



GUESS HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU & I LOVE MY LITTLE STORYBOOK

Applause Series CURRICULUM GUIDE
CIVIC CENTER OF GREATER DES MOINES

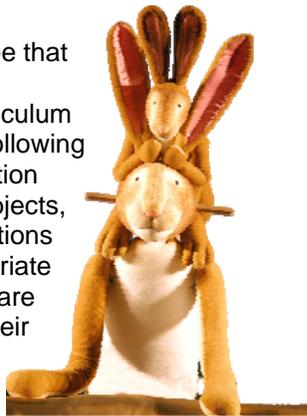
February 5, 2013

Guess How Much I Love You & I Love My Little Storybook

Dear Teachers,

Thank you for joining us for the Applause Series presentation of *Guess How Much I Love You* and *I Love My Little Storybook*. Of the many companies that present work for young audiences, Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia is one of our favorites. Their ability to lift the work of classic children's authors and illustrators off the page and onto the stage is nothing short of exquisite. This sweet double bill brings illustrator Anita Jeram's lovable rabbits to the stage — unfolding a touching story of the love between a father rabbit and his son, as well as an imaginative story that celebrates the wonderful world of books.

We thank you for sharing this special experience with your students and hope that this study guide helps you connect the performance to your in-classroom curriculum in ways that you find valuable. In the following pages, you will find contextual information about the performance and related subjects, as well as a variety of discussion questions and activities. Some pages are appropriate to reproduce for your students; others are designed more specifically with you, their teacher, in mind. As such, we hope that you are able to “pick and choose” material and ideas from the study guide to meet your class's unique needs.



See you at the theater,

Civic Center Education Team

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Alliant Energy, American Republic Insurance Company, Bradford and Sally Austin, Bank of America, Dean and Sandra Carlson, CenturyLink, EMC Insurance Companies, Greater Des Moines Community Foundation, Hy-Vee, John Deere Des Moines Operations, Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, Richard and Deborah McConnell, Pioneer Hi-Bred - a DuPont business, Polk County, Prairie Meadows, Sargent Family Foundation, U.S. Bank, Wells Fargo & Co., Willis Auto Campus, Windsor Charitable Foundation, West Bancorporation Foundation and more than 200 individual donors.

GUIDE CONTENTS

About the Civic Center
Page 3

Going to the Theater and Theater Etiquette
Page 4

Civic Center Field Trip Information for Teachers
Page 5

Vocabulary
Page 6

About the Performance
Page 7

About Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia
Page 8

About the Authors and Illustrator
Page 9

All About Rabbits
Page 10

Pre-Show Exploration
Page 11

Post-show Discussion and Assessment
Pages 12-13

Reproducible
Pages 14

Resources and Sources
Page 15

This study guide was compiled and written by Michelle McDonald; edited by Karoline Myers.

ABOUT THE CIVIC CENTER



The Civic Center of Greater Des Moines is a cultural landmark of central Iowa and is committed to engaging the Midwest in world-class entertainment, education, and cultural activities. The Civic Center has achieved a national reputation for excellence as a performing arts center and belongs to several national organizations, including The Broadway League, the Independent Presenters Network, International Performing Arts for Youth, and Theater for Young Audiences/USA.

Five performing arts series currently comprise the season— the Willis Broadway Series, Prairie Meadows Temple Theater Series, Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield Family Series, the Dance Series, and the Applause Series. The Civic Center is also the performance home for the Des Moines Symphony and Stage West.

The Civic Center is a private, nonprofit organization and is an important part of central Iowa's cultural community. Through its education programs, the Civic Center strives to engage patrons in arts experiences that extend beyond the stage. Master classes bring professional and local artists together to share their art form and craft, while pre-performance lectures and post-performance Q&A sessions with company members offer ticket holders the opportunity to explore each show as a living, evolving piece of art.

Through the Applause Series— curriculum-connected performances for school audiences— students are encouraged to discover the rich, diverse world of performing arts. During the 2012-2013 season, the Civic Center will welcome more than 45,000 students and educators to 14 professional productions for young audiences.

.....
Want an inside look? Request a tour.
.....

Group tours can be arranged for performance and non-performance dates for groups grades 3 and above.

