



STUDY GUIDE

*By Linda Hartzell and Mark Perry
Music By Christopher Walker*



PROVIDED BY BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN'S THEATRE

Performance Dates & How to Use This Guide

**“Dot & Ziggy” by Linda Hartzell and Mark Perry
Music by Christopher Walker
Directed by Rebecca Yeager**

Dot and Ziggy may be neighbors, but they aren’t yet friends.
After all, what could a ladybug and a skunk possibly have in common?
One likes up, one likes down. One flies, one runs.
But neither of them know how to share.
With the help of a wise spider, and the encouragement of the audience,
they might just find their way.

Performances are Wednesdays - Fridays at 9:30am
August 26 - September 17, 2021
Visit www.bct123.org for more information or to book a field trip today!

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This classroom guide for “Dot & Ziggy” is designed for
Alabama students in Pre-K and Kindergarten.

Use this guide to prepare for your trip to the theatre with pre-show activities
and a theatre etiquette guide.

After the show, further the experience with activities that can be
integrated into your current classroom curriculum. This guide meets the
Alabama Standards for Early Learning and Development

<https://children.alabama.gov/alabama-standards-for-early-learning-and-development/>

(All worksheets can be found in the “Study Guide Printables” packet provided).

Lastly, we would love to hear from you! Please have your students fill out the
“Post Show Response” form in the printables packet.

Table of Contents

STUDY GUIDE

Your Role as the Audience.....	4
About the Artists.....	5
Pre-Show Activities	
Crafts.....	6
Defining Theatre.....	8
Activities for the Classroom.....	9

STUDY GUIDE PRINTABLES PACKET

Classroom Activity #9: Parts of a Story Worksheet.....	2
Coloring Sheet.....	3
Post Show Discussion.....	4

Your Role as the Audience

Dear Audience Members,

Birmingham Children's Theatre is thrilled to welcome you back to our theatre this year as a member of our audience!

A few rules we want to make sure everyone is aware of:

- **Masks on!** (for anyone 2 years or older)
- **Cell phones off!** And put away - this is an immersive show that asks its audiences to be engaged in the storytelling

This show is something a little new for BCT -- **a show built entirely for early learners!**

Through repetition, rhyme, song, and a lot of audience interaction, this show invites young kids to not just watch but experience creative storytelling.

For those who have been to BCT before, even our theatre is going to look a little different.

This space has been designed for kids at play -- a yes space -- where their imagination takes center stage. When you arrive at the theatre, our staff will meet your vehicle and guide your class to the theatre. Once you get to the theatre, our characters will be there to greet you and encourage kids to explore this new environment. In short, we *don't* want you to sit quietly in a line. We *DO* want you to have a wonderful time in the world of *Dot & Ziggy!*

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 actors and the story
- Feel free to laugh, gasp, and applaud!
- Get up and move when you need to -- we love getting the wiggles out!
- **We need your help to tell the story!** When the actors ask you to, dance, move, sing along and participate in our storytelling!

As a special note: **we have created a series of pre-show crafts that students can make and bring with them to the theatre** (See pages 6 & 7). These items tie directly into some of our storytelling moments. *These crafts are not necessary to enjoy the show, they just offer another opportunity for kids to engage, learn, and play.*

We are so excited to share *Dot & Ziggy* with you!

See you soon,

Birmingham Children's Theatre

About the Artists



LINDA HARTZELL - PLAYWRIGHT

Linda Hartzell served as Artistic Director of Seattle Children's Theater from 1984 until her retirement in 2016. She received her BA in Education from the University of Washington. She directed 87 plays, 56 of which were world premieres, for SCT including *Little Rock*, *Goodnight Moon*, *Pink and Say*, *Still Life with Iris*, *The Odyssey*, *Afternoon of the Elves*, *The Rememberer*, and *A Single Shard*. Linda has also directed in Chicago, Austin, Tempe, Japan, Australia, and in Barcelona for the Olympic Arts Festival in 1992. The Children's Theatre Foundation of America presented her with the prestigious Orlin Corey Medallion award in 2013 for contributing to the cultural enrichment of children and youth through artistic work in theatre. Linda currently serves on the Executive and Foundation Boards of the Society of Directors and Choreographers.



MARK PERRY - PLAYWRIGHT

Mark Perry teaches play analysis, playwriting, and drama survey courses in UNC's Department of Dramatic Art, and he serves as a resident dramaturg for PlayMakers Repertory Company. Recent shows he worked on include *Jump* and *How I Learned to Drive* (2019). In 2017, he and his wife, Azadeh, published *Our Friend Mona*, a biography about a young Iranian martyr. Mark graduated from the University of Iowa's Playwrights Workshop and was a past recipient of the North Carolina Arts Council's Literature Fellowship for Playwriting and an Institute for Arts and Humanities Academic Excellence Award.



