

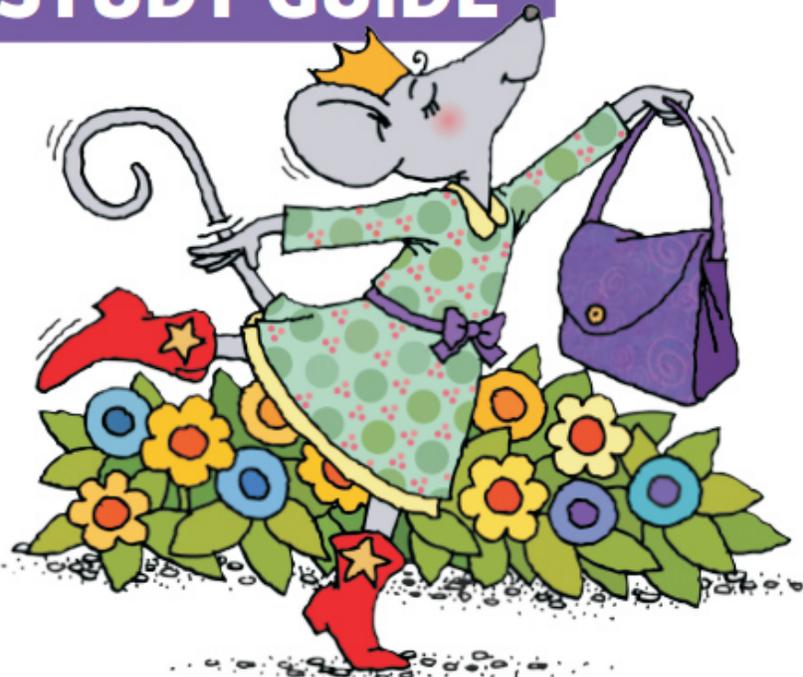


# Youth Education Series at Lebanon Opera House

## Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse

Adapted from "Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse" © 1996 by Kevin Henkes  
Theatrical adaptation © 1998 by Kevin Kling  
Performed with permission from Greenwillow Books,  
an imprint of HarperCollins Publishing

### STUDY GUIDE



*Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse* is a production of Omaha Theater Company on Tour,  
2001 Farnam St., Omaha, NE 68102 • Ph: (402) 345-4849 • [www.rosetheater.org](http://www.rosetheater.org)

Media Sponsor:



Series Sponsor:



Printing donated by:



## ***Dear Teacher:***

We have created the following study guide to help make your students' theater experience with Omaha Theater Company's Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse as meaningful as possible. For many, it will be their first time viewing a live theatrical production. We have learned that when teachers discuss the play with their students before and after the production, the experience is more significant and long-lasting. Our study guide provides pre and post performance discussion topics, as well as related activity sheets. These are just suggestions; please feel free to create your own activities and areas for discussion. We hope you and your class enjoy the show!

### **Show Credits**

Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse was adapted for the stage by Kevin Kling. The show is based on the award-winning, best-selling children's book written by Kevin Henkes. Omaha Theater Company's touring production is directed by Graham Whitehead.

### **Show Description**

Lilly loves everything about school, especially her cool teacher, Mr. Slinger. But when he confiscates her prized possession, a purple plastic purse that plays music, joy turns to misery in Lilly's Plastic Purple Purse. Lilly, who is used to being the brightest and loudest mouse around, will also have to get used to sharing the spotlight with her new baby brother in this charming adaptation of Kevin Henkes' award-winning children's book.

Gripped with anger after losing her purse, Lilly draws a mean portrait of Mr. Slinger and hides it in his book bag. But when she gets her purse back and opens it outside of school, she finds a surprising note: "Today was a difficult day. Tomorrow will be better." Suddenly wracked with guilt, Lilly sets out to make up with her teacher. But villainous bicycle-riding bullies, a spotlight-stealing baby brother and the dreaded "uncooperative chair" will test our heroine's resolve.



