

# STUART LITTLE

ACTIVITY GUIDE

Main  
Street  
Theater

THEATER FOR <sup>all</sup> ^  
**YOUTH**

# THE STORY

Written in 1945 by E.B. White, ***Stuart Little*** is about a boy named Stuart Little who is born into an ordinary New York family. What makes him different is that he is only 2 inches tall and looks exactly like a mouse. He has many adventures in the home with the Little family, the family cat, Snowball, and a songbird named Margalo. He has city adventures too, including getting caught in a window shade, sailing a boat, and learning about friendship and relationships.

The book was illustrated by Garth Williams. He illustrated many famous children's books including ***Charlotte's Web*** and the ***Little House on the Prairie*** series.

The story has been retold in numerous adaptations. There was an unabridged audio edition narrate by actress Julie Harris. There was a 1999 film version made of the story. In 1966 there was an episode of NBC's Children's Theater called ***The World of Stuart Little***. There was even a series of video games created by Microsoft in 1999.



**The actors love to receive fan mail from the students!**

(send to)  
**Main Street Theater**  
**Attn: School Bookings**  
**3400 Main Street, Suite 283**  
**Houston, TX 77002**

## Guide Credits

Vivienne St. John,  
*Theater for Youth Artistic Director*  
Melanie O'Neill, *Graphic Designer*

# ABOUT THE AUTHORS

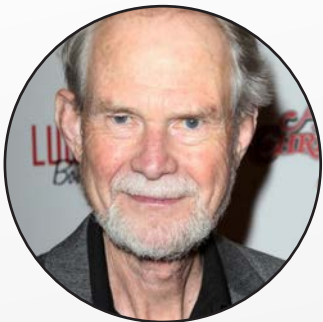


## WHO IS E.B. WHITE?



E. B. White was born in 1899 in New York as one of six children. He began his career as a reporter and worked in advertising as an essayist. As an author his most famous works are his children's books. He earned both the Pulitzer Prize and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. His book ***Charlotte's Web*** was a Newbery Honor winner. Later in life he suffered from Alzheimer's disease and passed away in 1985.

## WHO IS JOSEPH ROBINETTE?



Joseph Robinette, author and co-author of over 50 plays and musicals. Some of his most famous works are ***Charlotte's Web***, ***Stuart Little***, ***Annie*** and ***Bye, Bye Birdie***. He is both a Tony Award Nominee and a Drama Desk Nominee. His work has been performed in 21 different countries and at least twelve of his plays have been translated into different languages.



# ENGLISH - THINKING ABOUT CHARACTERS (YOUNGER GRADES)

Have your students think about their favorite characters from the play. They can list as many as they would like to. Have them list the name, and description of each character and then draw a picture of the character. Where there any characters in the play who were not in the book or vice versa?

CHARACTER:	DRAWING:
↓	
DESCRIPTION:	
→	

CHARACTER:	DRAWING:
↓	
DESCRIPTION:	
→	

# ENGLISH - THINKING ABOUT CHARACTERS (OLDER GRADES)

## DIFFERENT VIEWPOINTS

Have your students imagine the story with changes to the characters, settings, time and conflict. How would it change the play?

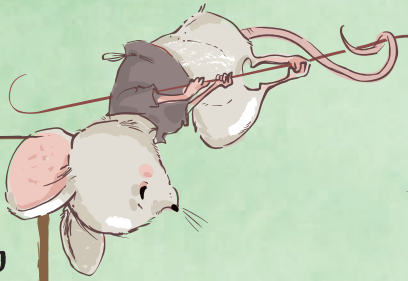
**WHO:** WHO WOULD THE NEW CHARACTER BE?

**WHAT:** WHAT WOULD THEY WANT TO DO?

**WHY:** WHY WOULD THIS CHANGE THE PLOT OF THE STORY?

**HOW:** HOW WOULD THEY COMPLETE THEIR GOAL?

**WHEN:** WHEN WOULD THEY ARRIVE IN THE STORY?



# COMPARE AND CONTRAST

Have students compare the book and the play of *Stuart Little*.

