W H I T E L O C E
Q M R S L I T T L E T G R

NARRATOR

STUART LITTLE

GEORGE

SNOWBELL

LEROY

MARGALO

ZEKE

HANK

MALTY

BABETTE

TIGE

ANGIE

DOGS

DR CAREY

MR LITTLE

MRS LITTLE

EB WHITE

MUSICAL

Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre
Student Study Guide
Stuart Little

Stuart is going to fly a kite. What color should it be?



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

E.B. White (Elwyn Brook White) was born on July 11, 1899 at Mount Vernon, New York to a piano manufacturer. He attended Cornell University, graduating in 1921, and was immediately offered a teaching job at the University of Minnesota. He turned down this offer because his goal was to be a writer.

His wish came true when he began writing for the *Seattle Times* as a journalist in 1922. White left the *Seattle Times* shortly after, though, because he realized he didn't truly enjoy journalism (reporting the news). Luckily, he was hired in 1925 to write for *The New Yorker*, one of the most popular and well respected magazines in the country. The articles White wrote for *The New Yorker* were widely read, and came to be considered prime examples of the magazine's simple non-fiction style.

In addition to his publications in *The New Yorker*, White also published poetry and essays for the next ten years. It wasn't until 1945 that he wrote his first children's book, Stuart Little. The idea for the story came to White in a dream.

In addition to Stuart Little, White also wrote Charlotte's Web in 1952, and The Trumpet of the Swan in 1970. He received many awards for his children's literature, and they continue to be considered standard reading in the classroom. He died on October 1, 1985. Since then, his children's books have been adapted into films, tv series, cartoons, and stage productions.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Narrator - Helps tell the story.

Stuart Little – A mouse born into a human family.

Mr. Little – Stuart’s father.

Mrs. Little - Stuart’s mother.

George - Stuart’s brother.

Snowbell - The Little’s cat.

Dr. Carey - A dentist who likes to race model boats.

Leroy - A bully.

Margalo - A bird with a sore throat.

Malty, Babette, Tige, Angie - Snowbell’s cat friends.

Harriet Ames – A girl about Stuart’s size.

THE PLACE

In and around New York City and Southern New England

THE TIME

A few years ago

Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre
Student Study Guide
Stuart Little

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Stuart makes lots of friends throughout the story. What do you think makes a good friend?

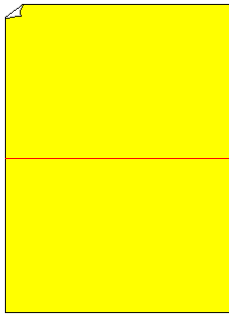
Stuart never becomes friends with Snowbell, the cat. Why do you think this is?

At the end of the story, Stuart is still traveling north and looking for his friend, Margalo the bird. Do you think he ever finds her?

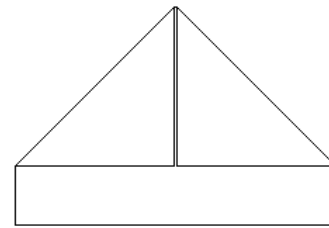
ACTIVITY

Write your own, alternative ending to the story and share it with the class!

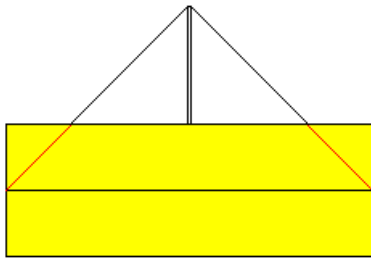
MAKE YOUR OWN MODEL BOAT!



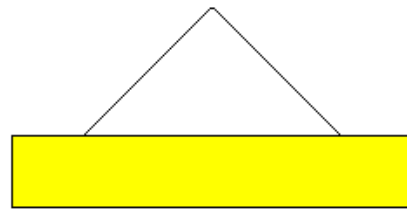
1. Fold a sheet of paper in half



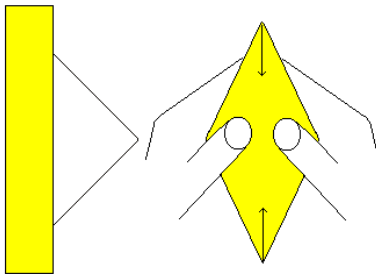
2. Fold corners from fold to center



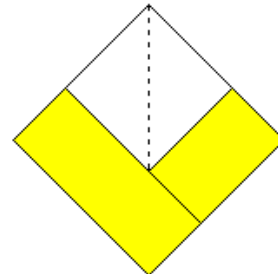
3. Fold the top strip upward.
Repeat on the other side.



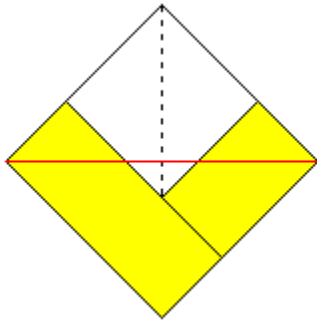
4. Your paper should look like this.



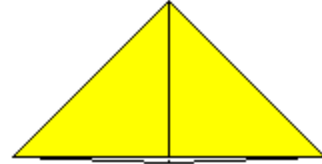
5. Put your thumbs inside, open it, and crease the sides.



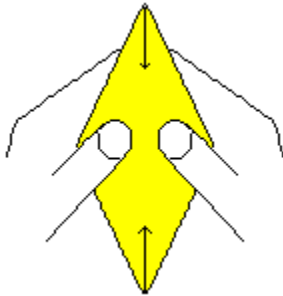
6. Your paper should look like this.



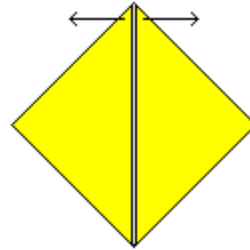
7. Fold the lower front triangle up on the line. Repeat on the other side.



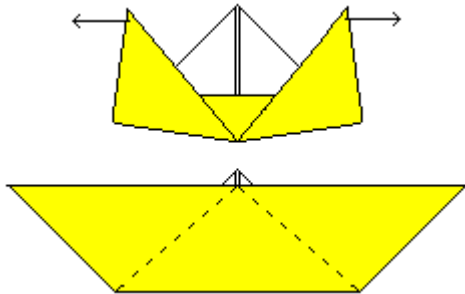
8. Your paper should look like this.



9. Open again and put the upper part on the lower one.



10. Pull the upper corners of the triangles in the direction of the arrows.



11. The paper boat is finished!