Call 515-246-2355 or visit CivicCenter.org/education to check on availability or book your visit.

DID YOU KNOW?

More than 250,000 patrons visit the Civic Center each year.

The Civic Center opened in 1979.

The Civic Center has three theater spaces:

- *Main Hall, 2744 seats*
- *Stoner Studio, 200 seats*
- *Temple Theater, 299 seats (located in the Temple for the Performing Arts)*

No seat is more than 155 feet from center stage in the Main Hall.

Nollen Plaza, situated just west of the Civic Center, is a park and amphitheater that is also part of the Civic Center complex. The space features the Crusoe Umbrella sculpture.

The Applause Series started in 1996. You are joining us for our 17th season of school performances.

GOING TO THE THEATER . . .



YOUR ROLE AS AN AUDIENCE MEMBER

Attending a live performance is a unique and exciting opportunity. Unlike the passive experience of watching a movie, audience members play an important role in every live performance. As they act, sing, dance, or play instruments, the performers on stage are very aware of the audience's mood and level of engagement. Each performance calls for a different response from audience members. Lively bands, musicians, and dancers may desire the audience to focus silently on the stage and applaud only during natural breaks in the performance. Audience members can often take cues from performers on how to respond to the performance appropriately. For example, performers will often pause or bow for applause at a specific time.

As you experience the performance, consider the following questions:

- * What kind of live performance is this (a play, a dance, a concert, etc.)?
- * What is the mood of the performance? Is the subject matter serious or lighthearted?
- * What is the mood of the performers? Are they happy and smiling or somber and reserved?
- * Are the performers encouraging the audience to clap to the music or move to the beat?
- * Are there natural breaks in the performance where applause seems appropriate?

A SPECIAL EXPERIENCE

Seeing a live performance is a very special experience. Although it is not required, many people enjoy dressing up when they attend the theater.

THEATER ETIQUETTE

Here is a checklist of general guidelines to follow when you visit the Civic Center:

- * Leave all food, drinks, and chewing gum at school or on the bus.
- * Cameras, recording devices, and personal listening devices are not permitted in the theater.
- * Turn off and put away all cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices before the performance begins.
- * Do not text during the performance.
- * Respect the theater. Remember to keep your feet off of the seats and avoid bouncing up and down.
- * When the house lights dim, the performance is about to begin. Please stop talking at this time.
- * **Talk before and after the performance only.** Remember, the theater is designed to amplify sound. Other audience members and the performers on stage can hear your voice!
- * Use the restroom before the performance or wait until the end. If you must leave the theater during the show, make sure the first set of doors closes before you open the second — this will keep unwanted light from spilling into the theater.
- * Appropriate responses such as laughing and applauding are appreciated. Pay attention to the artists on stage — they will let you know what is appropriate.
- * Open your eyes, ears, mind, and heart to the entire experience. Enjoy yourself!

GOING TO THE THEATER information is adapted from the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts study guide materials.

CIVIC CENTER FIELD TRIP INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS



Thank you for choosing the Applause Series at the Civic Center of Greater Des Moines. Below are tips for organizing a safe and successful field trip to the Civic Center.

ORGANIZING YOUR FIELD TRIP

- * Please include all students, teachers, and chaperones in your ticket request.
- * After you submit your ticket request, you will receive a confirmation e-mail within five business days. Your **invoice will be attached to the confirmation e-mail.**
- * Payment policies and options are located at the top of the invoice. **Payment (or a purchase order) for your reservation is due four weeks** prior to the date of the performance.
- * The Civic Center reserves the right to cancel unpaid reservations after the payment due date.
- * Tickets are not printed for Applause Series shows. Your invoice will serve as the reservation confirmation for your group order.
- * Schedule buses to arrive in downtown Des Moines at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the performance. This will allow time to park, walk to the Civic Center, and be seated in the theater.
- * Performances are approximately 60 minutes unless otherwise noted on the website and printed materials.
- * All school groups with reservations to the show will receive an e-mail notification when the study guide is posted. Please note that study guides are only printed and mailed upon request.

