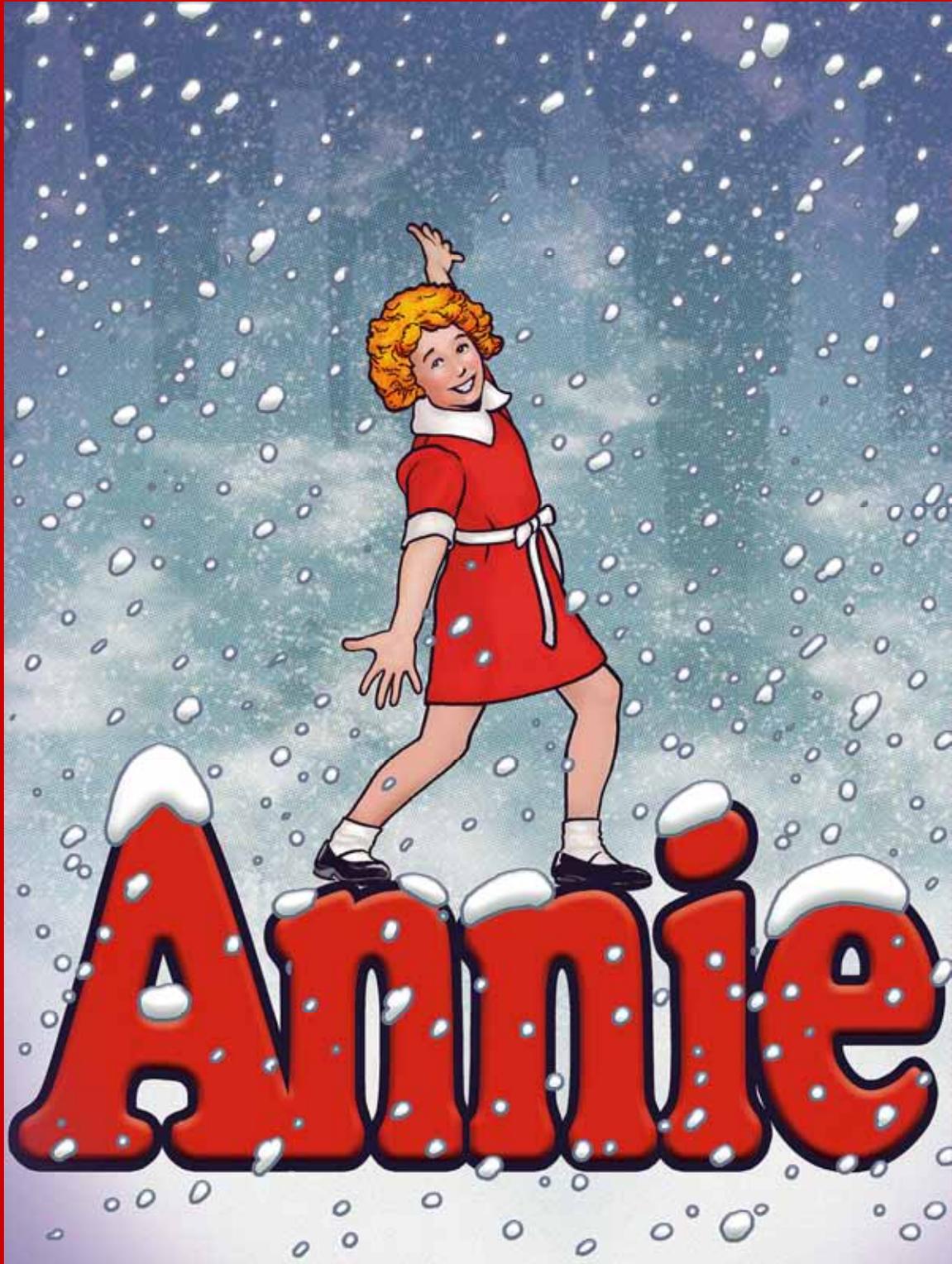


EDUCATIONAL GUIDE



NORTHWEST
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THE HISTORY OF ANNIE

The classic American musical *Annie* has created a great many memories. These include the dancing orphan sensation of “It’s the Hard Knock Life”, the whining of Miss Hannigan in “Little Girls”, the show stopping hit “Easy Street”, and the unforgettable song “Tomorrow”. Charles Strouse tickles the audience with his award winning music, partnered with lyricist Martin Charnin. Book by Thomas Meehan.

