



ArtsPower presents
Nugget and Fang
Study Guide

For Teacher Classroom Use
Performance: March 1, 2018 at 10am and 12:15pm



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This program in conjunction with this study guide supports the following Common Core Standards:

RL.K-5.2, RL.K-5.3, RL.K-5.5, RL.K-5.6, RL.K-5.6, RL.K-5.7, RL.K-5.9

RI.K-5.2, RI.K-5.3

W.K-5.3, W.K-5.7

SL.K-5.2, SL.K-5.4

A 501(c)3 non-profit, charitable organization dedicated to enriching the lives of all through the arts.
Located in historic, downtown Crystal Lake, Illinois.
26. N. Williams Street | Box Office 815-356-9212
Buy tickets online at rauecenter.org

What Happens in *Nugget and Fang*

Nugget and Fang by Tammi Sauer

Illustrations by Michael Slack

ArtsPower's under-the-sea musical tells the story of Nugget, a minnow, and Fang, a shark, who are best friends. In fact, they love to play together and spend most of their time with one another. These two pals truly enjoy each other's company – until Nugget's first day at Miss Mini's Minnow School.

At Miss Mini's Minnows School, Nugget learns that minnows are supposed to be afraid of sharks because they are scary and like to eat other fish. Although Nugget knows in his heart that Fang is the nicest of sharks and would never hurt another fish, his teachers and fellow students are certain that since Fang is a shark, he is not to be trusted.

To regain Nugget's trust, Fang tries to show Nugget and his classmates that he really is a nice guy and would never be a threat to them. But nothing works. One day, when Fang is swimming, sad and unnoticed in deep waters, he sees Nugget and his minnow friends caught up in some big trouble and one very big fisherman's net!

Holy mackerel! Can Fang save Nugget and the other minnows who are caught in the net?

When You Drop Anchor at a Performance

In order to be a good audience member, remember to:

- Listen quietly.
- Pay attention to the things the actors say and do — some things might make you happy and some might be funny. Feel free to laugh at things you think are funny!
- Sit quietly and do not talk during the performance, unless you are requested to do so by the actors onstage.
- If you enjoy the play, you can applaud after musical numbers and at the end.

Teacher Information

This study guide is designed to help you and your students prepare for, enjoy, and discuss ArtsPower's musical play, *Nugget & Fang*, before and after the performance. You may reproduce and distribute this Study Buddy to your students.

To purchase any of the NUGGET & FANG books on Amazon, visit:

<https://www.amazon.com/Nugget-Fang-Friends-Forever-Snack/dp/0547852851>

What is a Musical?

A musical is a story told through spoken words and songs by live actors onstage. The spoken words are called lines. The words that are sung are called lyrics. The music that was composed just for this show is called the show's soundtrack. For this performance, the soundtrack has been recorded onto an iPad which is operated by the stage manager.

The musical *Nugget & Fang* features four professional actors who play some of the characters found in the book. The actors wear costumes and perform in front of their set.

Because reading a book is different than seeing a live performance on stage, the playwright, or the person who writes the lines that the actors speak, must change parts of the story or bring new qualities to the characters that are not found in the book. In other words, the playwright adapts the book into a musical play, or changes parts of it to turn the words on the page into a live performance.

ArtsPower National Touring Theatre

ArtsPower is a theatre company that creates musical and dramatic theatre productions, based on books for young readers, and tours them for young and family audiences throughout the nation.

The four actors and one stage manager:

- present performances in regional theatres, cultural centers, university auditoriums, and schools all over the United States.
- pack the set, costumes, and sound equipment in their van.
- set up and break down the show.
- take care of costumes and props (objects that are handled by the actors).
- stay in hotels when they travel.
- sometimes present up to 9 performances in a week.

Learning Activity

Discuss!

Why is ArtsPower called a national touring theatre?

If you were an actor, do you think you would like to travel to different places to perform?

Do you think audiences from different parts of the country respond to the performance in the same or in different ways? If so, why?