## Youth Education Series at Lebanon Opera House

Please review this common theater etiquette with your class before attending the performance.

### Do:

- Arrive at Lebanon Opera House early.
- Use the restroom before the performance.
- Turn off cell phones, alarms, and other electronic devices.
- Wait for your school or group to be dismissed.
- Keep your feet on the floor.
- Show your appreciation of the performers by applauding.
- Stay with your group or school at all times.
- Watch and listen closely to the performers.

### Don't:

- Stand in the aisles.
- Put your feet on the seats or balcony railing.
- Talk, sing, hum or fidget.
- Take pictures or record the actors during the performance.
- Leave the theater during the performance.
- Kick the seat in front of you.
- Eat, drink or chew gum in the theater.
- Leave your seat before the performers have taken their curtain call.

# Enjoy the show!



## Pre-Show Activities

### In The Bag

IN-CHAIR ACTIVITY • 5-10 MINUTES

**Objective:** Students will warm up their imaginations by naming items in their bags.

**Discussion:** In the play, Lilly gets a purple, plastic purse where she can store important items. If you had a special purse/backpack, what are some things you would store? Why?

**Modeling:** Start by answering the question yourself. Begin the answer with an introduction "Hi my name is \_\_\_\_\_" and the students will all greet you, "Hi \_\_\_\_\_!" After the greeting, answer the question. For example, you might say, "If I had a special backpack, I would put my comic books in it so I could hide them from my little brother."

**Activity:** Go around the classroom, giving each student the chance to answer the question, making sure to ask the students open-ended questions to get them thinking deeper about their answer: "Why do you want to keep that item in your bag?"

**Side Coaching:** What are some items that you might want to carry with you everywhere? Are there any items that you own that make you feel happy when you have them with you?

### Theater Etiquette

IN-CHAIR ACTIVITY • 5-10 MINUTES

**Objective:** Students will actively explore proper theater etiquette.

**Discussion:** How should you act when you see a play? Is it the same way you should act when watching a movie or playing at recess? Is it okay to laugh during a play if you think it is funny?

**Brainstorm:** As a class, create a list of good and bad theater behaviors. Write the list on the board.

**Modeling:** Invite one student to sit in a chair at the front of the class and act out one of the poor behavior scenarios for about ten seconds. Ask the class to discuss what was inappropriate about the behavior. Next, ask the student to change his/her actions to be proper theater behavior for about ten seconds.

**Activity:** Select various good and bad theater behaviors from the list and ask students to act them out individually from their seats. After each scenario is acted out, initiate a discussion about the behavior. When is it appropriate to behave like this? How would you react if other audience members around you did this? Conclude with the entire class acting as a good theater audience.

## Post-Show Activities

### A Day in the Life of a Mouse

OUT-OF-CHAIR ACTIVITY • 15 MINUTES

**Objective:** Students will be able to use their bodies, voices, and imaginations to create their own mouse characters

**Discussion:** When we saw "Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse," the actors in the play had to pretend to be mice to tell the story. How did the actors show us with their bodies and voices that they were mice? Now we are going to use our bodies, voices, and imaginations to pretend to be mice.

**Modeling:** Clearing an open space in your classroom, ask students to each find their own place in the room. Once they are seated ask the students to think of their favorite mouse characters from the show. How did they walk? How did they stand? Tell the students to close their eyes and imagine that they are becoming a mouse character.

**Activity:** Have the students open their eyes and move around the room as their new mouse characters. Ask the students to silently show you how their mouse character would do the following activities during the day:

- Wake up
- Get dressed
- Eat breakfast (What do they eat? Cheese? Toast? Crackers?)
- Go to mouse-school
- Take a math test
- Play at recess (What do they play? Kickball? Soccer? Baseball? How?)
- Travel back home
- Eat dinner
- Get ready for bed

**Side Coaching:** During certain parts of the "day" ask students to freeze, and then ask them to raise their hands to answer specific questions about the activity they are completing. For example, you may ask "What do you wear to school?" or "What are you eating for dinner?"

