

# Off the Page



arts on the horizon  
Theatre for children 0-6 years old in Northern Virginia

# About the Show

The magic of books can transport us to new worlds. When an imaginative young child dives into a book, the stories come to life around them.

Through dance, music, puppetry, and vibrant imagery, this world premiere production will use an immersive design to unfold around the audience. Watch a new world come to life right before your eyes!



## MEET THE CAST



**READER**

Quincy Vicks



**QUILL**

Josh Lucas

# Explore the Show



An SEL Conversation and Activities:

Language Arts and Literacy: Story Recall of Off the Page and Language Expansion

ORAL COMMUNICATION, RECALL, LANGUAGE EXPLORATION

**Asking children to recall key story points of the show and the stories they see, helps enhance and engage their literacy and recall skills.**

This will help them expand their vocabulary, impact their ability to connect emotion to experience, as well as to aid in the development of stronger attention spans, focus, and concentration.

**Here are a few questions you can ask after the performance:**



- › What happened in the beginning of the story?
- › Where did our actors travel to during their adventure?
- › What did the actors discover during the story?
- › What happened at the end of the story?

**FAVORITE PART**



Using a small toy or other “talking item” to pass around, ask each child to share their favorite part of the play.



# Explore the Show

## Creative and Drama Play Story Recreation

PERFORMANCE, COOPERATION SKILLS, WORLD BUILDING, COLLABORATION

**After verbally recalling the story, break your class into two or three groups, giving each group of students and their adult leader a section of the story they saw to recreate (beginning, middle, and end).**

Ask students to collaborate together on the characters, setting, and bring the story to life. After working together, have each group share their recreations and discoveries with the rest of the class. This is also a great opportunity to introduce audience expectations and respect everyone's performances!



# Explore the Show



**Imagination Tableaux, “This Scene Needs”, or “Frozen Picture”**

PERFORMANCE, COOPERATION SKILLS, WORLD BUILDING, COLLABORATION,  
GROSS MOTOR SKILLS

***Off the Page* allowed us to travel to many places in our imaginations. Working together as a team, have students recreate these locations using their bodies!**

Ask questions like “What do we need to create the Arctic?” and allow students to tell you one at a time what is needed. Students should then become those items or animals using their bodies. After every student has become a part of the frozen picture, take a photo of the team’s creation!





# Explore the Show

## Sound, Music, and Movement: Soundscaping

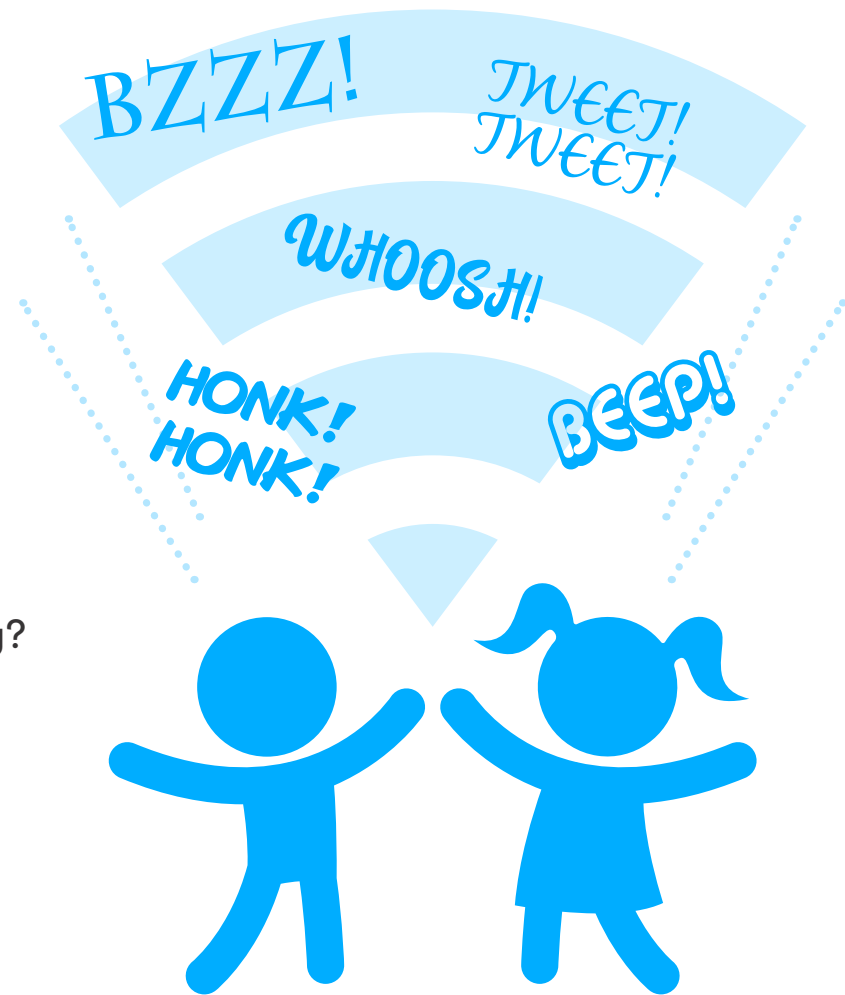
RECREATION SKILLS, COGNITIVE THINKING, MOVEMENT AND LOCOMOTOR SKILLS, ORAL AND PHYSICAL SOUND CREATION, COLLABORATION

**Every location has a special sound! Think of a busy city street, a playground, or the beach, and they all have their own unique soundscapes.**

Ask students where our friends in *Off the Page* traveled to during the show:

- › What animals or creatures live in those places?
- › What sounds do they find there, such as a babbling brook, chirping birds, or bees buzzing?
- › What sounds do we need to create that place?

Using their bodies and voices, have students create the soundscape for each location.