BOOK DIFFERENCES

PLAY DIFFERENCES

SIMILARITIES

# ENGLISH - VOCABULARY MATCHING

Have your students look up the definition of these words and match them.

belittle	detestable	jauntily	permanent	spyglass
bellow	exasperated	obliged	saunter	swindled
confidential	fragments	ominous	sorrow	terrible

- \_\_\_\_\_ Lasting for a very long time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A small telescope.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Make someone or something seem unimportant.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A deep roaring shout or sound.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A small part broken or separated.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Move in an easy or lively manner.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Intended to be kept secret.
- \_\_\_\_\_ To walk in a slow or relaxed way.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Showing a sign of misfortune to come.
- \_\_\_\_\_ To be force to do something, or feel like you must do something.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Irritate and frustrate intensely.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Disliked very much.
- \_\_\_\_\_ To shake in a way that you cannot control.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A feeling of deep sadness or regret.
- \_\_\_\_\_ To cheat or steal.

# MATH - HOW MANY CUBES?



Stuart Little is so small, that his size make everything different for him then the other characters in the play. Have your students practice measuring by counting how many cubes long each object is. Write the number of cubes in the line provided.



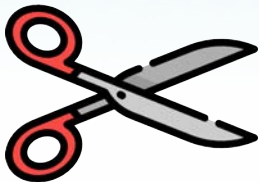
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

About \_\_\_\_\_ cubes long.



--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

About \_\_\_\_\_ cubes long.



--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

About \_\_\_\_\_ cubes long.



--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

About \_\_\_\_\_ cubes long.



--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

About \_\_\_\_\_ cubes long.



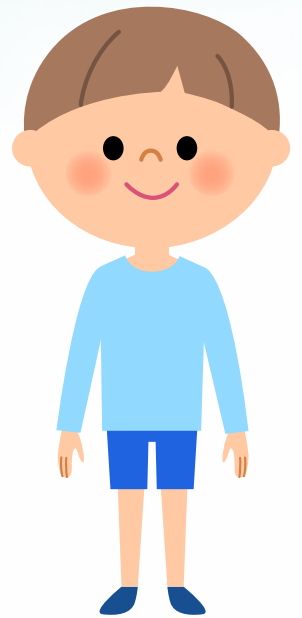
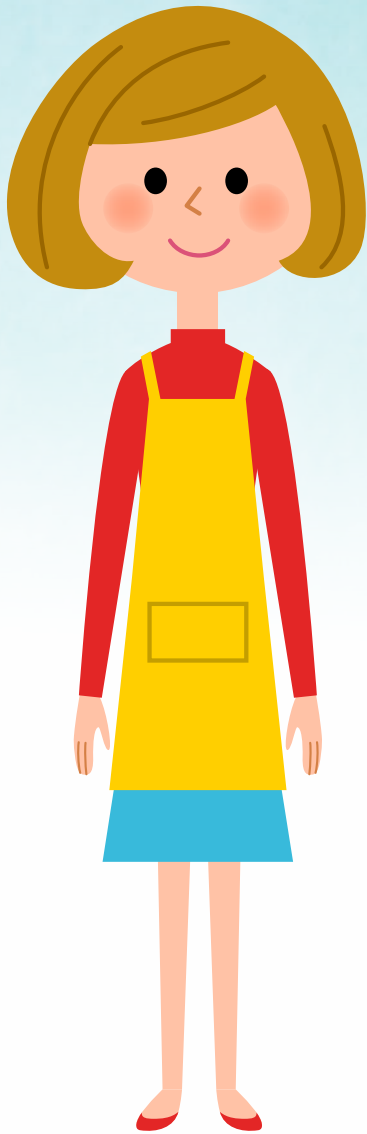
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

About \_\_\_\_\_ cubes long.



# MATH - TALLEST TO SHORTEST

Stuart is much smaller than the people he lives with. Which one of these is the tallest? Have students write 1 under the tallest, 2 under the second tallest, 3 under the third tallest and 4 under the smallest.



