

Main  
Street  
Theater

MISS NELSON  
is MISSING!  
THE MUSICAL

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

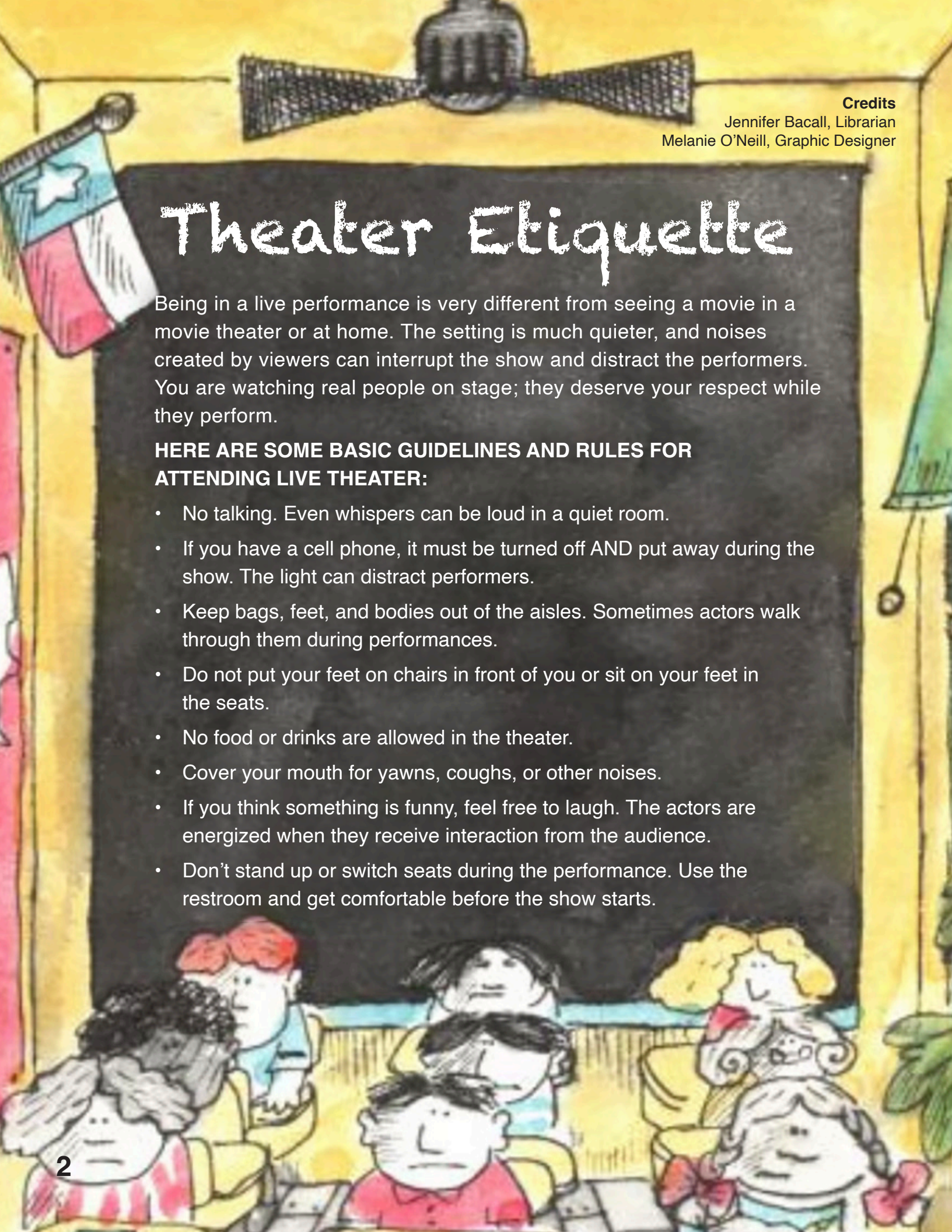
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## Credits

Jennifer Bacall, Librarian  
Melanie O'Neill, Graphic Designer

# Theater Etiquette

Being in a live performance is very different from seeing a movie in a movie theater or at home. The setting is much quieter, and noises created by viewers can interrupt the show and distract the performers. You are watching real people on stage; they deserve your respect while they perform.