Creating Theatre

Creating a musical theatre production like *Nugget & Fang* takes a lot of time and creative energy from a group of people. Many people work together to make the changes and additions it takes to turn the book into an hour-long musical.

- The playwright writes lines that the actors speak.
- The composer writes the music.
- The lyricist writes the words to the songs that the actors sing.
- The actors perform the show.
- The designers create sets, costumes, and lighting.
- The director rehearses the actors and makes decisions about what happens on stage during the show.
- The stage manager oversees all backstage elements of a show.
- The producers raise the money to create and manage all aspects of the production and its tour throughout the United States and Canada.

The Creative Team for Nugget & Fang



GREG GUNNING (Playwright, CoLyricist, and Director) is ArtsPower's Artistic Director and has written or cowritten the scripts to all of ArtsPower's theatre productions. Greg's script for ArtsPower's *Lily's Crossing*, based on the Newbery Honor book by Patricia Reilly Giff, is included in Penguin Books' "The Signet Book of Short Plays."



RICHARD DEROSA (Co-Composer and Co-Orchestrator) is presently Associate Professor and Director of Jazz Composition and Arranging Studies at the University of North Texas. Richard has composed and orchestrated the scores to all but three ArtsPower productions. jazz.unt.edu/derosa



TAMMI SAUER (Author) graduated from Kansas State University with a B.S. in Elementary Education. She is currently a full-time picture book author. In addition to writing, Tammi loves to read, ski, spend time with her family and friends, go to movies, and eat out as often as possible. She lives in Edmond, Oklahoma with her husband Ron and their two children, Julia and Mason. www.tammisauer.com



GARY (left) and MARK BLACKMAN (Producers & ArtsPower's Founding Co-Directors) founded ArtsPower in 1985. The Blackmans are graduates of Columbia College, Columbia University and Florida State University's College of Music. In their former lives as musicians, each was named as an "Outstanding Jazz Soloist" in *Downbeat* magazine's Student Recording Awards. In their present lives, Gary serves as ArtsPower's Managing Director while Mark is Director of Development and Marketing. Gary has served as a board member on the New Jersey



State Council on the Arts since 2014. Although the Blackmans look very much alike, they have, in fact, been seen together.

All About Nugget & Fang

ArtsPower's *Nugget & Fang* is adapted from the book of the same title by author Tammi Sauer and illustrator Michael Slack. "Adapted" means that ArtsPower based its show on the book, turning the printed words in the book to dialogue spoken by actors who play the characters from the book, including Nugget and Fang.

Greg Gunning, the person who wrote the dialogue and lyrics for *Nugget & Fang*, first read the book and worked with author Tammi Sauer in creating the first-ever musical theatre production called *Nugget & Fang*. Greg had to imagine what the characters from the book would look like as real people, what they would say in addition to their dialogue in the book, and how the set and costumes would work to help the audience think the show is taking place under the sea.

Lyrics and Lines

Because Nugget & Fang is a musical, the story is told through spoken words and songs. Spoken words are called lines. The musical's lines tell the audience about the characters and the story. Words that are sung as part of a song are called lyrics. Actors work with the director to speak or "deliver" their lines and lyrics with expression.

Lyrics

There is no musical without music and lyrics. Lyrics are the words to the songs. Greg Gunning wrote both the lines the actors say and the lyrics they sing in Nugget & Fang.

♪ What do these lyrics from the song, "A Friend Is a Friend," tell you about what a friend is?
♪ Can anyone be a friend?
♪ What do you like about your friends?

YOUR FRIENDS COULD BE, WELL – ANYONE.
ON FATE IT ALL DEPENDS.
BUT OH – THE WORLD MAY DISAPPROVE
AND SAY YOU CAN'T BE FRIENDS.

BUT WHY LET OTHERS TELL YOU
WHO YOUR FRIENDS SHOULD BE?
GET TO KNOW THEM FOR WHO THEY ARE
INDIVIDUALLY.