This heart-warming show found its way onto Broadway in 1977 at the Neil Simon Theater. The iconic red-headed orphan continued to charm audiences for many years and closed after an astounding 2, 377 performances. It is a Tony Award Winning Musical, (Best Musical), and has had several tours across the United States. *Annie* is loved so much by its audiences that it was revived in 2009 for a 20th Anniversary and will be revived again in 2012 on Broadway.

Due to its great success on stage, this family-fun musical was made into a major motion picture. Albert Finney appeared as Oliver Warbucks. Carol Burnett morphed into the mean Miss Hannigan. Tim Curry and Bernadette Peters teamed up to play Rooster and Lily, adding their comedic and musical talent to the movie and Aileen Quinn played the role of Annie.



In this posed publicity photo for radio's *Little Orphan Annie*, Joe Cornstassel (Allan Baruck) watches as Annie (Shirley Bell) embraces her dog Sandy. *Photo Credit: NBC Publicity*

A Timeline of “Annie”

1885—James Whitcomb Riley publishes his popular poem “Little Orphan Annie”

1924—The first *Little Orphan Annie* comic strip by Harold Gray appeared in the Chicago Tribune on November 2, 1924.

1930—Beginning when she was ten years old, Chicago actress Shirley Bell Cole (1920–2010) starred on radio's *Little Orphan Annie* from 1930 to 1940.

1977—*Annie* opens on Broadway at the Alvin Theater. It was nominated for 11 Tony Awards and won 7, including Best Musical, Best Score, and Best Book with music by Charles Strouse, lyrics by Martin Charnin, and the book by Thomas Meehan.

1982—*Annie* is made into a musical film directed by John Huston and choreographed by Arlene Phillips. The film is based upon the 1977 musical.

1997—A 20th anniversary Broadway revival hits New York City.

1999—A made-for-TV movie version was broadcast on ABC starring Kathy Bates as Miss Hannigan, Victor Garber as Daddy Warbucks, Alan Cumming as Rooster Hannigan, Audra McDonald as Grace Farrell, Kristin Chenoweth as Lily St. Regis, and newcomer Alicia Morton as Annie. It was produced by The Walt Disney Company in association with Columbia TriStar Television.

2012—*Annie* will celebrate its 35th anniversary with a full Broadway revival with an updated book by Thomas Meehan.