DIRECTIONS AND PARKING

- * Directions: From I-235, take Exit 8A (Downtown Exits) and the ramp toward 3rd Street and 2nd Avenue. Turn onto 3rd Street and head south.
- * Police officers are stationed at the corner of 3rd and Locust Streets and will direct buses to parking areas with hooded meters near the Civic Center. Groups traveling in personal vehicles are responsible for locating their own parking in ramps or metered (non-hooded) spots downtown.
- * Buses will remain parked for the duration of the show. At the conclusion, bus drivers must be available to move their bus if necessary, even if their students are staying at the Civic Center to eat lunch or take a tour.
- * Buses are not generally permitted to drop off or pick up students near the Civic Center. If a bus must return to school during the performance, prior arrangements must be made with the Civic Center Education staff.

ARRIVAL TO THE CIVIC CENTER

- * When arriving at the Civic Center, please have an **adult lead your group** for identification and check-in purposes. You may enter the building through the East or West lobbies; a Civic Center staff member may be stationed outside the building to direct you.
- * Civic Center staff will usher groups into the building as quickly as possible. Once inside, you will be directed to the check-in area.
- * Applause seating is not ticketed. Ushers will escort groups to their seats; various seating factors including group size, grade levels, arrival time, and special needs seating requests may be used to assign a group's specific location in the hall.
- * We request that an **adult lead the group into the theater and other adults position themselves throughout the group**; we request this arrangement for supervision purposes, especially in the event that a group must be seated in multiple rows.
- * Please allow ushers to seat your entire group before rearranging seat locations and taking groups to the restroom.
- * As a reminder, children under the age of three are not permitted in the theater for Applause performances.

IN THE THEATER

- * In case of a medical emergency, please notify the nearest usher. A medical assistant is on duty for all Main Hall performances.
- * We ask that adults handle any disruptive behavior in their groups. If the behavior persists, an usher may request your group to exit the theater.
- * Following the performance groups may exit the theater and proceed to their bus(es).
- * If an item is lost at the Civic Center, please see an usher or contact us after the performance at 515.246.2355.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact the Education department at 515.246.2355 or education@civiccenter.org.
Thank you!

VOCABULARY



ART & THEATER TERMS

illustration: a drawing, picture or other type of artwork that helps make something clear or attractive. Picture books use illustrations to help tell stories.

narrator: a person who tells a story, often as part of a performance or program.



puppetry: an art form in which objects, often with human or animal characteristics, are brought to life by puppeteers.

Puppeteers manipulate two hare puppets to tell the story of *Guess How Much I Love You*.

watercolor: technique of painting which uses water instead of oil as the base. Illustrator Anita Jeram used watercolor to create her illustrations.



Watercolor painting.

RABBIT TERMS

burrow: a hole or tunnel in the ground made by a rabbit for shelter.



Have you ever seen evidence of an animal burrow while you were hiking or exploring outside?



hare: a rodent-like mammal having long ears, divided upper lip, and long hind legs for leaping.

Notice the long ears. Hares are larger than rabbits, having longer ears and legs.

mammal: warm-blooded animals that give birth to live young and are more or less covered in hair. Rabbits and hares are examples of mammals.

FROM THE STORIES

adventure: a very exciting or very unusual experience. Adventures are sometimes risky or dangerous.



White water rafting can be considered an adventure.



guess: to estimate or arrive at an opinion about something without having sufficient evidence to support it.

Have you ever guessed how many pieces of candy are in a jar?

fern: a type of plant that has roots, stems, and leaves but does not produce a flower.



forest: a large wooded area having thick growth of trees and plants.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE



Mermaid Theatre's production of *Guess How Much I Love You* is based on two children's books from illustrator Anita Jeram. Jeram's beautiful water color illustrations are brought to life through puppetry.

Run Time: Approx. 60 minutes

THE STORIES

Guess How Much I Love You
In this touching bedtime story about the bond between a father rabbit and his son, Little Nutbrown Hare loves Big Nutbrown Hare as far as he can reach and as high as he can hop. But Big Nutbrown Hare loves him as far as *his* long arms can reach and as high as his strong legs can hop.

Written by Sam McBratney and charmingly illustrated with endearing watercolors by Anita Jeram, *Guess How Much I Love You* was first published in hardcover in 1995. The book is available in 45 languages and has received media praise around the world.