SO ALTHOUGH YOU KNOW YOUR FRIEND MIGHT
BE QUITE DIFFERENT THAN YOU,
REMEMBER THIS –
A FRIEND IS A FRIEND – NO MATTER WHO.

Lines

The words spoken or "delivered" by the actors are written by the playwright, Greg Gunning. Each actor must memorize the script or "lines" for his or her own character. They must also be familiar with the lines of the other characters, too.

Here is what the first page of the Nugget & Fang script looks like:

NUGGET

(running in – ahead of Fang) (entering) (happily & playfully shouting, bragging, laughing)

Hey Fang, come on! Bet you can't catch me! Hurry up, slowpoke! I'm way ahead of you as usual! Man, are you slow. Bet I could beat you in a race any day... Knucklehead, you can't fool me. Hey, hold it - what am I doing? Forget it. I don't need to prove I can catch you – I'm still the fastest in the whole ocean! (freezes)

FANG

(running in behind Nugget) (entering) (happily & playfully shouting, bragging, laughing) (spoken simultaneously with Nugget)

Oh yeah! You can't get away from me! I got ya covered! Look out – always right behind ya! No way could you ever swim faster than me!... Hey wait – stop! Now we'll see who's the fastest and the smartest! Uh-oh, look out! This guy is the best! Give it up all you fishes out there! I'm the best under the waves! Yeah! (freezes.)

The Nugget & Fang Set

The set designer builds a small, foam core model of the set (some of the pieces are included above) so he can determine how the individual pieces will look and where they should be placed on stage. He then gives the model and his plans to the set builder who creates set pieces that are 6 to 8 feet high. The entire set is portable and travels in a large van with the actors and stage manager.

Let Us Know What You Think!

After you see Nugget & Fang, use the space below to write to us OR send us a picture showing your favorite part of the performance. Please send them to **ArtsPower, 9 Sand Park Road, Suite 6, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009**. You may also visit us online at <http://www.artspower.org> and click on "Contact Us."

Your School _____

School's City & State _____

Date _____

Dear ArtsPower,

I saw ***Nugget & Fang*** at _____

Here's what I enjoyed about the performance: _____

Here's why: _____

Here's what I would change about the performance: _____

Here's why: _____

From,

Your Name: _____

Pre-Show Questions

1. Compare it! Before the performance, read the Nugget & Fang stories. After the performance, compare and contrast the characters, settings, and events in each version. What parts of the different stories are important to remember? Why do you think Nugget decided not to show Fang friendship?
2. What are other adaptations you can think of besides Nugget and Fang? Do you have a favorite book that you'd like to see come to life on stage? Which one?
3. Discuss the different characters after you read the book. Describe how each may speak, move or look.
4. What are the differences between a shark and a minnow?
5. Can they be friends even with their differences?
6. Is it easy to get along with people who might be different than you?
7. When you see the performance, there will be differences between it and the book. Try to remember these differences while you watch the performance.
8. Have the students seen any shows that were based on books or stories before? What about movies? How do they expect this show to be different from what they have seen in the past? How do they expect the show to be different from the books?
9. Have the students draw or write predictions on what they think they will see based on what they read in the study guide, pictures, and history. After the show, look at the predictions and see who was correct.
10. Have the students research storytelling in other countries or history. How is it different or similar to American folktales and fables? This can be a research paper, project or just a homework assignment. Have them present what they found to the class.
11. Since the main theme of the play is friendship and avoiding prejudice, have a class discussion on the topic. Have the students think of a moral or a lesson that they would want to teach someone and write their own fable. Have them go a step further and illustrate the story. Have them present to the class explaining why they told the story in the way they did. Discuss the other themes in the book – actions and consequences and responsibility. Have they ever felt like any of the main characters have? How did they react?
12. Have the students read another book or watch a movie. What are some common themes of the story? What is the main theme of the story? Are there other stories they can think of that have the same theme? Consider using other folk tales and fables to illustrate this point: Greek mythology, fables, American folk tales, etc. What are some other famous stories? Was the lesson the same in each story?
13. Have the students research other stories. How are the stories similar to the story in this show (themes, characters, setting, etc.)? How are they different? Even if they haven't read the stories, is there anything that they can tell from the description or even pictures that are similar to the story in the show?
14. When the students attend the performance, listen to the music throughout the show. Did all of the music you heard have lyrics to it? Did you sometimes hear music when the actors were talking but not singing? Did the music and lyrics help tell the story? Did the music help convey different emotions?
15. In the play, actors have to act like the characters they are playing. Have your students pick an animal to research and then portray through physical action. Each student will learn about a particular animal's behavior and traits through research in books or online. The students can then create a poster with their research facts and a picture of the animal. Without revealing their subject, have the students take turns acting as their animal while the class tries to guess what it is.