_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

# GEOGRAPHY - NEW YORK CITY

Stuart Little lives in New York City. Have your class look at some highlights on the map and the try to find them on a real map.



**BROADWAY** is a street in NYC that is also the most famous theater district in the world. It is known for huge bright signs and for being a hub of restaurants, stores, etc.



## DID YOU KNOW?

**New York City is made up of five sections known as boroughs. They are the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island. Most people think of Manhattan when they think of New York City.**

**CENTRAL PARK** the largest park in NYC right in the center of Manhattan. It has fountains, sculptures, restaurants, a carousel and miles of trails.



**GRAMERCY PARK** is an area of NYC that is very expensive to live in. It has a private park that only people who live in the 39 buildings around it can use.

**SAW MILL RIVER PARKWAY** is an almost 30 mile roadway with a park around it. It is named for the Saw Mill River that runs along the side of it.



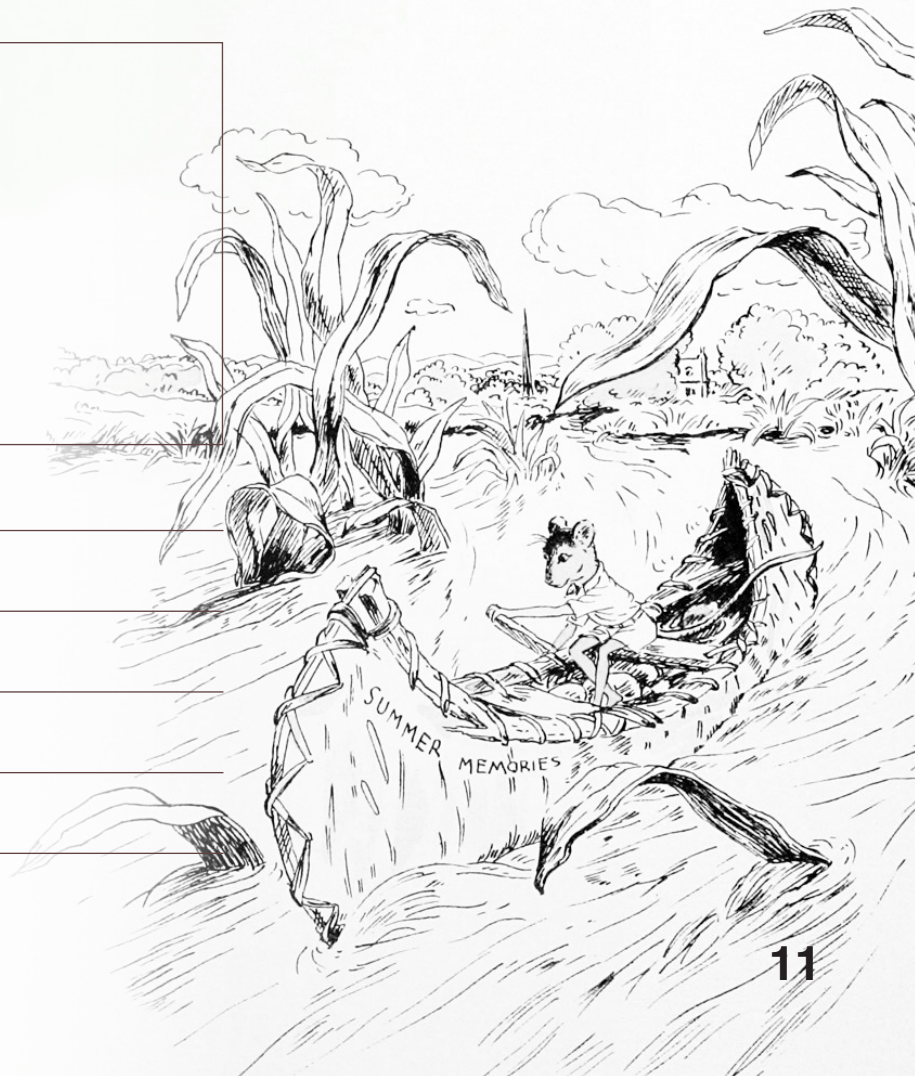
# SOCIAL STUDIES - WHERE DO YOU LIVE?