I Love My Little Storybook

This endearing celebration of the joy of reading features a whimsical collection of animals and imaginary creatures as an eager little bunny lies on the grass and opens his book. Within moments, the story he's reading comes alive in fascinating detail.

PUPPETRY

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia does not typically construct "traditional" puppet styles. Instead, the company constructs their puppets to make sure that the puppets look like the objects in the books. In this production, most of the puppets are hand carved from soft sponge foam using a pair of scissors. The puppets have carved wooden joints and handles, and are covered in hand-painted silk or soft fabric.

The puppetry style of this show is most closely related Japanese Bunraku, where the puppeteers are visible behind the puppet. One difference is that the faces of Bunraku puppeteers are masked by hoods. In this show, Mermaid Theatre performers' faces are visible.

NARRATION

As with all Mermaid Theatre's adaptations of classic children's picture books, the stories are told through the use of a narrator who recites the book's text verbatim. The recorded narration for this show is the work of Beau Bridges, an award-winning actor who visited Mermaid's headquarters while on location in Windsor, Nova Scotia several years ago.

MUSIC

Guess How Much I Love You features an original musical score by Steven Naylor, Mermaid Theatre's Artistic Advisor for Music and Sound Design.

A NON-SHUSHING SHOW

Mermaid Theatre productions are "non-shushing" shows. Students are encouraged to clap and laugh when they see something that pleases them. They may also help tell the story along with the narration.

⇒ *Etiquette take-away:* Noises that help tell the story are okay. Side conversations are not.

ABOUT MERMAID THEATRE OF NOVA SCOTIA



Now in its fortieth season, Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia ranks among North America's most respected creators of young audience entertainment. Nearly four million young people around the world have delighted in Mermaid's unique adaptations of children's literature.

LITERATURE & THE ARTS
Mermaid Theatre believes that young people benefit greatly from early exposure to literature, the arts, and the power of the imagination. Therefore, Mermaid Theatre's creative ambition is to produce work which is quality theatre—entertaining, informative, and stimulating to all the senses—along with the goal of encouraging literacy and generating enthusiasm for the art of reading. With these core values in mind, the company produces some of the most highly regarded theater for young audiences around the world. Classic children's literature comes to life through striking visual images, evocative original music, innovative puppetry and staging in productions that captivate young people's imaginations.

IN NOVA SCOTIA
Mermaid Theatre is from Nova Scotia, Canada. They provide important educational outreach throughout Nova Scotia, through school visits and their Institute of Puppetry Arts based in Windsor, Nova Scotia.

AMBASSADOR ROLE
Extensive international engagements allow the company to play an important ambassadorial role for the Province of Nova Scotia and for Canada. Mermaid Theatre has represented Canada in Japan, Mexico, Australia, England, Northern Ireland, Holland, Scotland, Wales, Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan and Vietnam.



Nova Scotia, shown here in red, is located on Canada's southeastern coast. Map courtesy of solarnavigator.net.



A tiny rabbit meets a storybook princess through the power of imagination in *I Love My Little Storybook*.

- Other popular productions from Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia:
- Goodnight Moon & The Runaway Bunny*
 - Swimmy, Frederick & Inch by Inch*
 - The Very Hungry Caterpillar*
 - When Dinosaurs Dance at Midnight*

ABOUT THE AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATOR



ABOVE: An illustration by Anita Jeram from the award-winning book *Guess How Much I Love You*.

Every piece of art — a book, a painting or a performance — is created by a person or a group of people. Learn about Sam McBratney and Anita Jeram, the people who created the books featured in the show.

SAM McBRATNEY

Sam McBratney is from Northern Ireland. He received a degree in history and political science from Trinity College in Dublin and was a full-time educator. He started writing children’s books when he was a teacher in his thirties, with a goal to help students who had trouble reading. He continued writing for a more personal reason, saying “the act of imagining simply makes me feel good.”

Guess How Much I Love You is Sam McBratney’s 57th book. It sold an astonishing 15 million copies worldwide and is available in 45 different languages. He has also written many other books for children, as well as half a dozen radio plays for adults and a prize-winning collection of short stories.

“I told my children stories when they were young...so when I write I try to think of what they would have liked.”
—Sam McBratney



Author Sam McBratney.