## HERE ARE SOME BASIC GUIDELINES AND RULES FOR ATTENDING LIVE THEATER:

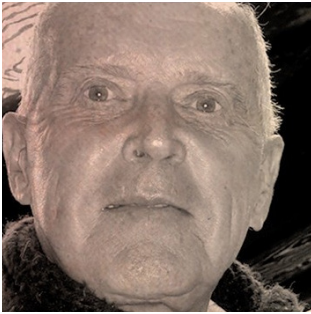
- No talking. Even whispers can be loud in a quiet room.
- If you have a cell phone, it must be turned off AND put away during the show. The light can distract performers.
- Keep bags, feet, and bodies out of the aisles. Sometimes actors walk through them during performances.
- Do not put your feet on chairs in front of you or sit on your feet in the seats.
- No food or drinks are allowed in the theater.
- Cover your mouth for yawns, coughs, or other noises.
- If you think something is funny, feel free to laugh. The actors are energized when they receive interaction from the audience.
- Don't stand up or switch seats during the performance. Use the restroom and get comfortable before the show starts.



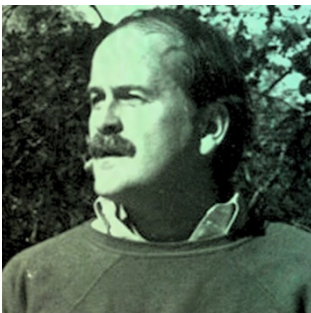
# The History of Miss Nelson is Missing!

Harry Allard wrote *Miss Nelson is Missing!* in 1978. It has become a picture book classic. Summary: *Ignored by her misbehaving class, Miss Nelson mysteriously disappears one day, and the very strict Miss Viola Swamp takes over. When the students conclude that Miss Nelson was okay after all, they begin an all-out search to find her.*

## Who was Harry Allard?



Harry Allard



James Marshall

Harry Allard was an American writer of children's books born in 1928. He was born in Illinois and received degrees from Northwestern University, Middlebury College, and Yale. He died at 89 years old in 2017. While teaching at Trinity University in San Antonio, TX Harry met the talented artist and student James Marshall. They collaborated on several books, but Marshall is best known for his popular George and Martha series.



Batt, M. W., Batt, M. W., 7, M. W. on D., 26, J. C. on M., 20, N. B. on J., & Vicki M Dhingra on October 1. (2017, October 27). Harry Allard is missing! collaborations of James Marshall and Harry Allard in the Northeast Children's Literature Collection. Archives and Special Collections Blog. Retrieved January 12, 2023, from <https://blogs.lib.uconn.edu/archives/2017/10/27/harry-allard-is-missing-collaborations-of-james-marshall-and-harry-allard-in-the-northeast-childrens-literature-collection/>

Book illustrations by James Marshall.



# Before You See the Play

**Read the book as a class and describe what you see in the illustrations and what happens in the story.**

- \* Who are the characters in the story?
- \* Talk about the setting. Where does the story take place?
- \* What kind of transportation is used?
- \* What kind of community members are mentioned or seen?
- \* What do you think of the colors and drawing style?

## Make some predictions.

- \* Which characters do you think will be in the play?
- \* What do you think will be the main message of the play?
- \* What do you think the set will look like?

