MERMAID THEATRE OF NOVA SCOTIA

The Very Hungry Caterpillar

and Other Eric Carle Favourites

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APR 10 10 am
WELCOME TO THE HOP
A performance needs an audience, so be prepared to play your part!

THEATER ETIQUETTE
When entering the Hopkins Center, show consideration for all those sharing the building by remaining quiet and respectful in common areas.

Be aware and use quiet voices. Remember that live theater differs greatly from watching television or movies or attending a sporting event. Live performers can hear and see you and are easily distracted by any talking or moving around in the audience. Even the smallest sounds can be heard throughout the theater, so it’s best to be quiet so that everyone can enjoy the performance.

Applause is the best way to show your enthusiasm and appreciation!

Important things to remember: Backpacks, food, drink, and gum are not allowed in the theater. Please turn off all cell phones and note that recording the performance or taking any photos is strictly prohibited. Hats off! It is respectful to remove hats during your time in the theater.

INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS
Be prepared and arrive early. You should arrive at the theater 30 to 45 minutes before the show. Allow for travel time, parking, and trips to the restroom. You should be in your seat at least 15 minutes before the performance begins.

Have a head count. On the day of the performance be sure to have an accurate head count of students, chaperones and teachers.

Staying for lunch? Please call 603.646.2010 no later than one week in advance of the show to make a reservation for lunch. The day of the show, bring lunches in marked boxes and give them to a Hop staff member. Lunches will be ready for you after the show in Alumni Hall.

Photo Policy. The Hopkins Center may take photographs during the performance for use on our website or on promotional materials. If you or your students do not wish to be photographed, please see a Hop staff member.

The Show Must Go On! We do not cancel events due to inclement weather. Performances will only be canceled if the artist is unable to reach the theater. Schools will be notified by phone if the performance has been cancelled. We do not issue refunds for weather-related cancellations; please feel free to fill empty seats with other school or community members.

ENJOY THE SHOW!

This study guide was created for you by the Outreach & Arts Education team. To download copies of this study guide, see additional resources for this event, or view past study guides, please visit: www.hop.dartmouth.edu/outreach.

DID YOU KNOW?

• The Hopkins Center opened in 1962.
• The Hopkins Center was designed by Wallace Harrison, architect of Lincoln Center and the United Nations Building in New York City.
• The first three rows of The Moore Theater are on an elevator that goes eleven feet below ground to create an orchestra pit and can also be raised to the height of the stage to make it larger.
• In The Moore Theater, the area over the stage, called the “fly loft,” is 63 feet tall.
ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia presents three beloved stories by award-winning children’s book illustrator and author Eric Carle, retold on stage through the magic of black light and fanciful puppets. The Very Hungry Caterpillar follows the wonderful adventures of a very tiny and very hungry caterpillar as he eats his way through an amazing variety of foods on his path to becoming a beautiful butterfly. High up in the sky, Little Cloud playfully transforms himself into various creatures, including a sheep, an airplane, a shark and more. The Mixed-Up Chameleon is bored with his life, sitting about predictably changing color all day. Following an adventurous trip to the zoo, he attempts to emulate the beautiful animals he sees before coming to the conclusion that there is value in his own unique self.

Adapted, designed and directed by Jim Morrow, with music by Steven Naylor and recorded narration by Gordon Pinsent, this hour-long production features puppeteers Jackson Fowlow and Graeme Black Robinson. All of Mermaid Theatre’s productions are “non-shushing” meaning audiences are welcome to react vocally to what they see on stage. Each performance is also followed by a question and answer session with the performers.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Founded in 1972, Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia’s unique adaptations of children’s literature have delighted more than five million young people in 16 countries on four continents. Based in Windsor, a small rural town in Nova Scotia’s Avon Region, the company goes on tour and performs for more than 300,000 spectators a year. Closer to home, Mermaid offers instruction at all levels through its Institute of Puppetry Arts, welcomes artists-in-residence, provides outreach programming for teenagers and offers a vibrant performing arts series at the Mermaid Imperial Performing Arts Centre.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Eric Carle has written and illustrated more than 70 books for young children. Born in Syracuse, NY, he spent his youth in Germany where he studied fine art in Stuttgart. He returned to the United States in 1952 to work as a graphic designer for The New York Times and later as art director of an international advertising agency. His delightful books, which combine stunning collage artwork with an imaginative approach to learning, have sold more than 110 million copies worldwide; over 40 books are still in print. Eric and his wife Barbara divide their time between the Florida Keys and the hills of North Carolina. In 2002, The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art opened to the public in Amherst, MA.
CONTEXTUAL BACKGROUND

