



# Resource Guide | for Educators and Audiences

We include information about our production along with creative activities to make connections both before and after the show. For educators, all activities are aligned to the Common Core Standards and North Carolina Essential Standards. Look for the symbol below throughout the guide.



NCES-TheaArts.(K-5).TA.A.1: Analyze literary texts and performances. NCES-TheaArts.(K-5).TA.A.1.1: Recall the basic parts of a story, such as characters, setting, and events.

## Mainstage Production

Recommended for ages 4+

Directed by Alicia Tafoya



Based on the book by Mo Willems

Published by

Hyperion Books for Children

Script by Mo Willems

and Mr. Warburton

Lyrics by Mo Willems

Music by Deborah Wicks La Puma

Dramaturgy by Megan Alrutz

## Themes explored

Responsibility, persuasion,  
accountability

## Summary of *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!*

When a persistent pigeon decides he must drive the bus, he'll stop at nothing to get behind the wheel. Laugh your way through and get ready to shout "No!" as celebrated author Mo Willems' award-winning book comes to life on stage.

## Audience expectations

You may wish to have a discussion with your students about their role as an audience member. Live theatre only exists when an audience is present; their energy and responses directly affect the actors in performance.

Younger audiences should know watching live theatre isn't like watching more familiar forms of entertainment: there is no pause or rewind button, there are no commercials for bathroom breaks, and they can't turn up the volume if someone else is talking. Encourage your students to listen and watch the play intently, so they may laugh and cheer for their favorite characters when it is appropriate. At the end of the play, your applause is an opportunity to thank the actors for their performance. Here are some other guidelines to remember as well:

- Respect others audience members. Stay seated and keep your hands to yourself.
- Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during the performance.
- Photography and recording of the performance is prohibited by copyright law.
- We do not permit food and drinks in the theatre.



NCES-TheaArts.(K-5).TA.CU.2: Understand the traditions, roles, and conventions of theatre as an art form. NCES-TheaArts.3.TA.CU.2.1: Illustrate theatre etiquette appropriate to the performance situation.

## The BIG QUESTIONS about the show

1. Why can't Pigeon drive the bus?
2. How does Pigeon behave when he doesn't get his way?
3. How do you feel when you really want to do something, but someone tells you no?
4. Did you tell Pigeon no during the show? How did that make you feel? How did the way you felt affect the way you used your voice to tell pigeon no during the show?
5. Which puppet was your favorite and why?
6. The actor playing the bus used their voice to communicate without using words. What sounds did you hear that helped you understand how the bus was feeling?



CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.(K-5).2: Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media. NCES-TheaArts.2.TA.A.1.2: Analyze the relationships between events, characters, and settings. NCES-TheaArts.(K-5).TA.AE.1.2: Understand how costumes [and technical elements] enhance dramatic play.

# About the Creator



Mo Willems is an American writer, animator, voice actor, and children's book author. His work includes creating the animated television series *Sheep in the Big City* for Cartoon Network, working on *Sesame Street* and *The Off-Beats*, and creating the popular children's book series *Elephant and Piggie*.

## Recommended Reading

If you enjoyed the show, check out these books at your local Charlotte Mecklenburg library branch. Check availability at [cmlibrary.org](http://cmlibrary.org).

### ***The Book with No Pictures***

by B.J. Novak

### ***Duck on a Bike***

by Michael Shannon

### ***I Love You Already***

by Jory John

### ***I Want My Hat Back***

by Jon Klassen

### ***Children Make Terrible Pets***

by Peter Brown

### ***The Thing Lou Couldn't Do***

by Ashley Spires

### ***Don't Call Me Bear!***

by Aaron Blabey

## THEATRE CORNER

Every play Children's Theatre of Charlotte produces is created by a talented team of designers, technicians, actors and a director. As a class, discuss what you experienced when you saw the performance.

1. Name three things you noticed about the set. Did the set help tell the story? What sort of set would you have designed?
2. What did you like about the costumes? Did the costumes help tell the story? What sort of costumes would you have designed?
3. What role did lighting play in telling the story? How did the lights enhance what you were seeing?
4. Talk about the actors. Were there moments you were so caught up in the story you forgot you were watching a play?
5. Were there any actors who played more than one character? What are some ways you can be the same person but play different characters?



NCES-TheaArts.(K-5).TA.A.1: Analyze literary texts and performances. NCES-TheaArts.(K-5).TA.AE.1.2: Understand how costumes [and technical elements] enhance dramatic play.

## Want more activities and content?

[Access our Pinterest board](#). Can't access Pinterest? No worries. [Click here to view all the links](#).



## Write to Us!

Children's Theatre of Charlotte  
300 E 7th St.  
Charlotte, NC 28202



CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.(K-5).1: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.