Author and Illustrator Anita Jeram.

ANITA JERAM

Anita Jeram was born in Portsmouth, England, in 1965 and studied art at Manchester Polytechnic. She published her first book for children while she was still a student. She has written and illustrated many popular and critically acclaimed books for children, including a number which feature her enchanting, lovable bunnies.

For Anita Jeram, illustrating *Guess How Much I Love You* by was a labor of love. An immediate problem arose during her early brainstorming for the illustrations. She had never actually *seen* a hare. In the end, Big Nutbrown Hare and Little Nutbrown Hare grew out of her imagination. A rabbit also figures prominently in *I Love My Little Storybook*, her magical tribute to the wonderful world of books, which she also wrote and illustrated.

“Every time I read this book, I want to cry. The story reminds me so much of my own son, who often plays this kind of game with me when it’s time for bed.” -Anita Jeram

ALL ABOUT RABBITS

Rabbits and hares are featured in both stories in the show. Learn more about these furry creatures!

WHAT ARE RABBITS?

Rabbits are mammals with long ears, which can be more than 4 inches long, which help them to detect predators. They have large, powerful hind legs. The fur is most commonly long and soft, with colors such as shades of brown, gray, and buff. The tail is a little plume of brownish fur (white on top for cottontails).



A cottontail rabbit. Image courtesy of ag.purdue.edu.



A nest of baby bunnies. Image courtesy of dreamstime.com.



A group of underground burrows made by rabbits is called a warren. Image courtesy of watership-down-under.wikispaces.com

HOMES

More than half of the world's rabbit population lives in North America. Rabbit habitats include meadows, woods, forests, grasslands, deserts and wetlands. They live in groups and often live in underground burrows, or rabbit holes. A group of burrows is called a warren.

Domestic rabbits can be kept as pets in a back yard hutch, indoors in a cage, or house trained to have free roam. Some pet rabbits live in outside hutches during the day for the benefit of fresh air and natural daylight and are brought inside at night.



Pet rabbits can be held. Wild rabbits are not to be held.

FOOD

Rabbits in the wild are herbivores that feed by grazing on grass and leafy weeds. A pet rabbit's diet typically consists of hay, pellets, and a fair quantity of fresh vegetables.

RABBIT FUN FACTS

- ◇ Baby bunnies are commonly referred to as "kittens".
- ◇ A rabbit's teeth never stop growing.
- ◇ Female rabbits are called "does" and male rabbits are called "bucks".
- ◇ Rabbits are constantly aware of their surroundings because they are prey animals.
- ◇ Rabbits are most active in the early morning and evening.
- ◇ Rabbits can grind their teeth, making a "purr" sound.
- ◇ Rabbits only sweat on the pads of their feet.
- ◇ Pet rabbits tend to live to be older than wild rabbits.
- ◇ The longest rabbit ears ever recorded measured over 31 inches long!
- ◇ The world's heaviest rabbit weighed 50 pounds!

RABBITS vs. HARES

The most obvious difference between rabbits and hares is how their babies are born. Rabbits have young that are born blind and hairless. In contrast, hares are born with hair and are able to see.

Most rabbits live underground in burrows or warrens, while hares live in simple nests above the ground (as do cottontail rabbits), and usually do not live in groups.

"Big Nutbrown Hare settled Little Nutbrown Hare into his bed of leaves."

Hares are generally larger than rabbits, with longer ears, larger and longer hind legs and have black markings on their fur. Hares have not been domesticated, while European rabbits are kept as pets.

PRE-SHOW EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

1) RETELL THE STORY WITH PUPPETS

Goal: To demonstrate reading comprehension through puppetry and performance.

Explanation: In this activity, students will re-tell the story of *Guess How Much I Love You* using simple puppets.

Preparation: Before you begin this activity, prepare simple puppets to represent each character in the story *Guess How Much I Love You*.

To do so, scan or photocopy a picture of Little Nutbrown Hare and Big Nutbrown Hare from the book *Guess How Much I Love You*. Trim away excess paper. Laminate if you so desire. Glue or tape hare cut-outs to popsicle sticks or paint sticks for students to hold onto.