REBECCA YEAGER - DIRECTOR

Rebecca Yeager is thrilled to bring *Dot and Ziggy* to Birmingham families. While she performs for many companies in Birmingham, BCT audiences are her favorite! She is an actor, teacher, director, and choreographer who specializes in integrated movement and vocal technique, including yoga, stage combat, Luger technique, and classical theatre including Greek tragedy, Shakespeare, and Commedia dell'Arte. Rebecca received her Master of Fine Arts in Theatre Performance from the University of Southern Mississippi and graduated Cum Laude from Birmingham-Southern College with a Bachelor of Arts in Musical Theatre. Thank you to BCT's amazing staff of artists and administrators for their tireless work keeping theatre alive in the past year, to Kim, Ruby, Theo, and Zoe for their willingness to play and explore the world through a child's eye, and most of all, Charles and the Yeagerlings for their love, encouragement, and creative spirits.

Pre-Show Activities

PRE-SHOW CRAFTS

A note from the Artistic Director: *Dot and Ziggy* offers multiple interactive opportunities for audience participation. We have designed this set of crafts to directly tie into moments of the show, and welcome you to create these with your kids and bring them to the theatre on your show day. This is just one opportunity among many in this show for children to engage, learn, and play through stories. *If you cannot or choose not to bring the crafted items with you, it will in no way hinder the experience for the children.*

Craft 1: Streamers

We love easy crafts that combine natural items we find in the backyard or simple crafts the kids can do. Plus these wind streamers are a perfect activity for using up all that scrap yarn and ribbon.

Materials:

- Sticks or tie in knot
- Ribbon
- String
- Yarn
- Scissors

Instructions:

Cut strips of yarn, ribbon, and/or string. They can be as long or as short as you want, depending on how much of the materials you have available. Next, tie the ribbons onto one end of the sticks to make the wind streamers.

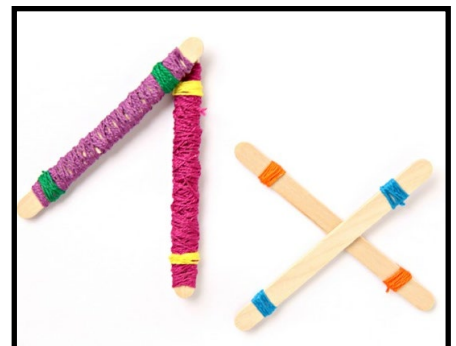


Craft 2: Scarves

Instructions: Cut a strip of fleece 5"x48" and cut the bottoms up 4" to create fringe. That's it! A 2-minute scarf for about .25. Can't beat that! They are quick, easy and FUN!

Craft 3: Rhythm Sticks

Rhythm sticks are very simple to find and build. They can be made out of multiple materials. Wood, plastic, pvc and more. They also can be smooth or rigid to create different sounds and either hollow or filled to create different timbres. The simplest of tricks to create rhythm sticks is with popsicle sticks and yarn. Simply allow the students to decorate their sticks with the yarn of their choice and tie the yarn so it stays connected.



Craft 4: Sock Puppets

Lady Bug: Sock with Googly eyes and spots
Spider: Sock with pipe cleaner legs and googly eyes
Skunk: Sock with fabric stripe and googly eyes

CONT.

Pre-Show Activities

PRE-SHOW CRAFTS CONT.

Craft 4: Maracas

Materials:

- Toilet paper rolls
- Paintbrushes
- Rice or small beads
- Scissors
- Duct tape
- Paint
- Glue gun

Instructions:

1. Cover the end of one toilet paper roll with duct tape.



2. Fill the toilet paper roll halfway with rice or small beads. This part of the craft is a great sensory activity for little hands.

3. After the rice is inside the roll, cover the other end of the roll with duct tape.

4. Once the maraca is sealed, make a sleeve for it from another toilet paper roll so you can paint it. Slit another roll all the way down one side and wrap it around the rice-filled maraca.

5. Glue the outer roll around the maraca.



6. Have your child paint the maraca sleeve any way she wishes! Start with a solid base color and then paint on a design or pattern.



7. Once the maracas are dry, make some music!

Pre-Show Activities

DEFINING THEATRE

Questions:

1. "Have you ever seen a play?"
(If they haven't, make sure to define it for them).
2. "What kinds of things happen in a play?"
3. "What kind of plays would you like to see?" or
"What would you like to see if you are watching a play?"
4. "Where do plays typically Happen?"
5. "How should the audience behave and act during a play?"
(Make a list of things a good audience member does and a list of things a bad audience member does).