**Talk about the rules of the theater.**

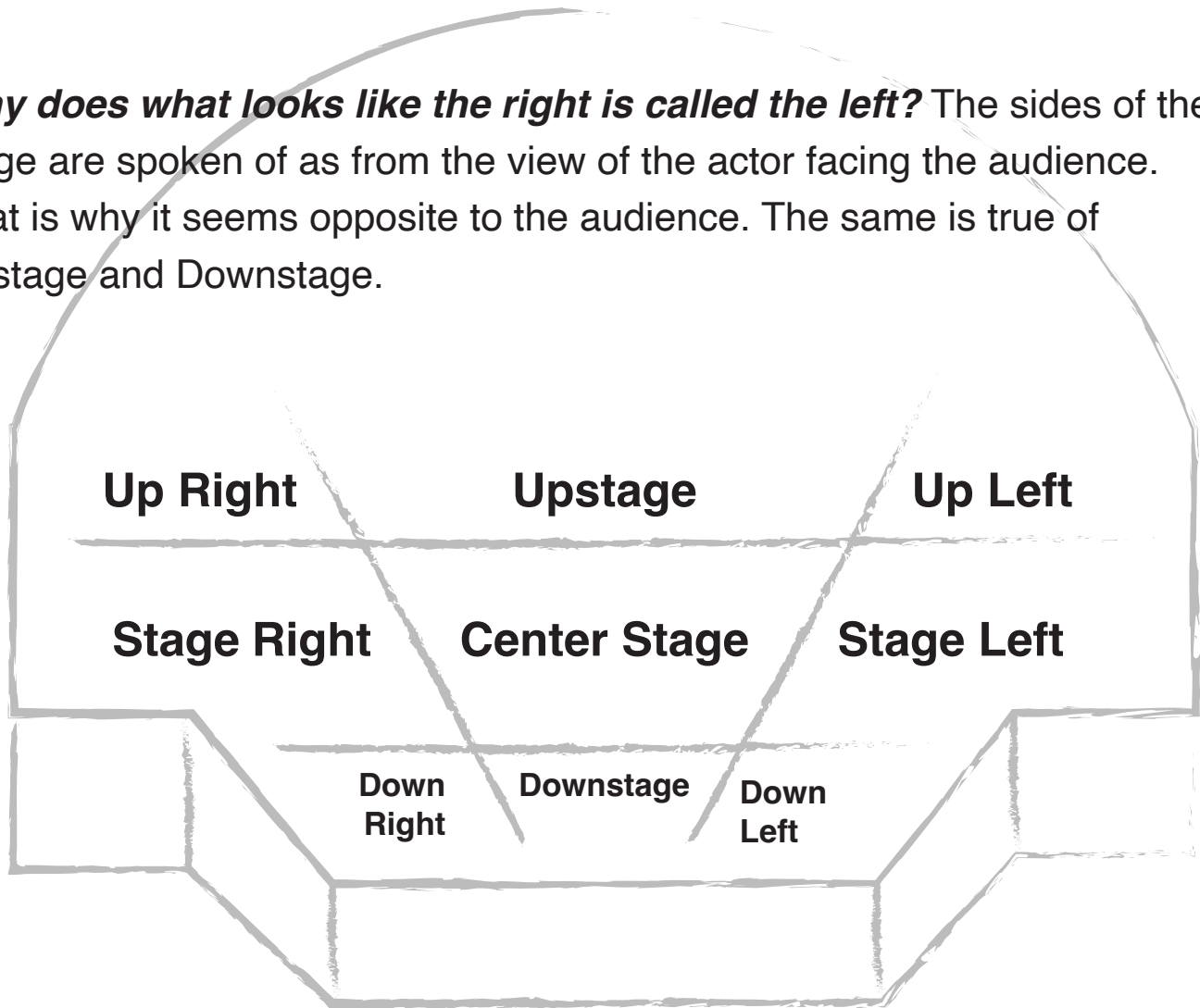
**Discuss some theater terminology.**

**Encourage the students to think about what book they would like to see made into a play.**



# Theater Terminology

**Why does what looks like the right is called the left?** The sides of the stage are spoken of as from the view of the actor facing the audience. That is why it seems opposite to the audience. The same is true of Upstage and Downstage.



**Gel** A slip of colored gel that is placed on top of a light to change its color.

**Auditorium** The part of the theater that the audience sits in.

**(the) Book** The script, which has all the lines for the actors as well as the stage directions.

**Director** The person who controls the production, interacts with all designers (costume, set, lighting), decides on the blocking of actors, runs the rehearsals and more.