Activity:

1. Read *Guess How Much I Love You* as a class.
2. Discuss the sequence of events. Which hare spoke first in the story? What did the first hare want the other to do? How did the second hare respond? What happened next?
3. Show students the puppets you have prepared.
4. As a class or in small groups, allow students to perform the story of *Guess How Much I Love You* with the hare puppets. Students may use the hare puppets to narrate the story in their own words.

Follow-Up Questions:

1. Why did Little Nutbrown Hare express his love in farther and farther distances?
2. Why did Big Nutbrown Hare have farther distances?

Additional Questions for After the Show:

1. How were the puppets in the performance similar to the ones in our classroom? How were they different?
2. Who told the story during the performance? Could you see this person?
3. What was your favorite part of *Guess How Much I Love You*? Why?

2) CREATE YOUR OWN STORYBOOK

Goal: To encourage students to use their imaginations and practice creative writing.

Explanation: In this activity, students will create a story about characters that they would like to meet in the pages of a storybook.

Activity:

1. Read Anita Jeram's *I Love My Little Storybook* as a class.
2. Ask your students whom they would like to meet in the pages of a storybook. It could be anyone – a real person, a favorite cartoon character, someone from history, a Martian. Encourage your students to stretch their imaginations.
3. Then, ask students to write a story about what that meeting might be like and the different things they might do together.
4. Have the students revise a final draft and create illustrations for their story.
5. Staple or sew pages together to create booklets, if time allows.
6. Encourage students to create book covers, title pages, and a dedication if they so desire.

Follow-up Questions:

1. How is your story like Anita Jeram's *I Love My Little Storybook*? How is it different?
2. What challenges did you face as you created your story?
3. What was your favorite part about creating your story/storybook?

Who would you like to meet in the pages of a storybook?



POST-SHOW DISCUSSION AND ASSESSMENT

DISCUSSION

Comprehension:

1. In *Guess How Much I Love You*, what was Little Nutbrown Hare trying to show Big Nutbrown Hare? How was he trying to show it?
2. Why did Little Nutbrown Hare and Big Nutbrown Hare keep going back and forth with farther and farther distances?
3. In *I Love My Little Storybook*, where does the bunny's storybook take place? What did you see during the performance that showed that?
4. What special friends does the bunny see inside his storybook?
5. Name some different things the bunny does with his storybook. How were these shown during the performance?
6. What happened when the bunny got tired?

Puppetry:

1. Were you able to see the puppeteers during the show? Why or why not?
2. What did the puppets look like? What kind of colors were they? How do you think the different puppets were made?
4. If you could ask the puppeteers a question, what would it be? (you may email student questions to Mermaid Theatre at puppets@mermaidtheatre.ns.ca. They are great at responding!)

Reality vs. fantasy:

1. Can love really be measured in a distance? Why does Sam McBratney choose to show love in this way in *Guess How Much I Love You*?
2. Can someone really jump into and out of a storybook? What does the little bunny really mean?

Theater Experience:

1. What was your favorite part about our trip to the theater?
2. How was the performance different than the books? How was it the same?

1) WRITE A LETTER

Goal: To reflect on the performance experience and to practice writing skills.

Explanation: In this activity, students will write a letter about their experience to the *Guess How Much I Love You* performers or to Civic Center education donors whose support keeps Applause Series tickets accessibly priced for school groups.

Activity:

1. After attending the performance, discuss the experience with your students. Use the following discussion questions to guide the conversation:

- ◇ What was the show about?
- ◇ What parts of the show were most exciting?
- ◇ Which character did you enjoy the most? Why?
- ◇ What did the characters learn?
- ◇ What was special about the puppets?

2. Next, invite students to write a letter to the performers or to Civic Center donors about their theater experience.

Example letter starter:

Dear *Mermaid Theatre* performers,

My favorite part of the show was...
While watching your show I felt... because ...
I have drawn a picture of the scene when...
If I could be in your show, I would play the
part of ... because ...

3. Mail the letters to:

Civic Center of Greater Des Moines
Attn: Education Department
221 Walnut Street
Des Moines, IA 50309

Follow-up Questions:

1. What did you include in your letter? Why did you want to share that particular idea?

POST-SHOW DISCUSSION AND ASSESSMENT

2) ACTING OUT A STORY

Goal: To use drama and imagination to demonstrate comprehension of a story and to work on sequencing skills.