Here are a few things you can discuss with your class to help them understand what to expect at a live theatre production:

- Theatre features live on-stage actors. They have spent many weeks rehearsing for the performance.
- The audience is a very important part of the performance. Appreciation and enthusiasm for the performers is shown by close attention and participation and applause at the proper times. The success of the play depends on the appropriate interaction between cast and audience.
- The theatre is a very special place. Its atmosphere is entirely different from your home where the television is always available.
- It is easy to identify with live actors. You can see how they use their bodies and voices to convey different emotions.
- Actors wear costumes and make-up to help create the impression of the characters they play.
- There is much more to most live performances than actors. Special sets, effects, lighting, music, costumes, and of course, the audience add to the total experience.

Activities for the Classroom

1. DRESS UP

Ask the children to come with some sort of costume, they could spend time in class making their own (i.e. paper mask or maybe something along those lines), or provide them with different small costume pieces (i.e. a cape, a bracelet, a tiara, etc.) and then have them act out how they believe that character would act. Have them interact with the other “characters.”

2. SHAPE FINDING

Have the students go around the classroom and identify as many shapes as they can. Have the students make shapes on the floor with building blocks or legos, or even with their bodies.

3. FRIEND MAKING

- Have the students sit in a circle and discuss how they want their friends to act and how they should act with their friends.
- Make a list of things good friends do and a list of things bad friends do.
- Make sure to discuss how to share and aspects of conflict resolution.

4. PROP IDENTIFICATION

- Explain what a prop is and then give examples of how a prop could be used.
- Have the children draw a prop for their “character” and then give a short oral explanation for why their character needs it and what it could be used for.

5. “THIS IS A...” IMPROV GAME

The students should sit in a circle with a selected group of props (a hula hoop, a crown, a jump rope, etc.) and then each student must grab a prop and create something that it is “not”. One example would be a student grabs a baseball bat and says “This is a..... magic wand” and then they demonstrate how the bat is a magic wand.

6. CHARACTER EXPLORATION

Have the children stand up in a group, preferably outside, but this can be done in a classroom on a mat. Ask them the following questions in this exact order:

- What does a _____ sound like? (Make sure to explain pitch, tempo, and volume. Also discuss why those things matter when acting and performing).
- Walk around and move like a _____. (Set ground rules like keeping your hands to yourself and be respectful of one another!)
- Pretend to be a _____. (Ensure the kids are interacting and embodying the character).

Examples of characters: Criminal, Superhero, Whale, Alligator, Teacher, Car, Lizard, Parent, Baby, Mad scientist, Train, Chef, etc.

Activities for the Classroom

7. REFLECTION EXERCISE

- How did attending dot & ziggy make you feel?
Have the students identify points within the plot that made them feel a certain way. This should be a moment where the students should learn not only how to experience theatre, but practice their ability to identify and discuss their emotions. Lead a group discussion on what caused you to feel the emotions that you felt.
- What kind of color relates back to that feeling? What specifically caused that reaction from you?
- Which character do you relate to the most and why?

8. EMOTION EXERCISE

Give the children the following prompt: What things do people do when they feel _____? Then have them act out what it is like to feel those emotions.

Ask the following questions after this exercise:

- What would cause someone to feel this emotion?
- What would you do if you saw someone acting like this?
- How do you express emotions in your everyday life?

9. PARTS OF A STORY DRAWING EXERCISE

Have the children identify the beginning, middle, and end of the play. Then, using the worksheet (page 2 in “Study Guide Printables” packet), have them draw pictures to illustrate each part of the story.

10. COMPARE AND CONTRAST

- What is similar and different between Dot & Ziggy and _____ (some fairytale or child appropriate story)?
- Have students make venn diagrams comparing and contrasting Dot & Ziggy and a fairytale of their choice.

11. RHYME PANTOMIME

- Sit the students in a circle and give them this prompt:
“I am thinking of a word that rhymes with ____ (car, bat, wave, etc.. make sure whatever it is that it is action heavy)”
- Next a student who has a word in mind should raise their hand and be selected. Once selected they should enter the middle of the circle and pantomime the word they had in mind.
- Then have the other students guess which word they are pantomiming.
- The student who gets it right is now able to call out their own prompt: “I am thinking of a word which rhymes with _____.”

12. ABC'S PANTOMIME

- Sit the students in a circle.
- Going clockwise, each student must pantomime something that begins with each letter of the alphabet starting with A and ending with Z.



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THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

QUESTIONS? CONTACT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION,
JESSIE KISOR AT jessie@bct123.org
