



# Resource Guide | for Educators and Audiences

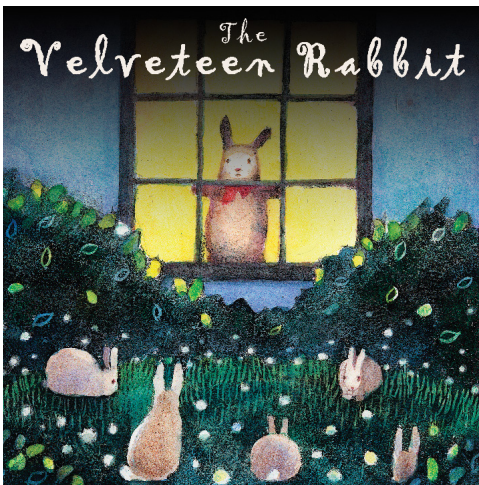
We include information about our production along with creative activities to make connections both before and after the show. For educators, all activities are aligned to the North Carolina Essential Standards as well as the Common Core Standards and National Core Art Standards for theatre. Look for 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. National Theatre Anchor Standard 7: Perceive and analyze artistic work. National Theatre Anchor Standard 9: Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.

## *The Velveteen Rabbit*

For all ages



adapted by  
Michelle Hoppe-Long

from the story by  
Margery Williams

Director  
Melissa Ohlman-Roberge

### Themes explored

becoming one's self,  
unconditional love, friendship

## Summary of *The Velveteen Rabbit*

**A child's love of his favorite toy literally brings this story to life.**

A little boy awakens Christmas morning to discover a Velveteen Rabbit among his gifts. Adored at first, then cast to the toy box, the Rabbit is snubbed by the other toys for being old-fashioned. Over time, a friendship blossoms. The Velveteen Rabbit learns what it means to be truly loved by the Boy - and the smiles and tears that come from being "real". Adapted from the classic book, this poignant story has charmed generations of families and continues to be cherished by audiences today.

## The BIG QUESTIONS about the show

1. The boy and his toy rabbit form a special bond/friendship in the play. Have you had or do you have a toy or stuffed animal that was special to you? Why was/is that toy important?
2. What does it mean to be real? The Velveteen Rabbit asks the Rocking Horse if real is when "things buzz inside you and have a stick out handle". Why does he think that? How does the Velveteen Rabbit know when he is real?
3. The other rabbits tell the Velveteen Rabbit that he isn't real, but the boy said he is. Were the rabbits wrong? Was the little boy wrong?
4. Why do the grownups in the play seem to understand the world differently than the little boy?



NCES-TheaArts.(K-5).TA.A.1.2: Analyze the relationships between events, characters, and settings. 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. National Theatre Anchor Standard 8: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.

## Meet the cast



Alex Aguilar



Rasheeda Moore



Courtney Reasoner

## About the author

Margery Williams Bianco was an English-American author, primarily of popular children's books. A professional writer since the age of nineteen, she achieved lasting fame at forty-one with the 1922 publication of the classic that is her best-known work, *The Velveteen Rabbit*.

When Margery was seven years old, her father died suddenly, a life-changing event which, in one way or another, would affect all of her future creative activity. The undertone of sadness and the themes of death and loss that flow through her children's books have been criticized by some reviewers, but Williams always maintained that hearts acquire greater humanity through pain and adversity. She wrote that life is a process of constant change—there are departures for some and arrivals for others—and the process allows us to grow and persevere.



National Theatre Anchor Standard 11: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding

## 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 Country Bunny and the Little Gold Shoes*  
by Du Bose Heyward

*The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*  
by Kate DiCamillo

*The Steadfast Tin Soldier*  
by Hans Christian Anderson

*The Toys Go Out*  
by Emily Jenkins

*Winnie-the-Pooh*  
by A. A. Milne

*Charlotte's Web*  
by E.B. White

*The Little Prince*  
by Antoine de Saint-Exupery

## 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. National Theatre Anchor Standard 8: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work. National Theatre Anchor Standard 9: Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.

For more activities and content surrounding this show, [click here](#) to access Children's Theatre of Charlotte's Pinterest boards.



## Write to Us!

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