# Explore the Show



## Traveling Sounds

RECREATION SKILLS, COGNITIVE THINKING, MOVEMENT AND LOCOMOTOR SKILLS, COLLABORATION, LISTENING AND COMPREHENSION

The sound and music used in *Off the Page* helps to invoke a sense of wonder and excitement for the worlds the characters explore.

Using music as a starting point, play different genres of music and ask students to imagine that they are in the world of each song you play. Encourage them to move and play as if they are swabbing the deck on a pirate ship, dancing like penguins in the arctic, playing baseball in a stadium, or even a new location our characters have yet to explore!



**TO  
LEVEL  
UP**



Using instruments from your classroom space, have students create their own soundtrack for your classroom and the various places the characters visit during the play!

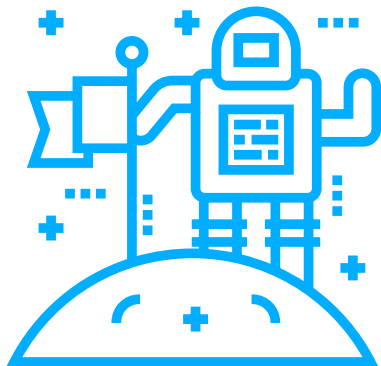
# Explore the Show

**Cognitive Development:  
Talk and Share**

ORAL RECALL, VISUAL PRODUCTION

**Story recall is an important skill for young children to develop.**

In your morning or afternoon circle, following your viewing of *Off the Page*, ask students to talk about their favorite stories and ask them to recall details of those stories. Open the discussion about their own experience and how it relates to or differs from the show.



## EXAMPLE:

*“Who do you read with at home? What is your favorite story? Who are the characters in those stories?”*

*“I read with my mom/dad at bedtime! We read about space and planets sometimes and I pretend I am an astronaut flying to the moon!”*





# Explore the Show

## Visual Art

### Story Recreation Mosaic

TACTILE LEARNING, VISUAL COMMUNICATION, FINE MOTOR SKILLS, STORY RECALL

Using pieces of paper cut into small squares, ask students to create a mosaic of one of the locations from the play - the arctic, the pirate ship, the rainforest, the baseball game, or the library!

For younger friends, provide them with an outline picture of one of these locations that they can fill in with the colored squares for their mosaic, or give them a coloring sheet of their choice of one of the locations listed above.

## SUPPLIES



A variety of different colored construction paper sheets cut into small squares



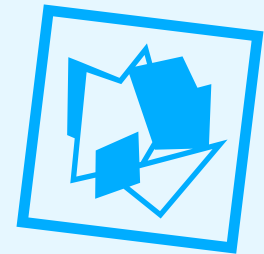
White construction paper



Glue sticks

## \*VARIATION:

Give students a coloring sheet of one of the locations, so they can fill it in with the mosaic pieces instead of free form creation.



# Explore the Show

## Puppetry:

### Make your own Puppets

TACTILE LEARNING, VISUAL COMMUNICATION, FINE MOTOR SKILLS

The actors use puppetry in *Off the Page* to help tell the story and build each of the places they visit during the production.

Take some time with your class to make their own puppets and create their own stories together, using the places explored in the show as well as storybooks in your classroom as inspiration, and encouraging creative play and jumping from story to story, as the characters do during the play!



Allow students to create their own puppet travel companion by gathering various crafting supplies, such as:



Popsicle sticks



Glue sticks



Construction paper or cardstock



Googly eyes



Pom poms



Pipe cleaners

## \*VARIATION:

Allow students to choose from a few pre-determined character cutouts to color in and place on a popsicle stick.





# Explore the Show

**Gross and Fine Motor Skills: Traveling to...Obstacle Course and Sensory Path**  
LOCOMOTOR SKILLS, MATCHING AND IDENTIFICATION SKILLS, LANGUAGE EXPANSION,  
ORAL RECALL

**It's time for some big body movement through your space, using tunnels for crawling, poly spots for jumping, and any additional fun obstacles you can create in your space (indoors or outdoors).**

Ask students how they would move in each location:

- › For example, how do we move in the library? (quiet and slow?)
- › What about when we are at sea on a pirate ship? (swaying back and forth as the ship moves on the water?)
- › How about on the baseball field?
- › Or through the cold arctic?

Ask students to become different characters as they travel through each obstacle, using big body movements!



# Recommended Reading



- *Are You Sitting Comfortably?* by Leigh Hodgkinson
- *Bears Don't Read!* by Emma Chichester Clark
- *Biblioburro: A True Story From Colombia* by Jeanette Winter
- *Book* by David W. Miles
- *The Book Hog* by Greg Pizzoli
- *Bunny's Book Club* by Annie Silvestro
- *Captain Jack and the Pirates* by Peter Bently
- *A Child of Books* by Oliver Jeffers
- *Cliff the Failed Troll* by Barbara Davis-Pyles
- *Everything in its Place: A Story of Books and Belonging* by Pauline David-Sax
- *Give Me Back My Book!* by Travis Foster and Ethan Long
- *The Great Kapok Tree* by Lynne Cherry
- *A Library* by Nikki Giovanni
- *Library Girl* by Karen Henry Clark
- *Lola at the Library* by Anna McQuinn
- *Look!* by Jeff Mack
- *Miss Brooks Loves Books! (And I don't)* by Barbara Bottner
- *The Not So Quiet Library* by Zachariah OHora
- *She Loved Baseball: The Effa Manley Story* by Audrey Vernick
- *So You Want to Build a Library* by Lindsay Leslie
- *Stacey's Remarkable Books* by Stacey Abrams
- *This Book of Mine* by Sarah Stewart
- *The Walrus and the Caribou* by Maika Harper

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