ROD PUPPETS
Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia uses several different kinds of rod puppets in its productions. A rod puppet is a puppet that is attached to a stick or rod which serves as a handle for the puppeteer to move different areas of the puppet. More complicated rod puppets use ‘cable-control,’ a wire or string which, when pulled by a trigger, moves the puppet in a certain way. Rod puppets can be used in a variety of different ways and do not require a lot of previous puppetry experience in order to be performed well. They are a good starting point for learning about puppetry and puppet-making.

BLACK LIGHTS
Even though we cannot always see it, white light is made up of the whole rainbow of colors. Our eyes can see visible light in a spectrum ranging from red through orange, yellow, green, blue, ending with violet. Beyond violet is ultraviolet light, which we cannot see. A black light bulb produces ultraviolet light. What you see glowing under a black light, like the fluorescent paint in The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Other Eric Carle Favourites, are phosphors. The phosphors remain hidden until you shine the ultraviolet light in the black light on them.

CHAMELEONS
In the reptile world, there are many shapes and colors, but some of the most unique are found in chameleons. These colorful lizards are known for their ability to change color, their long, sticky tongue, and their eyes, which can be moved independently of each other. Most chameleons live in Madagascar and Africa, though some live in the Middle East, Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Portugal and Spain. Chameleons do not really change color to match their surroundings. Instead, each different kind of chameleon is able to shift their color based on their emotions and their natural markings.
CONTEXTUAL BACKGROUND (CONT.)

CLOUDS

Clouds are visible accumulations of water droplets or solid ice crystals that float in the Earth’s troposphere (the lowest part of the Earth’s atmosphere), moving with the wind. Clouds form when water vapor condenses (turns into liquid water or solid ice) onto very small dust particles floating in the air. This condensation happens in a variety of circumstances: when warm and cold air meet; when warm air rises up the side of a mountain, cooling as it rises; and when warm air flows over a colder area, like a body of water.

Clouds are defined by both the way they look and how high they are in the sky. Cirro, meaning “wisp of hair,” is a prefix given to high-altitude clouds (above 20,000 feet). Alto, meaning “high,” is a prefix given to mid-altitude clouds (between 6,000 and 20,000 feet). Nimbo, meaning “rain,” indicates that the cloud can produce precipitation. Cumulo, meaning “heap,” refers to piled-up clouds. Strato, meaning “layer,” refers to flat, wide, layered clouds. There is no prefix for low-altitude clouds; when clouds are by the ground we simply call them fog.

CATERPILLARS

When a butterfly egg hatches, out comes a caterpillar. This stage of a butterfly’s life can last from two weeks to a month, with the caterpillar growing to more than 30,000 times its original size. Because they are growing so quickly, the caterpillar will spend most of its time eating. To help it along, caterpillars have powerful jaws that easily chop leaves. Caterpillars are very limited in their diet; many will only eat the leaves of a single type of plant. Most of a caterpillar’s body is filled with intestines that quickly digest its food.

Though moths spin cocoons, butterflies do something a little different. After a period of feeding and growth, the caterpillar attaches itself to a branch and grows a very hard skin called a chrysalis. Metamorphosis, the process through which a caterpillar becomes a butterfly, occurs inside the chrysalis. Moths also start out as caterpillars, but when it is time to turn into a moth, they spin a cocoon around themselves made out of silk they produce.

Fun Facts:

If a human baby weighed 9 pounds at birth and grew at the same rate as a caterpillar, it would weigh 243,000 pounds when fully grown.

Butterflies don’t have mouths that allow them to bite or chew. They have a long straw-like structure called a proboscis which they use to drink nectar and juices. When not in use, the proboscis remains coiled like a garden hose.