**Legs** Curtains used to cover the wings.

**Set** The scenery used during the play.

**Wings** The area just off of the stage left or stage right. The actors wait there before they go onstage.

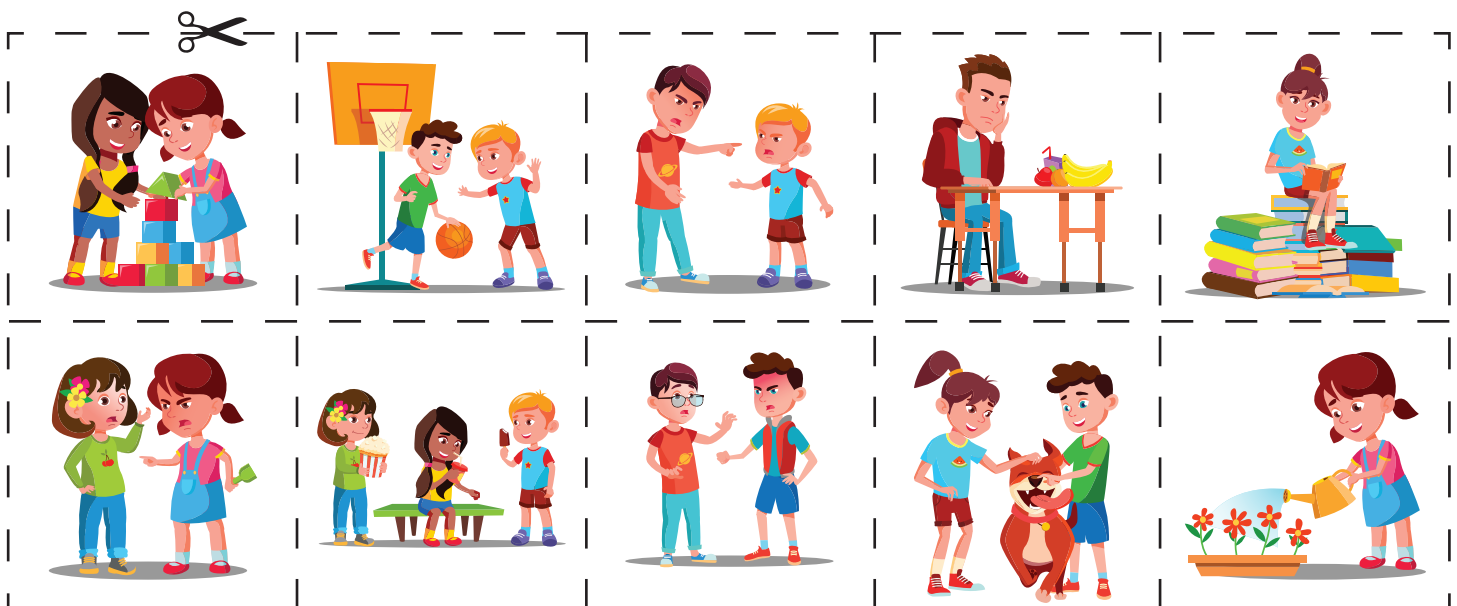
**Proscenium** The part of a modern stage in front of the curtain.



# Be a Bucket Filler

Draw two buckets or use two real buckets and sort the behaviors.

The kids in the book and the play “Miss Nelson is Missing” have forgotten how to behave correctly in the classroom and are disrespectful to Miss Nelson. Look at the choices below and cut out the good behavior choices and put them on the green bucket. Cut out the bad behavior choices and put them in the red bucket. Draw a red X on each bad behavior choice.



# What is Different when you have a substitute teacher?

Encourage your students to answer the following prompts and then write a story about them on another page.

**Having a substitute makes me feel...**

**One substitute I remember is...**

**One thing different when there is a substitute teacher is...**

**My dream substitute teacher would be...**

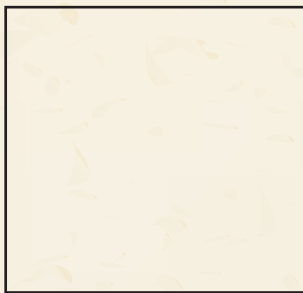
Have your students create a Wanted or Missing poster for Miss Nelson.



# MISSING



Miss Nelson



Job: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Hair: \_\_\_\_\_

Personality: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Last sighted: \_\_\_\_\_

Last seen wearing: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Why she is needed: \_\_\_\_\_