When: After the performance

Explanation: In this activity, students will use drama and their imaginations to re-tell a Sam McBratney or Anita Jeram story.

Activity:

1. Read a book by Sam McBratney or Anita Jeram aloud to the class.
2. As a class, brainstorm the characters in the story.
3. As a class, determine the plot or sequence of main events.
4. Break up the story into small segments and assign each segment to a group of 3-4 students.
5. Students then create tableau (frozen picture that tells a story) of their assigned moment in the story. Together, students may represent the characters, objects, or setting of their assigned moment.
6. Have groups share their tableau in the order of the story.
7. Once a group is "frozen," tap students on the shoulder one at a time. When a student has been tapped, they should "unfreeze" and briefly describe who they are and what they are doing in the scene.

Follow-up Questions:

1. How would you describe the character or object you played?
2. What happened at the beginning of the story? In the middle? At the end?
3. How did you feel when you were depicting your tableau for the class?

3) MAKE YOUR OWN GREETING CARD

Goal: To practice writing and communication skills

Explanation: In this activity, students will practice their writing and communication skills by making a card for a loved one. Note: these would be perfect for Valentine's Day, which is the week after the performance.

Activity:

1. Print and make copies of the *Guess How Much I Love You* card template (page 14) on white cardstock.
2. Give one card template to each student. Ask them to identify a loved one that they would like to make their card for.
3. Have students color the cards, cut them out, and fold them on the dotted line.
4. Next, have students write a special message inside the card to their loved one.
5. Allow the students the opportunity to make more than one card if time allows.

Follow-up Questions:

1. Why is it important to tell our loved ones that we care about them?
2. How do you feel when you receive a card from someone?
3. How do you know that your loved ones (parents, siblings, grandparents, friends, etc.) love you as well?