Butterflies taste with their feet. Their taste sensors are located in the feet, and by standing on their food, they can taste it!
LEARNING ACTIVITIES:

FLOAT LIKE A BUTTERFLY (PRE-K-1):
Explore movement using images from Eric Carle’s stories. Identify the characters in each story: all the different images in the clouds, the animals the chameleon sees at the zoo, the stages of the caterpillar’s life. Choosing a character, have everyone move around the room to explore how that character might move. How does the caterpillar move when it’s hungry? How about after it has eaten all that food? When it’s in its cocoon? How does a clown-shaped cloud move? A shark-shaped cloud? Read the stories aloud while the students move as each character.

EXTENDER: Incorporate simple costumes or props into the exploration; a piece of fabric or blanket that can become butterfly wings, cotton balls that represent clouds or items that represent each color/animal for the mixed-up chameleon.

FIND THE FAVORITES (K-1):
Create a matching game to play in the classroom. Hand out two 4” x 4” squares of paper to each student. Like the hungry caterpillar and the mixed-up chameleon, ask each student to think of some of their favorite foods or favorite animals. Have students draw and color a picture of their favorite item on each paper, trying to make both pictures look similar so they have two that match. If there is time, have each student draw two more identical images of a different favorite thing. Use everyone’s drawings to play a matching memory game. Turn all of the cards face down and mix them up. Then lay them out on a table, still face down. Have students turn over one card then turn over a second card. If the cards match, the student gets to take both off the table. If they don’t match, turn them both back over and let the next player take a turn. For a bonus, see if the students can guess which classmate did what drawing.

DISCOVER PHOSPHORS! (GRADES K-2):
You’ll need:
- A black light or black light bulb (you can find them at places like Walmart and hardware stores, as well as on Amazon.com)
- Tonic water or a highlighter pen
- A dark room to do the experiment

If you are using a highlighter pen carefully break it open, remove the felt and soak it in a small amount of water for a few minutes.

1. Find a dark room. Plug in light or swap out light bulb in fixture with black light bulb.
2. Turn on the black light near your water. Have students use descriptive words to share what they see.

Tonic water and the dye from highlighter pens contain phosphors that turn ultraviolet light (light we can’t see) into visible light (light we can see). That’s why your water glows in the dark when you shine a black light on it.

Photo courtesy of Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia
PRE PERFORMANCE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

• Have you seen puppets before? What kinds of puppets do you think you’ll see in the performance at the Hop?

• After reading the books in class, ask students about what they saw and heard:
  • Why do you think Eric Carle wanted to write a book about a caterpillar, clouds and a chameleon? What would you like to write a book about?
  • What kinds of food does the caterpillar eat in the book? What kind of food do you think most caterpillars eat? Of all the foods the caterpillar eats, which is your favorite?
  • What questions do you still have about these stories?

POST PERFORMANCE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

• Were you able to recognize images from the book on the stage? If so, which ones?

• In what ways were the puppets different from what you imagined? In what ways were they the same?

• What was one thing you learned from the puppeteers at the end when they answered questions from the audience?

VOCABULARY

Altitude: the height of an object in relation to sea level or ground level

Black light: a bulb, tube or other device that emits black light when stimulated with electrical current

Evocative: causing one to recall memories or images of things that are not present

Fluorescent: very bright and dazzling in color

Illustrator: a person who draws or creates explanatory or decorative pictures to accompany printed text

Phosphors: a substance that emits light when it encounters radiation

Precipitation: rain, snow, sleet or hail that falls on the ground

Prefix: a word or part of a word placed before another word, usually altering the meaning

Puppeteer: somebody who operates puppets or gives puppet shows

Spectrum: a continuous distribution of colored light produced when a beam of white light is dispersed into its components by a prism

Tour: a long series of performances in different places

Ultraviolet: relating to or producing electromagnetic wavelengths beyond the violet end of the visible light spectrum

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND REFERENCES

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia
http://www.mermaidtheatre.ns.ca/

Eric Carle
www.eric-carle.com and www.carlemuseum.org

See How Black Lights Work
http://science.howstuffworks.com/innovation/everyday-innovations/black-light2.htm

San Diego Zoo
http://animals.sandiegozoo.org/animals/chameleon

More on puppetry
http://www.sp.uconn.edu/~wwwsfa/library_howto_rodpuppets.htm

http://puppetpie.com/gallery/

www.daniellesplace.com/HTML/puppets.html

www.puppets2000.com/index6b.html