## THIS IS MY HOMETOWN

Stuart goes on a big adventure in the city. What do you know about where you live? Complete the chart with information about where you are from. Is it a town or a city? Then draw it and describe it using the information.

NAME	
CHARACTERISTICS	
PLACES	
THINGS TO SEE	
THINGS TO DO	



# SCIENCE - MOUSE FACTS

For younger students – share the photo of Mouse Anatomy. Talk about the characteristics of mice. Have students try to draw and write the names of the mouse anatomy on their own.

## MOUSE ANATOMY



For older students – have students use school available digital resources to look up facts about mice. Try **PebbleGo**, **Britannica**, **Gale** or similar resources.

**What climate to mice prefer to live in?** \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you find the answer? \_\_\_\_\_

**How many breeds of mice are there?** \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you find the answer? \_\_\_\_\_

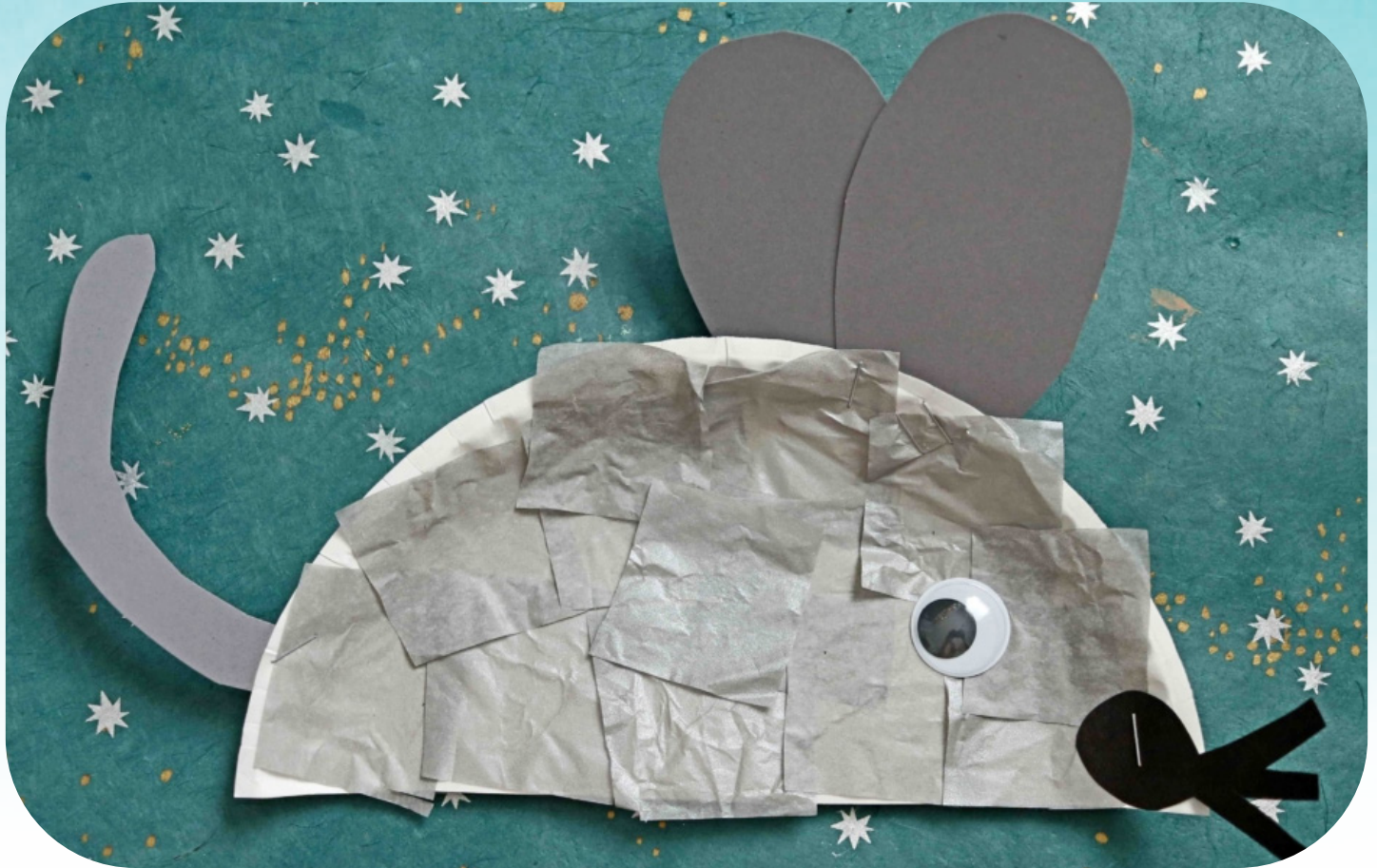
**What do mice eat?** \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you find the answer? \_\_\_\_\_