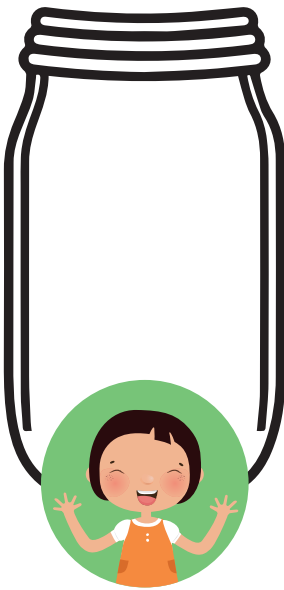
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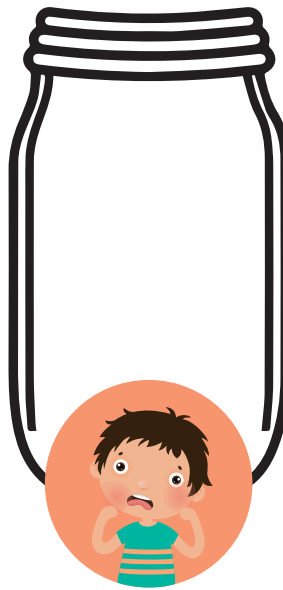


# Feelings and Emotions

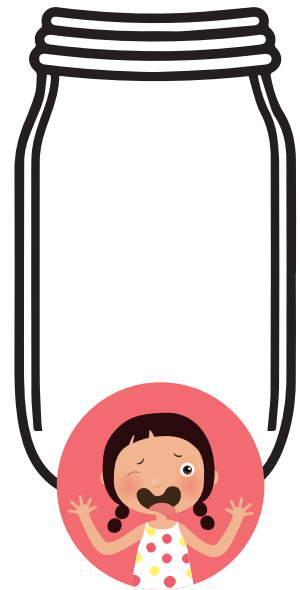
The kids in “Miss Nelson is Missing” have many different feelings when Viola Swamp enters the classroom, and they change again when Miss Nelson returns. Have the students discuss the feelings below and write in the jar the moment the students had those feelings. Another option would be to have a row of jars with each feeling written on it and have the children write their response on a slip of paper and put it into the jars. Then read the answers aloud to the class.



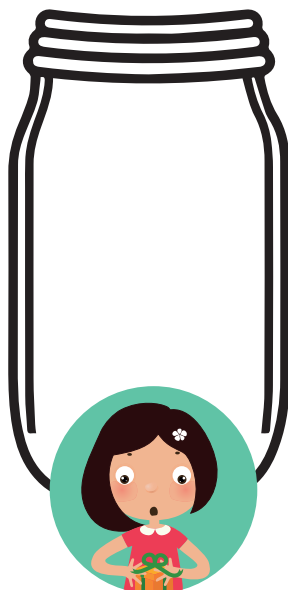
Happy



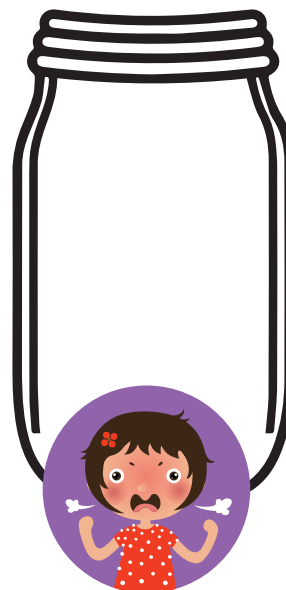
Anxious



Funny



Surprised



Angry

# Vocabulary 4-Square

Have your students choose a word from the story and fill out the table below. Some choices could be:

**Whizzed   Unpleasant   Arithmetic   Detective   Gobbled**

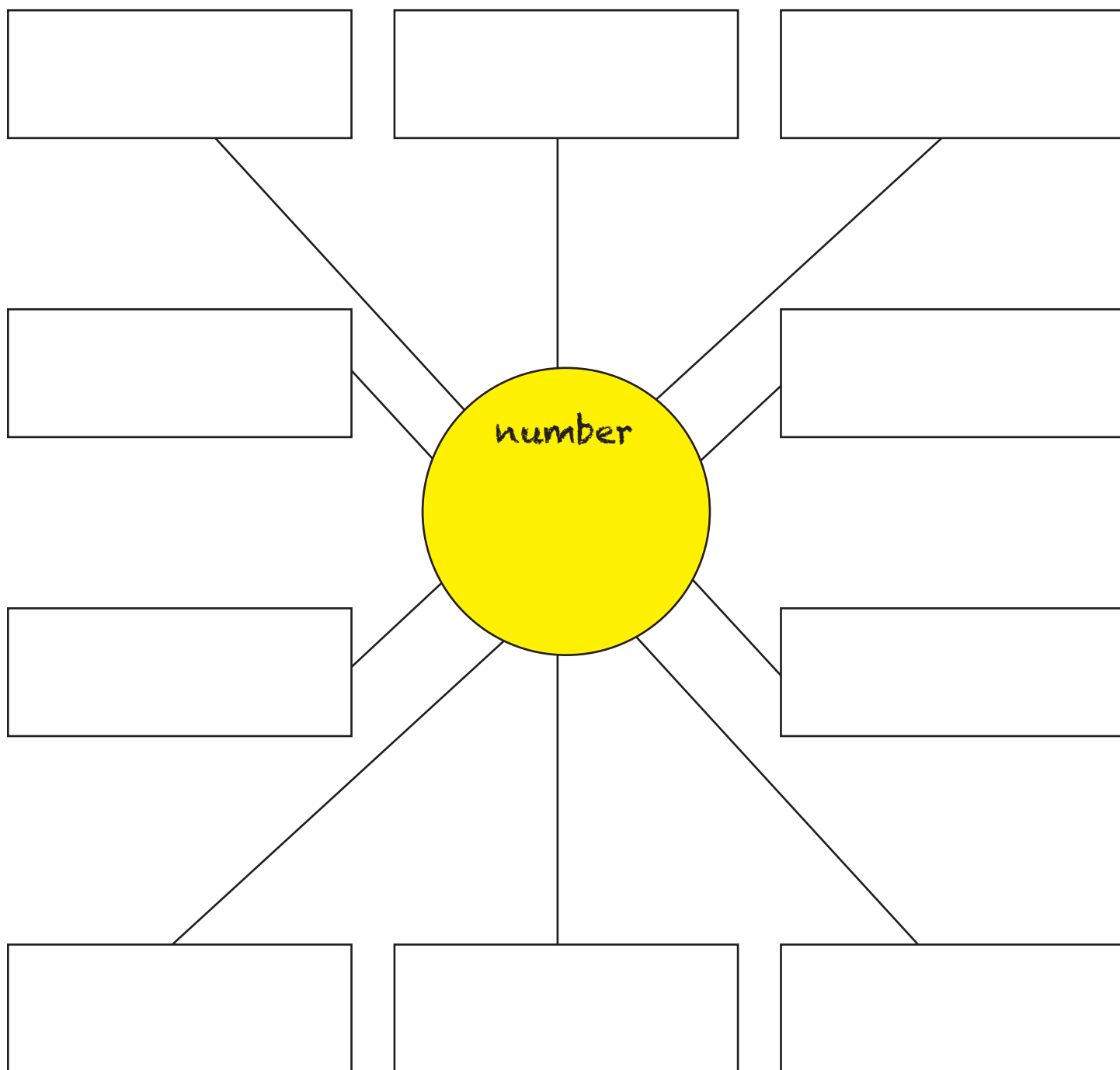
write the definition	use it in a sentence
<div>word</div>	
write a synonym	draw a picture



