



# Resource Guide | for Educators and Audiences

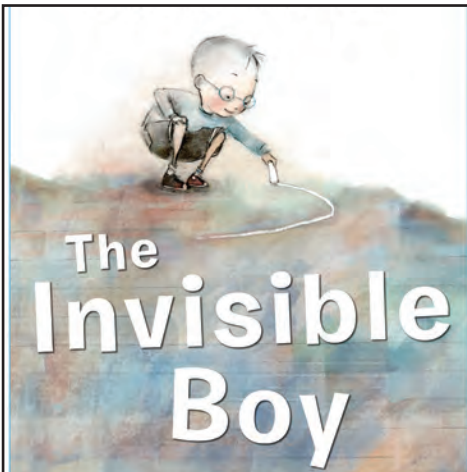
We include information about our production along with creative activities to make connections both before and after the show. For educators, all activities are aligned to the Common Core Standards and North Carolina Essential Standards. Look for the symbol below throughout the guide.



NCES-TheaArts.(K-3).TA.A.1: Analyze literary texts and performances. NCES-TheaArts.(K-3).TA.A.1.1: Recall the basic parts of a story, such as characters, setting, and events.

## Mainstage production

Recommended for ages 6 and older



By Trudy Ludwig

Illustrated by Patrice Barton

Adapted for the stage by  
Christopher Parks

Composed for the stage by  
Josh Titora

**Director**  
Adam Burke

**Choreographer**  
Kayla Piscatelli

**Music Director**  
Jessica Borgnis

**Themes explored**  
acceptance, kindness, self-  
esteem, exclusion and inclusion

## Summary of *The Invisible Boy*

Meet Brian, the invisible boy. Nobody ever seems to notice him or think to include him in their group, game, or birthday party . . . until, that is, a new kid comes to class.

When Justin, the new boy, arrives, Brian is the first to make him feel welcome. And when Brian and Justin team up to work on a class project together, Brian finds a way to shine. From one simple act of kindness, Brian's world is changed for the better.

## 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 other 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-3).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. Brian feels like his classmates and teacher don't notice him. What were some of the times he was ignored? How do you think that made Brian feel?
2. In the story, Brian gets left out of the kickball game. Have you ever been left out of something? What could have been done to make sure Brian was included?
3. What was Brian's act of kindness that made Justin notice him? How did that change how Brian felt? How did things change in the classroom, and why?



CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.(K-3).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.

## About the author



Trudy Ludwig is a nationally renowned children's advocate, speaker, and award-winning author of 10 children's books, including *The Invisible Boy*, a School Library Journal Best Picture Books Selection and a recommended back-to-school book by USA Today and Scholastic Instructor. An active member of the International

Bullying Prevention Association, Trudy has collaborated with leading experts and organizations including Sesame Workshop, Committee for Children, and ConnectSafely.org to help kids connect with their peers in kinder, more inclusive ways. She has received rave reviews from educators, experts, organizations, and parents at schools and conferences for her passion and compassion in addressing peer aggression and friendship issues. Trudy's next book, *The Power of One*, will be released by Alfred A. Knopf / Random House Children's Books in summer 2020.

Trudy's books have received numerous awards and citations including Victoria Soto Legacy Award, IBPA Gold Benjamin Franklin Award, Gelett Burgess Children's Book Award, NAPPA Gold Medal Award, Mom's Choice Gold Awards, Moonbeam Children's Books Gold Award, Comstock Read Aloud Honors and are included in the Cooperative Children's Book Center's Best of the Year Selection, NCSS-CBC Notable Social Studies Books for Young People Selection, National Crime Prevention Council's Circle of Respect Book Club Selection, Junior Library Guild Selection, and more.

*"Her picture books about coping in the social world are deeply rooted in real life for children today."*

- Committee for Children

*"...one of my favorite children's authors."*

- Dr. Michele Borba, TODAY show contributor and recipient of the National Educator Award

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



## 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-3).TA.A.1: Analyze literary texts and performances. NCES-TheaArts.(K-3).TA.AE.1.2: Understand how costumes [and technical elements] enhance dramatic play.



## Write to Us!

Children's Theatre of Charlotte  
300 E. Seventh St.  
Charlotte, N.C. 28202



CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.(K-3).1: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

## Recommended Reading

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

*I Walk With Vanessa: A Story About a Simple Act of Kindness* by Kerascoet

*Wolf in the Snow* by Matthew Cordell

*Each Kindness* by Jacqueline Woodson

*Twig* by Aura Parkers