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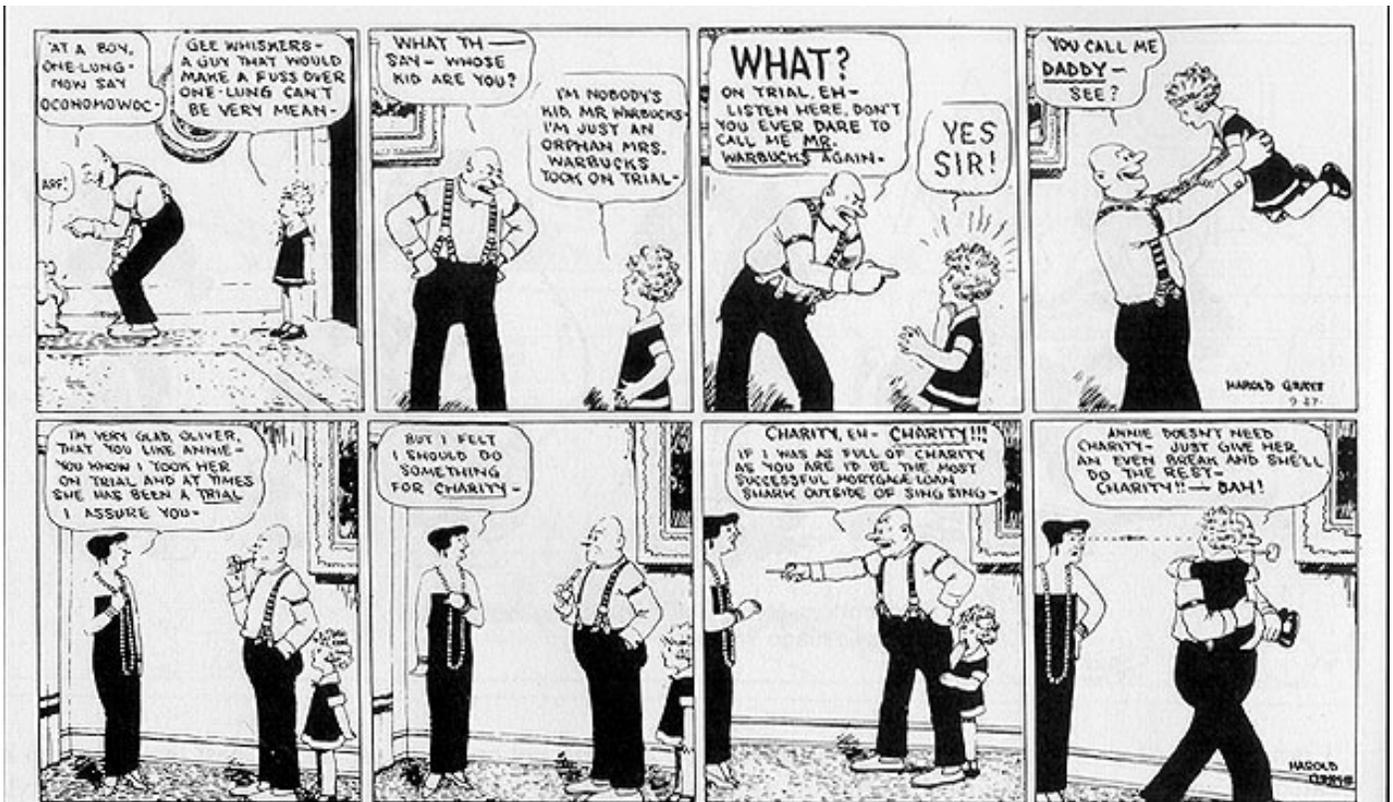
Little Orphan Annie's Debut

Little Orphan Annie comic strip by Harold Gray

Did you know that Annie first appeared in a comic strip titled "Little Orphan Annie?"

Harold Gray started this cartoon in 1924. He wanted to tell the tale of a spunky red-headed orphan who had many adventures in the busy streets of New York City. In his comic strip Sandy, Oliver Warbucks and other favorite characters are all part of the adventure. Annie was born on February 29, a Leap Day. Throughout the comic she was able to keep her youth, since she only aged one year for every four years.

Photo Credits: The Chicago Tribune



Little Orphan Annie by Harold Gray © 1924 The Chicago Tribune



Cartoonist **Harold Gray** with his work.

Source: Chicago Tribune

Web source: <http://www.deniskitchen.com>

BEHIND THE SCENES OF ANNIE AT NORTHWEST CHILDREN'S THEATER

Annabel Cantor (Annie)



Photo Credit: David Kinder

I never dreamed I would play Annie. It's one of the most demanding roles in musical theater for a kid. I have been studying for years and years, mostly at NWCT, and each new role has had something challenging in it.

One reason I never dreamed of getting this role is because Annie and I do not have a lot in common. I am not a very tough or daring person; I have even been described as a wimp a few times. One of the few things we do share is that we are both very outgoing. Annie is very lucky to have Sandy, her dog. I would love to have a dog, but my Mom is allergic.

At home, I have to keep my areas that I work in clean, like my room and my desk, but I am not very good at it. I like cleaning my room okay, but only when I can listen to music. I go to a very demanding middle school called The Northwest Academy. Even though the seventh grade is very demanding, I love my school as it is also a lot of fun.

I think kids can connect with this show because it talks about optimism and parents, and children are experts on both of those. For the adults, it is a great reminder to be optimistic even in today's tough times.