# My Number

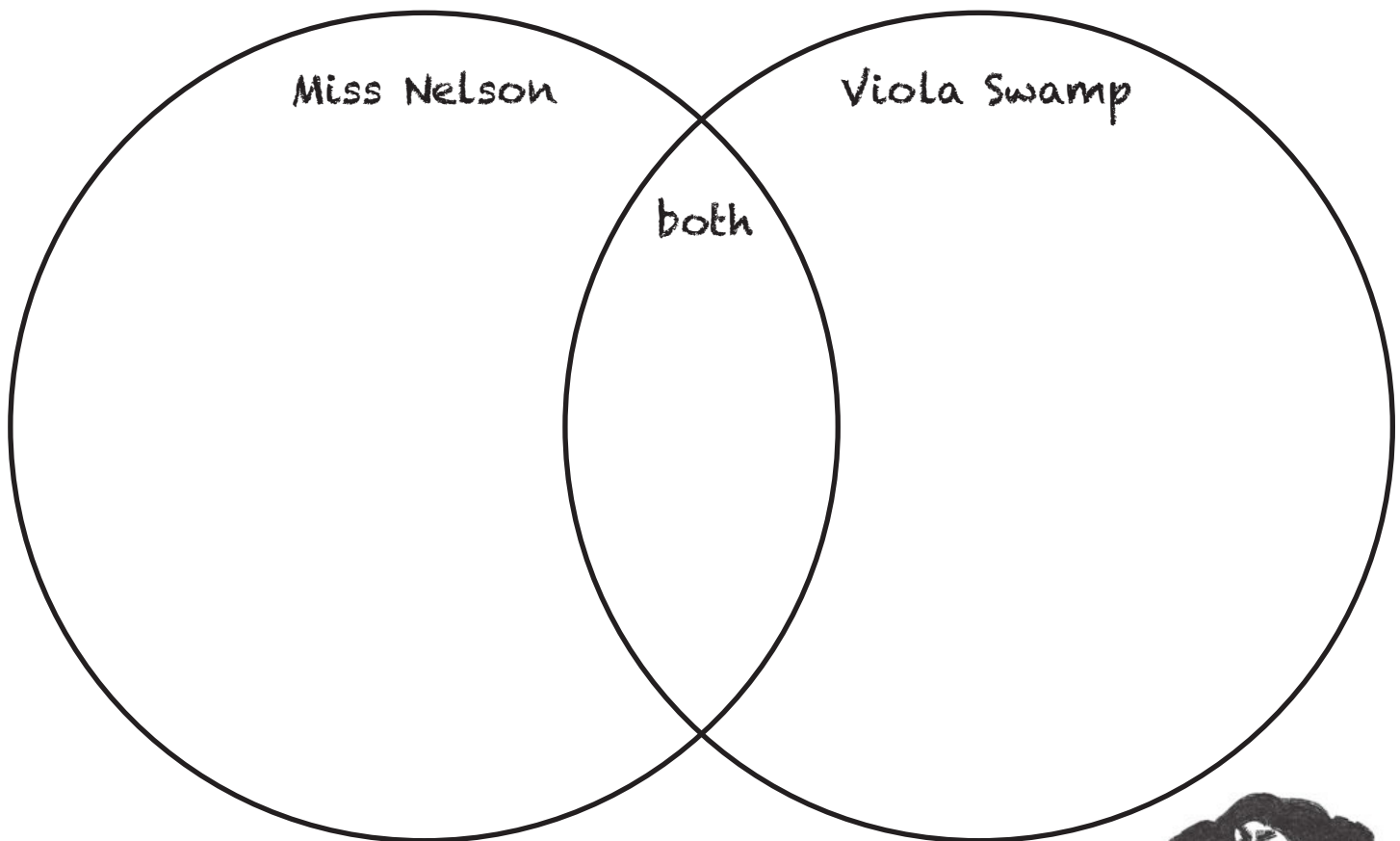
Assign each student a double-digit number. Have them write down as many ways as possible to get to that number. *For example: if 25 is the number a student could write  $30-5$ ,  $20+5$ ,  $15 \times 2$ , etc.*

**Using number in the center, show different ways to make the number**



# Similarities and Differences Venn Diagram

Below are words that can be used to describe the two teachers in "Miss Nelson is Missing." Write each word in the correct place in the Venn Diagram.



<b>Black</b>	<b>Snaps</b>	<b>Pink</b>
<b>Quiet</b>	<b>Fingernails</b>	<b>Loud</b>
<b>Strict</b>	<b>Smile</b>	<b>Height</b>
<b>Teachers</b>	<b>Nice</b>	<b>Praises</b>





# This or That?

Give your students a piece of blank paper and set them up in pairs to answer these questions have them make a hash mark for everything they have in common. How many similarities and differences did they have?

Circle your preferences. Get a partner and tally how many same preferences you have.

 Morning or Night? 

 Cats or Dogs? 

 Cakes or Pies? 

 Going out or Sleeping in? 

 Camping or Traveling? 

 Cars or Bikes? 

 Singing or Dancing? 

 Books or Movies? 

 Sweet or Spicy? 

 Pasta or Pizza? 

 Dumplings or Noodles? 

 Phone or TV? 

 Airplanes or Cruise Ships? 

 Hot or Cold? 

 Arts or Sports? 