Post-Show Discussion

(Some of these are good to discuss with your students while you wait for your bus to arrive at the theatre after the show!)

1. Have each student come up with one or two of their favorite parts of the show. What was their least favorite part?
2. Compare the show they just saw with other theatre shows or movies they've seen. How are they different? How are they similar?
3. What is the difference between a book and the play they've just seen? Are there similar aspects in each or are they completely different?
4. Do the students think they could write a play based on their lives? Have the students write a story that could be turned into a play. Maybe include their favorite day, vacation they've taken, school or friend adventures. To expand on this activity, have the students write a scene of their play. Go to the library and look at the format of a play including stage directions, dialogue and scene description. Have the students perform their scene for the class. If they can't come up with something on their own lives, have them write something for another story.
5. Write a journal entry about the play. Include favorite or least favorite parts. Scenes or times in the show that students related to in some way. Have they ever felt like any of the characters in the story? Were there things they would do differently if they were in that character's shoes?
6. Have the students pretend you are a reporter for a newspaper and write a review of the play they have just seen.
7. Have the students read the synopsis and background information. What are the common themes? What is the main theme of the play? After the show, have the students recall what they read about the story before they came to the show. Does their idea of the theme change after seeing the show? How is what they saw different/ similar to what they read? Did the play use specific words or descriptions to add to the story or create the mood of the story? Use specific examples.
8. Have the students pick out their favorite part of the story and describe it in detail from the perspective of the main character in the scene. Have them rewrite the story from another character's perspective (i.e. from Nugget's to Fang's). Did that change the story at all? How? How is each story told—first person or third person perspective? Have the students rewrite it one more time from their own perspective as an audience member.
9. How does Nugget learn his lesson? Explain the idea of cause and effect and actions and consequences using the actions of the characters in the story.
10. Have the students choose their favorite character in the play. How are they important to the story? What are they like?
11. An important aspect of the show is the music chosen. How is music used in setting the mood? What kind of music is played for the happy parts? The sad parts? Tell the students to listen for music that sets the mood the next time they see a movie or a television show. Do you think the songs are intentionally chosen or just because the director liked the songs?
12. Review the moral of the story and discuss what happened to the characters to show the moral (what bad thing happened that made them learn the lesson). How might you apply this lesson to your life?
13. Are there other ways the students can think of to tell the stories? Play, storyboards, etc. Have them try telling a story using that medium.
14. There are many poems that are written from stories and fables. Present poems to the class and have a discussion on the difference between a poem, a play and a story.
15. How did the play make the children feel? Talk about how the actors assume different roles (characters) and how a play is different from a movie. Ask the children what they think happened in the lives of the characters after the action of the play.
16. Have the students choose their favorite character in the play. How are they important to the story? What are they like? Do the mannerisms or actions coincide with the character they were?
17. Why were Nugget and Fang such good friends?
18. What happened to Nugget when he went to school so he might feel scared of Fang?
19. Would you have behaved like Nugget and listened to what your classmates said about your friend?
20. Why did Nugget's minnow classmates finally realize that Fang was really a nice shark?
21. What do you do to show your friends that you care about them?