



# THE BIGGEST LITTLE HOUSE IN THE FOREST

BY ROSANNA STAFFA

BASED ON THE BOOK BY DJEMMA BIDER

## STUDY GUIDE

PROVIDED BY



# PERFORMANCE DATES AND HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

“The Biggest Little House in the Forest” by Rosanna Staffa  
Based on the book by Djemma Bider  
Music by Victor Zupanc

- Virtual Field Trips and Touring Performances available February 9th - March 5th, 2021
- Visit [www.bct123.org](http://www.bct123.org) for more information or to book a field trip today!

## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This classroom guide for “The Biggest Little House in the Forest” is designed for Alabama students in grades Pre-k through 2nd. It offers activities to help you integrate classroom activities into English Language Arts (ELA) and Theatre curricula.

All activities in this guide are linked to the Alabama State Department of Education content standards.

<https://www.alsde.edu/>



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# YOUR ROLE AS THE AUDIENCE

Dear Audience Members,

Birmingham Children's Theatre is excited to welcome you as a member of our audience!

Our theatre may look a little different this year, but as always, stories create a world of imagination and fun, where the impossible comes to life. In theatre, the audience is an extremely important part of our storytelling, and we need your help to make this the best show possible for you and your fellow audience members!

While the show is happening, DO

- Give your full attention to the actor(s) and the story
- Feel free to laugh, gasp, and applaud!
- We might need your help, so participate when asked

And to make sure everyone can enjoy the show, we ask that you DON'T

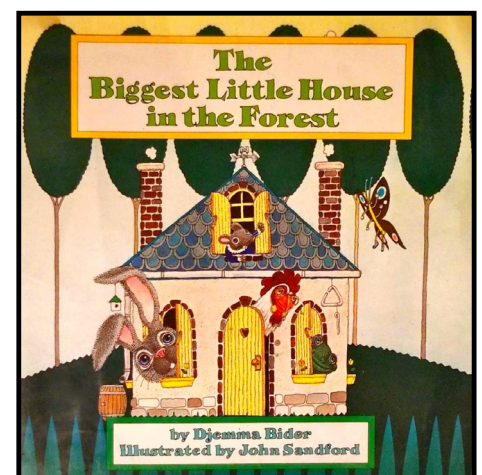
- Talk to your friends and neighbors
- Wave, shout, or disrupt the performance

There will be time after the performance to talk to the actor(s) and ask questions.

We are excited to share our production with you!

Thank you,

Birmingham Children's Theatre





# PLOT SUMMARY

When Bernice the Butterfly finds an abandoned house in the woods, she sets out to make it her home. Soon she is joined by Millie the Mouse, Fred the Frog, Richie the Rabbit, and Rudy the Rooster. But, when lovable Bartholomew the Bear knocks on the door, chilled to the bone in the pouring rain, he finds there is no room. Forced to warm himself on the roof near the chimney, the whole house collapses under his weight. Embarrassed, Bartholomew offers to build a new home for all of them, and soon they learn that everyone is welcome and there's always enough room for a new friend.



# ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

## “THE BIGGEST LITTLE HOUSE IN THE FOREST” BY ROSANNA STAFFA



Rosanna Staffa is an Italian born playwright and author. She has won multiple Nonfiction Prizes as well as honorable mentions. Her plays have been published all over the world! From Japan to many states in the US! Rosanna has a Ph.D in Modern Foreign Languages as well as a MFA in Fiction! She continues

to push herself as a playwright and bring magical stories to the classroom!



# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

## BCT MUST READS

### FURTHER READING FOR EARLY READERS (PRE-K)

- “Baby Bear Counts One” by Ashley Wolff
- “Tangled: A Story about Shapes” by Anne Miranda
- “Love Makes a Family” by Sophie Beer
- “Hooray for Hat!” by Brian Won
- “What Sound is Morning?” by Grant Snider
- “Pizza Day!” by Melissa Iwai
- “Mr. Tiger Goes Wild” by Peter Brown
- “Ruby’s Sword” by Jacqueline Veissid





# CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

## BUTTERFLY PUPPETS

*Bernice the Butterfly is the first character you will meet in “The Biggest Little House in the Forest.” Make your own butterfly puppets using the ideas below!*

- Use folded tissue paper to make the wings. Clip the center with a clothes pin to make the body. Decorate the clothes pin with markers, googly eyes, or sequins.
- Mix it up: Color coffee filters with markers. Use water droppers to blend the colors and create a tie-dye effect. After the coffee filter has dried, use a clothes pin or pipe cleaner to scrunch in the middle. Attach googly eyes or twist the pipe cleaner ends to be antennae.



- Paint, color, or mosaic a paper lunch bag to be the body of your butterfly. The flap side should be the front and will be the mouth of the butterfly. Use small paper plates as wings. Decorate the paper plate wings and attach them to the body. Don't forget to add antennae, eyes, and a mouth!
- Most Durable: use a clean tube sock to create a butterfly puppet. Cut out heart-shaped wings out of felt and decorate using buttons, sequins or thread. Use fabric glue to attach the wings to the tube sock body. Don't forget to add eyes, antennae and a tongue for the mouth.

# CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

## WRITING EXERCISE

*Bernice the Butterfly lives in the biggest little house with her friends Millie the Mouse, Fred the Frog, Rudy the Rooster, and Richie the Rabbit. They have lots of fun with bubble baths, pillows fights, and dance parties!*

Think about your house – what does your house look like? Who lives with you in the house? What sort of fun do you have in your house? You can also draw your house on the back of this paper!

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# CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

## ACTING EXERCISE

*“The Biggest Little House in the Forest” features animals that are big, like Bartholomew the Bear, and animals that are small, like Millie the Mouse.*

- Encourage your little ones to use their body, voice, and imagination to make themselves BIG like a bear, then make a bear noise—ask them, “Do you know what sound a bear makes? Can you make your face look like a bear, too?”
- Then, ask them to make their body SMALL like a mouse and make a mouse noise.
- Once they know how to become a bear and mouse, ask them to apply emotions: What does a happy bear look like? Or a sad bear? How about an excited mouse, or a shy mouse?
- Mix it up: There are many other characters in “The Biggest Little House, like Fred the Frog, Rudy the Rooster, Ritchy the Rabbit, and Bernice the Butterfly! Can you make yourself into other animals, like the characters? Or, think of different animals that you know and pretend to be those animals!





# CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

## COLORING SHEET



# POST SHOW RESPONSE

Here at BCT we strive to Educate, Enrich and Entertain the lives of children through the magic of professional theatre. Please use this guide as a reflection on the performance you have seen and send it back to BCT so we can make your next experience magical!

Dear (who was your favorite character?) \_\_\_\_\_,

I am (how old are you?) \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the \_\_\_\_\_ grade at (what school do you attend?) \_\_\_\_\_ . I saw your performance of \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (month) \_\_\_\_\_ (year)! I thought the play was (how did the play make you feel and why?) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_. My favorite part of the play was (what was something that was real to you?) \_\_\_\_\_

I really liked the character because (what made you like them?) \_\_\_\_\_ . The set looked like (what did you see?) \_\_\_\_\_ .

The music sounded like (what did you hear?) \_\_\_\_\_ .

Something else I loved about the play was \_\_\_\_\_ . I would really love to see (what is a play that you think is fun?) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ performed next at Birmingham Children's Theatre.

Love,

(what is your name?) \_\_\_\_\_



BIRMINGHAM  
CHILDREN'S  
T H E A T R E

**THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

QUESTIONS? CONTACT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, JESSIE KISOR

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