# Great Miss Nelson is Missing Read-Alikes



## **The Day You Begin**

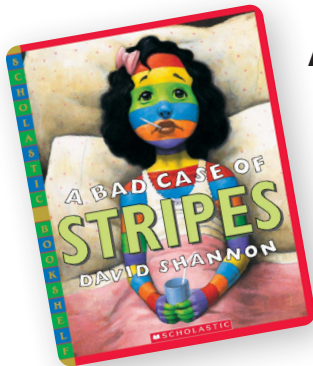
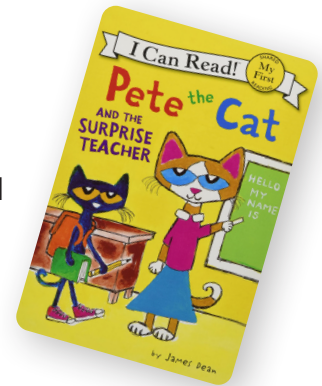
by Jacqueline Woodson

It's great to be unique but what if being different makes you feel like you don't belong? This book encourages students to share their stories and to embrace each other's differences.

## **Pete the Cat and the Surprise Teacher**

by James Dean

When Pete goes to school, he finds out his teacher is out sick and the substitute teacher is... his mom! It's up to Pete to teach the teacher what school is all about.



## **A Bad Case of the Stripes**

by David Shannon

Camilla Cream is very worried about what people think about her. She wants to be like everyone else and to fit in. Suddenly, she becomes covered in stripes! They develop different colors which make her stand out worse than ever.

## **The Cool Bean**

by Jory John

Once "peas in a pod," poor chickpea doesn't fit in with the other beans anymore. Despite having grown apart, the other beans are always there to lend a hand when the chickpea is in need.



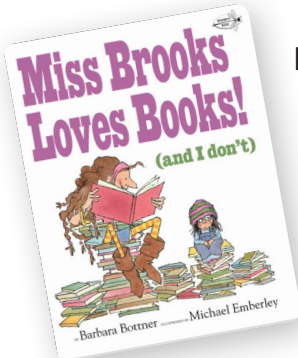
## **Here Comes Teacher Cat**

by Deborah Underwood

Cat is not pleased to be tapped as a substitute teacher. At school, Cat follows the lesson plan of music, building, and painting—only in mischief-making Cat style. By the end, Cat has learned something about inspiring others by being himself.



# Great Miss Nelson is Missing Read-Alikes



## Miss Brooks Loves Books

by Barbara Bottner

Miss Brooks has a knack for finding the right book for all of her students...except for Missy. There is not a book that she can find that she likes. What book will finally become the book to make Missy love reading?

## The Thank You Book

by Mary Lyn Ray

This lovely book reminds kids that being thankful can make every day better. With reminders of manners and the strength of friendship, this book is a delight.



## My Teacher is a Monster!

by Peter Brown

Bobby has the worst teacher. She yells and if you throw paper airplanes, she won't allow you to enjoy recess! She is a monster. Bobby learns that monsters are not always what they seem.

## I Got the School Spirit

by Barbara Bottner

Join this sweet girl on her first day of school. Now that summer is over, she hears her school spirit in the sounds of the street, the bell ringing in the hall and all around her.



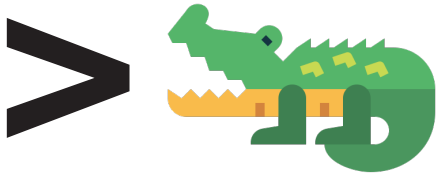
## Chrysanthemum

by Kevin Henkes

Chrysanthemum does not like her name. She thinks that it is too long, strange, and hard to say. Her feeling changes when she meets a wonderful teacher who makes her feel special.

# Greater Than, Less Than, Equal to

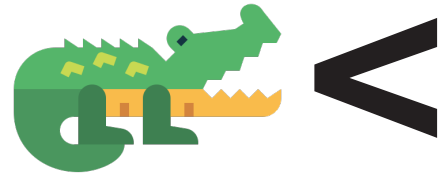
> is greater than



= is equal to



< is less than



Differences are commonly talked about when studying Miss Nelson books. It offers up the perfect opportunity to discuss and learn about things that are greater than, equal to and lesser than each other. Have your students solve these problems.

40 ○ 45

34 ○ 34

15 ○ 23

28 ○ 82

78 ○ 12

24 ○ 24

50 ○ 50

84 ○ 51

90 ○ 98

12 ○ 67