More Q & A with Annabel:

Do you have any pets you are fond of?

I have a lot of stuffed animals that I love a lot! I would love to have a living, breathing pet, but I'd have trouble finding the time to take care of it.

What kinds of theatre camps and classes have you taken before this production?

Really, too many to list. Lots of classes, playlabs, camps, Second Stage shows.

What is your most favorite food in the world?

Satsuma oranges, especially on Winter Break.

What do you think you would like to be when you grow up?

I'd like to teach musical theater to kids. If that doesn't work out, I'm considering pediatric occupational therapy.

Do you do any sports or play any musical instruments?

I dance a lot, and I play a little piano. I'd like to try the trumpet next year.



In rehearsal for NWCT's production

Left: Annie (Annabel Cantor) offers comfort and hope to younger orphan Molly (Annika Cutler.)

Right: Annie (Annabel Cantor) cringes when confronted by malicious Miss Hannigan (Melody Bridges.)

Photo Credits: John Ellingson



UNITED STATES' HISTORY BEHIND THE STORY OF "ANNIE"



AMERICA DURING THE 1930s

In 1929 the United States' stock market crashed. The years that followed would be known as the Great Depression. This meant a lot of Americans were left job-less and house-less. It was a hard time for a lot of people all over the world. There was a great divide between the rich and the poor. It was hard to find any kind of financial help. Franklin D. Roosevelt and Herbert Hoover were both president during these hard times. They created many plans including the "New Deal" to help the American people regain some economic stability.

The 32nd President of the United States of America

Franklin Delano Roosevelt (January 30, 1882 – April 12, 1945) led the United States during a time of worldwide economic crisis and world war. FDR is the only American president elected to more than two terms. He defeated Republican Herbert Hoover in 1932 at the depths of the Great Depression. FDR's combination of optimism and activism contributed to reviving the national spirit. Working closely with Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin in leading the Allies against Germany and Japan in World War II, he died just as victory was in sight.

Why is he in a wheelchair?

Roosevelt contracted an illness diagnosed at the time as polio which resulted in permanent paralysis from the waist down. For the rest of his life, Roosevelt refused to accept that he was permanently paralyzed. After he became President, he helped to found the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis (now known as the March of Dimes). His leadership in this organization is one reason he is commemorated on the American dime.

At the time, Roosevelt was able to convince many people that he was getting better, which he believed was essential if he was to run for public office again. Fitting his hips and legs with iron braces, he laboriously taught himself to walk a short distance by swiveling his torso while supporting himself with a cane. In private, he used a wheelchair, but he was careful never to be seen in it in public. He usually appeared in public standing upright, supported on one side by an aide or one of his sons. FDR used a car with specially designed hand controls, which provided him further mobility.



This is one of two known photographs of Roosevelt in a wheelchair. This picture depicts Franklin D. Roosevelt, his dog Fala, and Ruthie Bie at Hill Top Cottage in Hyde Park, N.Y. Photo Credit: Margaret Suckley

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franklin_D._Roosevelt

WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN 1930s?

In the United States —

- Work started on The **Golden Gate Bridge**
- The first drive-in-theatre opened in New Jersey.
- The inoculation in the fight against **diphtheria** began in the Western World
- The **20th Amendment to the US Constitution was Ratified** which established the beginning and ending of the terms of the elected federal officials.
- President Franklin D. Roosevelt announced the creation of 4 million **public works jobs**
- The chocolate chip cookie was invented.
- Congress agreed to the **Home Owners Refinancing Act** as part of the “New Deal”
- **Wiley Post** became the first man to fly solo around the world
- **Unemployment** peaked at 25.2%
- **People of color were still segregated** in the United States and fighting for their rights
- The original 1933 *King Kong* movie was shown.
- The board game Monopoly was invented.



Dorothea Lange's *Migrant Mother* depicts destitute pea pickers during the depression in California, centering on Florence Owens Thompson, a mother of seven children at age 32, March 1936.