**How many mice are born in a typical litter?** \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you find the answer? \_\_\_\_\_

# ART - MAKE YOUR OWN STUART!



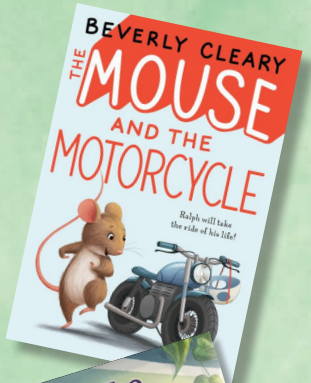
## SUPPLIES

- **Large Paper Plate**
- **Gray Tissue Paper**
- **Gray Cardstock Paper**
- **Black Cardstock Paper**
- **School Glue**
- **Craft Scissors**
- **Office Stapler**
- **Large Wiggle Eyes**

## DIRECTIONS

1. Cut your gray colored tissue paper into small squares
2. Cut the paper plate in half, straight down the center to make two equal pieces.
3. Put glue all over one paper plate half.
4. Place the gray tissue paper on top of the glue until it's completely covered.
5. Cut out your tail, nose, whiskers, ears etc. in cardstock.
6. Staple/glue the cardstock pieces to the paper plate, add the wiggle eyes.

# STUART LITTLE READ-ALIKES



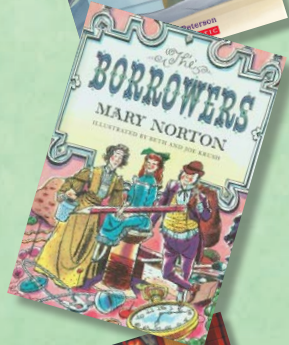
## ***The Mouse and the Motorcycle* by Beverly Cleary**

Go on an adventure of epic proportions with a mouse named Ralph after he borrows his owner's toy motorcycle and faces challenges all along his journey.



## ***The Littles* by John Peterson**

The Littles are a family so small that they can live within the walls of a house! They live with the Biggs, a family of ordinary people who don't realize that they are sharing their home with the mini people.



## ***The Borrowers* by Mary Norton**

The Clock family are tiny people who live underneath the kitchen floor of a country house. They use cast off items from the human family to make their world, until one day, the human boy discovers them.



## ***The Doll People* by Ann M. Martin**

The Doll family, traditional China dolls have a hum drum life until the Funcrafts move in. They are made of plastic and are much more adventurous. How will they learn to live together?



## ***Spy Penguins* by Sam Hay**

Two young penguins dream of joining the FBI. Something is going on at the aquarium and if they can solve the crime, they are sure to be admitted to the FBI.



## ***Klawde: Evil Alien Warlord Cat* by Johnny Marchiano**

Klawde is not your average cat, he's an emperor from another planet, exiled to earth. He lives in Brooklyn and is trying to adjust to life on earth when he learns that his family is in for another big change.