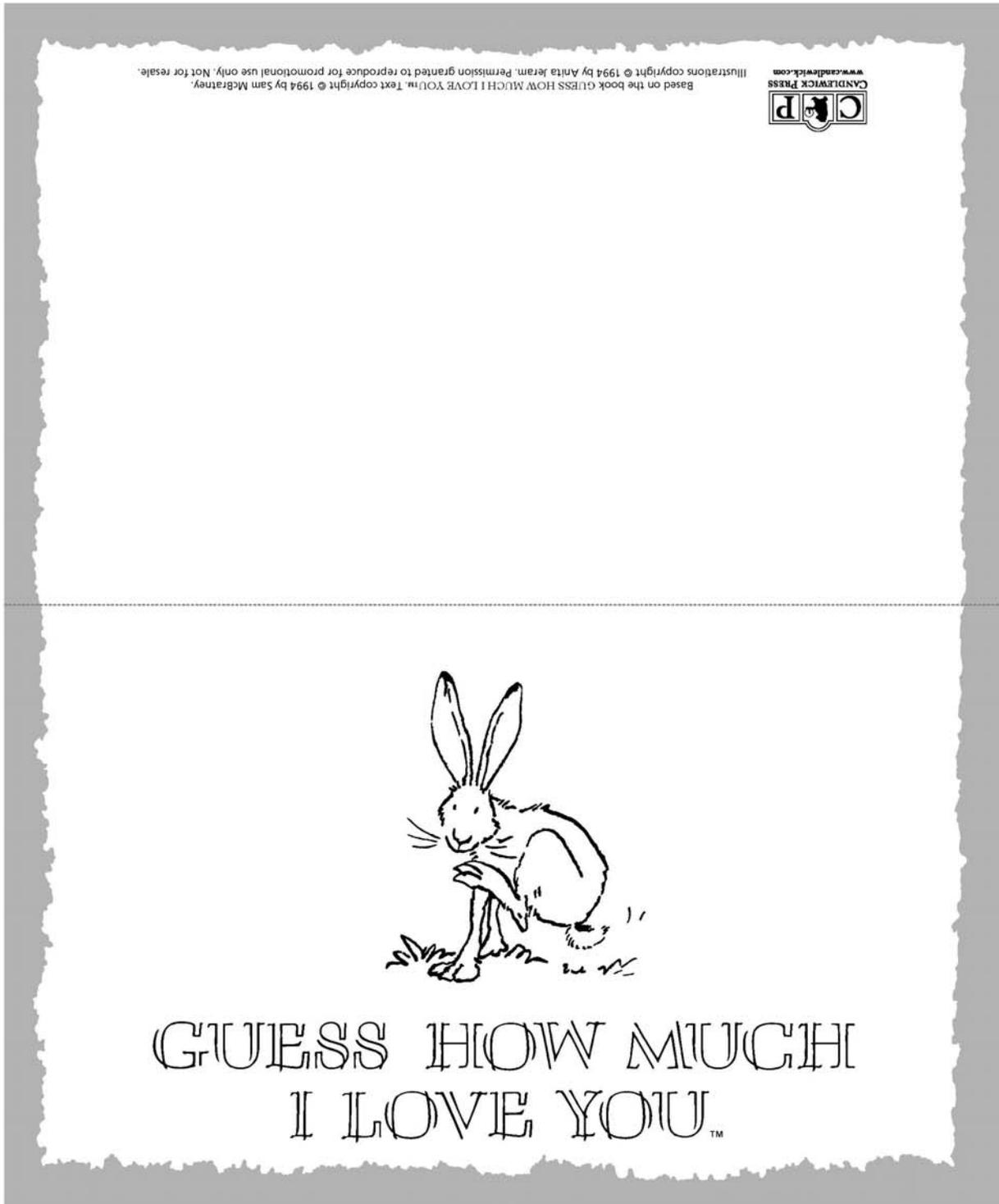


Full size template available on page 14.

REPRODUCIBLE (for use with post-show activity #3)

Make your own greeting card

Color, fold along the dotted line, and write a message for someone you love.



RESOURCES AND SOURCES



BOOKS

*Written & illustrated by
Anita Jeram:*

- ◇ Bill's Belly Button
- ◇ It Was Jake
- ◇ The Most Obedient Dog in the World
- ◇ Contrary Mary
- ◇ Daisy Dare
- ◇ Birthday Happy Contrary Mary
- ◇ Bunny, My Honey
- ◇ All Together Now
- ◇ I Love My Little Storybook

Illustrated by Anita Jeram

- ◇ All Pigs are Beautiful
written by Dick King-Smith
- ◇ My Hen is Dancing
written by Karen Wallace
- ◇ I Love Guinea Pigs
written by Dick King-Smith
- ◇ Puppy Love
written by Dick King-Smith
- ◇ Animal Friends
written by Dick King-Smith
- ◇ In Every Tiny Grain of Sand
a collection by Reeve Lindbergh,
co-illustrated by Christine Davenier,
Bob Graham, Elisa Kleven
- ◇ Kiss Goodnight, Sam
written by Amy Hest
- ◇ Don't You Feel Well, Sam
written by Amy Hest
- ◇ You Can Do It, Sam
written by Amy Hest
- ◇ You're All My Favourites
written by Sam McBratney

Classroom Resources:

Anita Jeram Official Website.

<http://www.anitajeram.com/>

Explore all about Anita Jeram's work as an artist, an illustrator of children's books, the things she loves that influence her work, and her younger years.

"Guess How Much I Love You Fun."

http://www.candlewick.com/act_ghmily.html

Contains a list of fun activities that honor the enduring message of this classic book.

"An Interview with Sam McBratney."

<http://www.readingrockets.org/books/interviews/mcbratney/>

Listen to and view the transcript to an interview with Guess How Much I Love You author Sam McBratney. Site also contains a short biography of McBratney and information about his children's books.

"Reading Rainbow App."

<http://www.rkidz.com/>

If you have a classroom ipad, continue students' exploration of the way books have the power to transport us to far off place by downloading Reading Rainbow's new interactive app.

"Rabbits."

<http://animals.pppst.com/rabbits.html>

This interactive website about rabbits contains activities, games, PowerPoint presentations, and information on caring for rabbits.

Study Guide Sources:

"Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia." www.mermaidtheatre.ns.ca

"Rabbits." www.wikipedia.org

"Rabbits." www.rabbitempire.org