### Lilly's Story Circle

OUT-OF-CHAIR ACTIVITY • 10-20 MINUTES

**Objective:** Students will work together to tell a new story.

**Discussion:** When Lilly's baby brother Julius is born, Lilly's mother asks her to tell him a story. What is the story like? Does the story make sense? Most stories have a beginning, middle, and end. Let's work together to create a new story that Lilly can tell her brother.

**Modeling:** Have the students join you in a circle. Tell them that they will be working together to create a new story that Lilly can tell. Each person in the circle will contribute to the story by only using one word.

**Activity:** Start by having students suggest possible story topics that Lilly may tell Julius (bedtime stories, fairy tales, adventure stories, etc.). Once the class has agreed on a topic, you can start the story. Begin by having a student start the story with one word. Then go around the circle having each student contribute another word to the story.

For example, the first student may say "The" and the second student in the circle would say "teacher" and so on. Write each word on the board as the story progresses as a reminder. Once each student has had a turn adding a word, keep going around the circle until the story has an ending.

**Side Coaching:** The story could be one that everyone already knows, like "The Three Little Pigs," or it could be a brand new one. Remind students that the stories must have a beginning, middle, and end. Encourage them to find ways to move the story along and make choices, but stay true to the story topic.

# DOT TO DOT

Dot-to-dot mice  
are dot-to-dot nice!

Connect all the dots  
And see what appears,  
With a very long tail  
And very short ears.



**Lilly wants to be Mr. Slinger's flower girl.  
Can you help her look fancy?**

- 1) Color Lilly's boots red.
- 2) Draw a heart on her crown.
- 3) Put polka-dots on her dress.
- 4) Write your name above the bow on Lilly's tail.
- 5) Put a line under her feet.
- 6) Draw some flowers in her hand.



# Bibliography

If you enjoyed "Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse," you might also enjoy these great resources:

## Books for Kids and Teachers

### "Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse " by Kevin Henkes

If you enjoyed the play, check out the book that started it all! Lilly's Grammy buys her an extra-purple, extra-plastic, extra-awesome purse for a new year at school. But when Lilly brings it to school, she interrupts the class and her teacher takes it away for a day. Drama ensues!

### "Julius, Baby of the World" by Kevin Henkes

Julius' parents love their new baby, but his older sister Lilly is not so impressed. He can't play, he can't walk – all he can do is gurgle and scream! Lilly hopes he will go away – but what will happen when Lilly's cousin Garland comes over to meet Julius? Will she feel the same way? More importantly, will Lilly?

### "Sheila Rae, the Brave" by Kevin Henkes

Sheila Rae is the bravest mouse of all – she growls at stray dogs and steps on every sidewalk crack! Sometimes she bosses around her little sister, Louise. But when Sheila Rae gets lost in the forest on the way home, she needs someone else to be brave!

### "Chrysanthemum" by Kevin Henkes

Chrysanthemum and her family think her name is "precious and priceless." She loves having that name! But the other kids in her class begin to whisper that her name is too strange, and too long. What will Chrysanthemum do?

## Websites for Kids

### <http://illustrationforkids.blogspot.com/>

Kevin Henkes' books have lots of colorful illustrations . Here you can look at cool illustrations from upcoming illustrators and maybe even get a few ideas for an illustrated book of your own! These artists must have visited Mr. Slinger's Light Bulb Lab...

### <http://library.thinkquest.org/4272/interest.htm>

This site was made by kids, for kids! Explore this site to find out all about MICE! Learn about how mice live, what they eat, how they can hurt us, and how they can help us too!

### <http://cheese.com/>

Did you know that in real life, mice actually DON'T like cheese?! But humans sure do! Surf this site to find some interesting facts about cheese-making, different types of cheese around the world, and how it all began!