In Portland, Oregon —

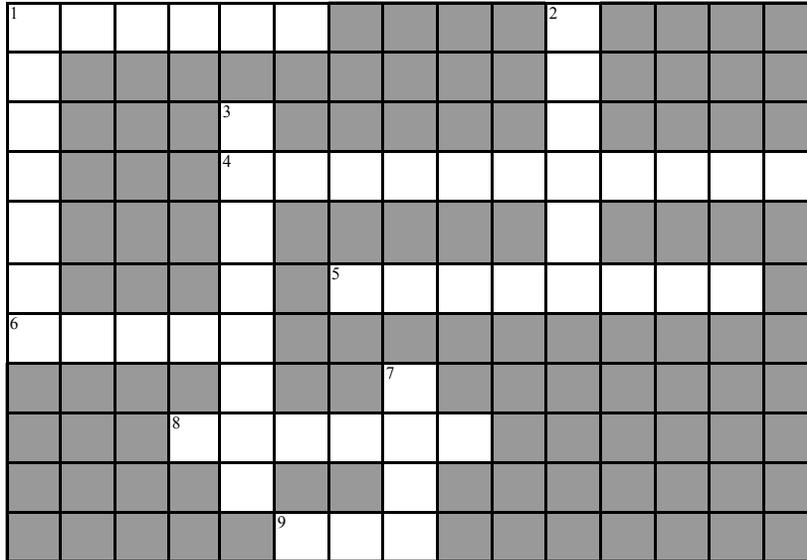
- The **St. Johns Bridge** opened on June 13, 1931
- Construction began on the **Bonneville Dam** in 1933 on the Columbia River.
- In 1935 plans began for the **Portland International Airport** as the old Swan Island airport had become obsolete.
- **Timberline Lodge** on Mt. Hood went under construction in 1936 as part of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) using large timbers, local stone, and intricately carved decorative elements.



How Much Things Cost in 1933

- Average cost of a new house **\$5,750.00**
- Average wages per year **\$1,550.00**
- Cost of a gallon of gas **10 cents**
- Average cost for house rent **\$18.00 /month**
- A loaf of bread **7 cents**
- A pound of hamburger meat **11 cents**
- Plymouth 6 car **\$445.00**
- Campbell's vegetable soup **10 cents**
- Average laborers wage **\$20.00 /week**

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. Annie keeps this around her neck
4. Mrs. Hannigan, Rooster, and Lily sing about it.
5. The sun will come out _____.
6. The name of Annie's dog
8. A child without parents
9. The color of Annie's hair

DOWN

1. Annie loves to say the phrase, "Leapin' _____!"
2. The season Annie takes place in.
3. The city Annie takes place in
7. "It's a _____ Knock Life!"

Make a "wish list" of what you want for the holidays.



Draw a picture of you and your favorite pet.

Answers:
 Across: 1. locket, 4. Easy Street, 5. tomorrow, 6. Sandy, 8. orphan, 9. red
 Down: 1. lizards, 2. winter, 3. New York, 7. Hard
 Puzzle creation with the help of www.crosswordpuzzlegames.com

CREATIVE ACTIVITIES: Grades 3—5

Then and Now...

Carefully prepare an interview with someone who has lived through the Great Depression.

Look around your classroom and homes to make lists of things that wouldn't be there if this were the time period of the Great Depression. What changes would the absence of those things make in your life? Would anything change for the better for you?

What was done to help support artists during the Depression? What is being done to support them now? Look at your school system's budget for the last few years. What is happening to the arts programs in your system as a result? Should the arts be supported in hard times? Why or why not?



Create!

Write a song, a radio show, or draw a comic about Annie. Check out *Little Orphan Annie* by Harold Gray for ideas.



Listen to some songs from the Great Depression Era. Can you write a song about the Depression based on some common themes you hear?

Songs of the time:

"We're in the Money," lyrics by Al Dubin, music by Harry Warren from the film *Gold Diggers* (1933)

"Brother, Can You Spare a Dime," lyrics by Yip Harburg, music by Jay Gorney (1931)

"Life is Just a Bowl of Cherries," lyrics by Lew Brown, music by Ray Henderson (1931)

Check out the link below for music from the Great Depression:

<http://www.rhapsody.com/album/the-great-depression-american-music-in-the-30s>



CAN YOU SPARE A DIME?

Create a bare minimum budget for your household. What do you absolutely have to have as income each month to meet the bare necessities?

Utilizing the food portion of the budget you created above, prepare a meal such as might be served during those hard times. You can find some recipe ideas at: <http://greatdepressionrecipes.blogspot.com/>

Find out what help is available in your area for people going through job loss, home loss, or similar problems.

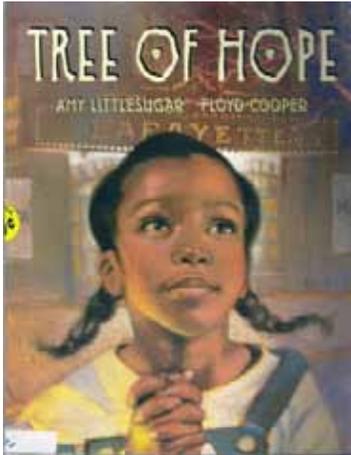
What important things are happening in our society now? If you were to document this year, what events would go down in history?

A photo essay on the Great Depression can be found online here:

<http://www.english.illinois.edu/maps/depression/photoessay.htm>



BOOK SPOTLIGHT: TREE OF HOPE



Tree of Hope by Amy LittleSugar, Illustrated by Floyd Cooper
(Kindergarten - Grade 3)

A pivotal moment for the arts in America, and for one African-American family, is warmly re-created here. Florrie's father is acting bit parts at the Lafayette Theatre in Harlem when the Great Depression hits, closing the theatres down. Daddy, though, never stops dreaming of going back on the stage. He and lots of other out-of-work theatre people make wishes on the stubborn, twisted little "tree of hope" growing outside the Lafayette. When President Roosevelt orders the doors reopened, their wishes come true. Florrie's father is cast in Orson Welles's all-black production of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*.

Review thanks to Miriam Lang Budin, Chappaqua Public Library, NY

More recommended reading ...

The Babe and I by David A. Adler, Illustrated by Terry Widener (Grades K - 2)

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred Taylor (Grades 5 - 9)

Don't Forget Winona by Jeanne Whitehouse Peterson, Illustrated by Kimberly Bulcken Root (Grades K - 2)

Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis (Grades 4 - 8)

The Dust Bowl by David Boothe, Illustrated by Karen Reczuch (Grades 2 - 6)

Dancin' in the Kitchen by Frank P. Christian and Wendy Gelsenleiter, Illustrated by Marjorie Priceman (Grades K-2)

The Gardener by Sarah Stewart, Illustrated by David Small (Grades 2 - 8)

HOW TO BE A GOOD AUDIENCE

The Audience is an important part of live theater performance. Without the audience there would be no one to laugh when the show is funny, to gasp when it is scary, or to applaud at the end. It is important to be a good audience.

If you have been to the theater before, you know it is different from watching television or going to the movies. The actors will be right in front of you. It is important to be quiet and attentive. You can't hit the rewind button if you miss something an actor says, and noise can be distracting for other people in the audience.

Here are some things you can do to make this a great experience for everyone:

- Stay in your seat. Make sure you use the bathroom before the show starts.
- Listen quietly. Save comments and questions for later.
- Keep your feet on the floor. It will keep the seats clean for the next audience, and nobody likes having the back of their seat kicked when they're trying to watch the play.
- Save snacks and treats for after the show. Food and drinks aren't allowed in the theater, and crinkling candy and gum wrappers can sound loud.
- Sit quietly during the performance. Don't pass notes, wrestle with your friends, wriggle around, or stand up. Your movements could distract or annoy others.
- Please don't take photographs. We don't allow photos during the performance.
- The house lights (the lights in the theater) dim to signal that the show is about to start. That is your cue to settle down and get quiet so the play can begin.
- Stay in your seat when the performance ends. The actors will return to stage for the curtain call (when the actors bow and you clap). Wait until they exit for the last time and the lights come up before you leave your seat.
- Turn off all cell phones, pagers and electronic devices.