## Websites for Teachers

### [www.kevinhenkes.com](http://www.kevinhenkes.com)

The acclaimed author's official website. See the book list, browse in which books favorite characters appear, and check out more activities from the world of Kevin Henkes' children's books.

### <http://www.education.wisc.edu/ccbc/authors/henkes/main.asp>

A wonderfully-written article about the author and his life, including how he got started writing and illustrating. Also includes links to a book list, an awards list, and other links concerning the Henkes' works.

### <http://www.creativedrama.com/theatre.htm>

If your students enjoyed the games in this study guide, give this site a glance for more ideas on how to incorporate theatre games into your classroom. Also includes links to improvisation games as well as a book list for more creative drama games.

# Teacher's Performance Evaluation

Name \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_  
(Optional) (Optional)

What grade levels attended the performance? \_\_\_\_\_

Was the performance appropriate for this grade(s)? Yes No

Was the post-show discussion valuable to your students? Yes No

Did this performance fit in with your curriculum? Yes No

Was the study guide helpful? Yes No

How would you rate the entertainment quality of the performance?

Outstanding Above Average Average Below Average

How would you rate the educational quality of the performance?

Outstanding Above Average Average Below Average

To what extent were your students challenged by the content of this performance?

Very Challenged Challenged Not Challenged

How did this program compare to similar programs you've attended in the past?

Above Average Average Below Average

Will you bring your students back to another YES! performance? Yes No

What types of shows would you like to see us present in the future?

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music               | <input type="checkbox"/> Dance         | <input type="checkbox"/> Musical Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-musical Theater | <input type="checkbox"/> Puppetry      | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Literature based    | <input type="checkbox"/> Multicultural | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____     |

How did you hear about the Youth Education Series?

- |  |                                      |                                 |
|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> LOH Website                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Mailing     | <input type="checkbox"/> E-mail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LOH Brochure                | <input type="checkbox"/> Poster      | <input type="checkbox"/> Radio  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher     | <input type="checkbox"/> Parent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enrichment/Arts Coordinator | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |                                 |

Additional Comments:

Please return your evaluation to:  
Lebanon Opera House  
PO Box 384  
Lebanon, NH 03766

Evaluations can also be completed online at [www.lebanonoperahouse.org/yesloh/](http://www.lebanonoperahouse.org/yesloh/)

## A Note to Families

Dear Family,

Today, Lebanon Opera House presented Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse to your child's class. This performance was made possible by generous support from our underwriters and sponsors:

### **Hypertherm HOPE Foundation, The Valley News, and Gnomon Copy.**

Below are a few questions that might help initiate a conversation about your child's experience at the performance. For more information about Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse, including suggested reading and other performance related activities please download a copy of our study guide at [www.lebanonoperahouse.org/yesloh/](http://www.lebanonoperahouse.org/yesloh/)

What type of performance did you see? (Music, theatre, etc.)

What was the performance about?

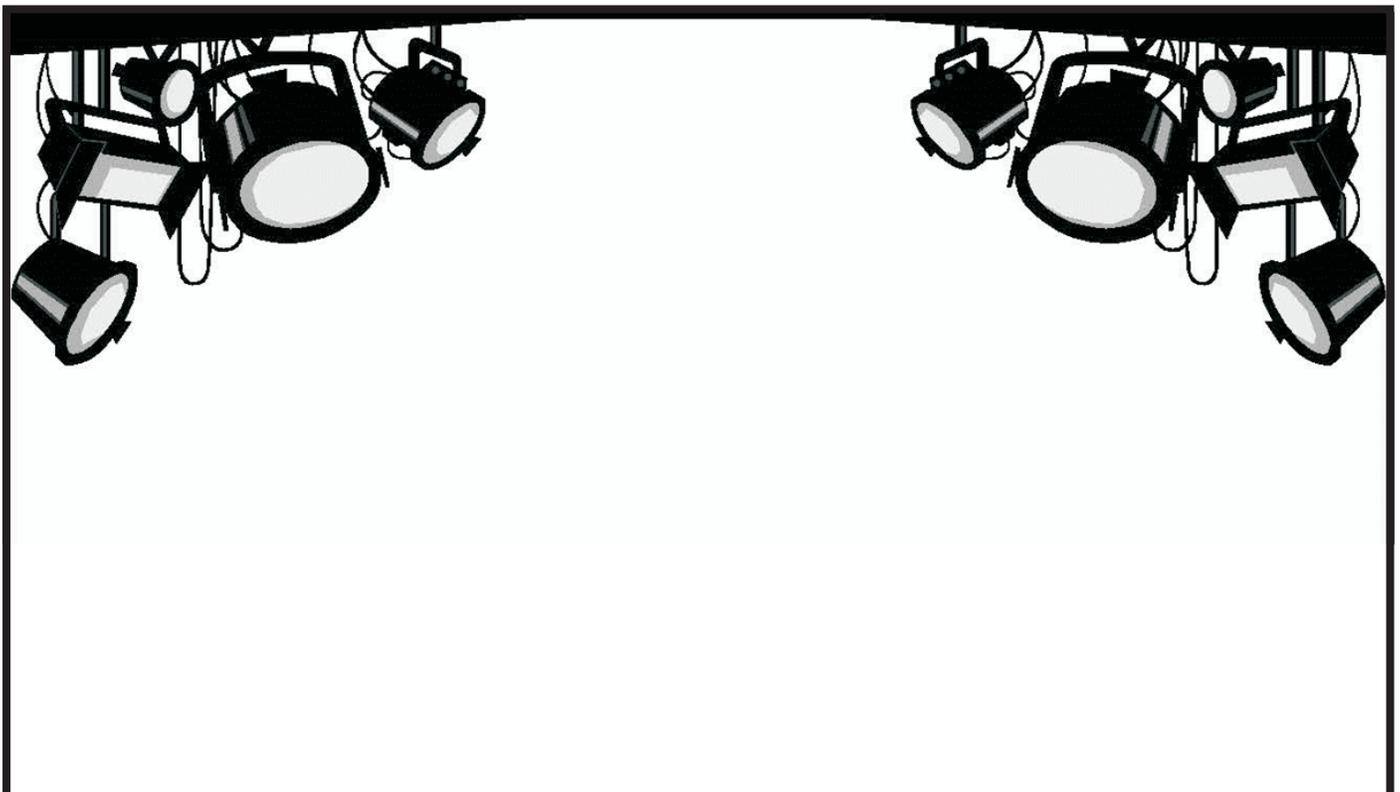
What was your favorite part of the performance?

What did you learn from the performance?

How did the performance make you feel?

If you could be one of the performers/characters, which would you choose and why?

Draw a picture of your favorite moment in the performance:





# Youth Education Series at Lebanon Opera House

2014/2015 Programs

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia in  
**STELLA, QUEEN OF THE SNOW**  
Tuesday, January 20, 2015 @ 10 am  
*Recommended for Pre K – grade 2*

Artspower in  
**FOUR SCORE AND SEVEN YEARS AGO**  
Thursday, February 12, 2015 @ 10 am  
*Recommended for grades 3 – 6*

**BEYOND THE BOG ROAD WITH EILEEN IVERS**  
Thursday, March 12, 2015 @ 10 am \* a 75 minute show  
*Recommended for grades 5 – 8*

Theatreworks USA in  
**FLY GUY AND OTHER STORIES**  
Monday, March 16, 2015 @ 10 am  
*Recommended for grades 1 – 4*

Theatreworks USA in  
**MISS NELSON IS MISSING**  
Monday, April 20, 2015 @ 10 am  
*Recommended for K – grade 5*

Artspower in  
**DOG LOVES BOOKS**  
Tuesday, May 19, 2015 @ 10 am  
*Recommended for K – grade 2*

Media Sponsor:



Series Sponsor:



Printing donated by:

