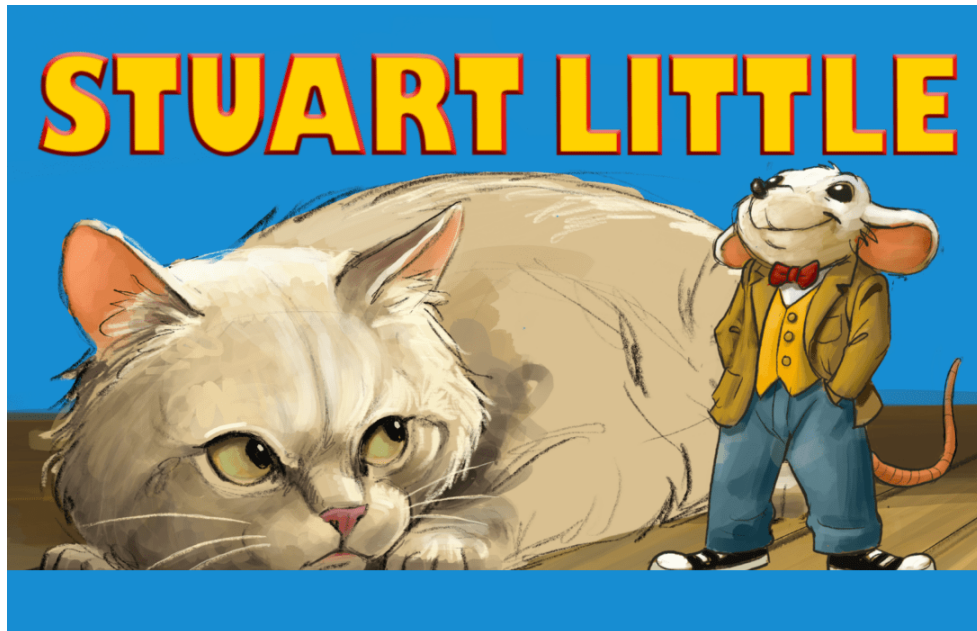


Study Guide 2024-2025



Based on the book by E.B. White
Adapted for the Stage By Joseph Robinette

Florida Standards

Language Arts

LAFS.4.W.1: Text Types and Purposes
LAFS.4.RI.1: Key Ideas and Details
LAFS.4.RL.3: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
LAFS.3.RL.1: Key Ideas and Details

Theater and Visual Arts

TH.2.F.2: Careers in and related to the arts
TH.4.S.1: The arts are inherently experiential.
VA.4.S.1: The arts are inherently experiential.

G

Content appropriate for all audiences.

Children two years of age and younger may sit on laps. Older children must have a ticket.

Stuart Little
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Stuart Little An Introduction

Educators:

Orlando Shakespeare Theater is thrilled to be back to full educational offerings at the Lowndes Shakespeare Center and in your school! We can't wait to share the magic of live theater with you and your students once again.

With a Children's Series of older and newer classic stories and a Signature Series with recent hits, traditional favorites and of course Shakespeare, there is something for everyone.

This Study Guide will assist you in preparing for your Field Trip, as well as give you follow up activities and lessons to continue exploring themes when back in your classroom.

We look forward to working with you this year and learning how we can serve you and your students. Thank you for your tremendous work in nurturing our audiences of tomorrow.

**Anne Hering
Director of Education**

**Keith Traver
Education Coordinator**



Stuart Little

Enjoying Live Theater

Theater is a Team Sport

The **Playwright** writes the script. Sometimes it is from an original idea and sometimes it is adapted from a book or story. The Playwright decides what the characters say, and gives the Designers guidelines on how the play should look.

The **Director** creates the vision for the production and works closely with the actors, costume, set and lighting designers to make sure everyone tells the same story.

The **Actors** use their bodies and voices to bring the author's words and the director's ideas to life on the stage.

The **Designers** imagine and create the lights, scenery, props, costumes and sound that will compliment and complete the director's vision.

The **Stage Manager** assists the director during rehearsals by recording their instructions and making sure the actors and designers understand these ideas. The Stage Manager then runs the show during each performance by calling cues for lights and sound, as well as entrances and exits.

The **Shop** and **Stage Crew** builds the set, props and costumes according to the designer's plans. The Stage Crew sets the stage with props and furniture, assists the actors with costume changes and operates sound, lighting and stage machinery during each performance.

The **Front of House Staff** welcomes you to the theater, takes your tickets, helps you find your seat and answers any question you may have on the day of performance.

The **Theater** is where it all takes place. Orlando Shakespeare Theater In Partnership with UCF is the only professional, classical theater company in Central Florida, reaching students and audiences in the surrounding eight counties.

Mission: To enrich our community with engaging professional theater, inspiring educational experiences, and thought-provoking new plays.



Stuart Little

Enjoying Live Theater

The Actor/Audience Relationship

The Audience is the reason Live Theater exists. At Orlando Shakes, we cherish the Actor/Audience relationship, the unique give and take that exists during a performance which makes the audience an ACTIVE participant in the event. The actors see the audience just as the audience sees the actors, and every, laugh, snuffle, chuckle and gasp the audience makes effects the way the actor plays his next moment. We want you to be engaged, and to live the story with us!

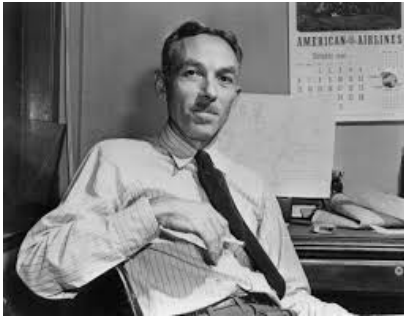
There are certain Conventions of the Theatrical Event, like, when the lights go down you know that the show is about to start, and that the audience isn't encouraged to come and go during a performance. Here are some other tips to help you and your classmates be top notch audience members:

- Please make sure to turn off your cell phones. And NO TEXTING!
- Please stay in your seat. Use the restroom before you take your seat and stay in your seat unless there is an emergency.
- Please do not eat or drink in the theater.



Stuart Little

About the Author of the Book



The Author

E. B. White, the author of such beloved children's classics as *Charlotte's Web*, *Stuart Little*, and *The Trumpet of the Swan*, was born in Mount Vernon, New York. He graduated from Cornell University in 1921 and, five or six years later, joined the staff of *The New Yorker* magazine. E.B. White authored over seventeen books of prose and poetry and was elected to the American

Academy of Arts and Letters in 1973. In addition to writing children's books, E. B. White also wrote books for adults, as well as writing poems and essays, and drawing sketches for *The New Yorker* magazine. Some of his other books include: *One Man's Meat*, *The Second Tree from the Corner*, *Letters of E. B. White*, *The Essays of E. B. White*, and *Poems and Sketches of E. B. White*.

Funnily enough for such a famous writer, he always said that he found writing difficult and bad for one's disposition but he kept at it! Mr. White has won countless awards, including the 1971 National Medal for Literature and the Laura Ingalls Wilder Medal, which commended him for making "a substantial and lasting contribution to literature for children."

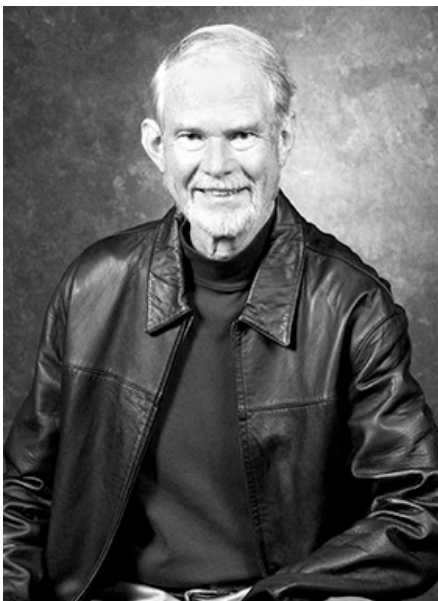
He died on October 1, 1985, and is survived by his son and three grandchildren.

"Many years ago," E.B. White would say, "I went to bed one night in a railway sleeping car, and during the night I dreamed about a tiny boy who acted rather like a mouse. That's how the story of *Stuart Little* got started."

Photo and biography courtesy of [Britannica.com](https://www.britannica.com)

Stuart Little

About the Playwright



Joseph Robinette is the author or co-author of 44 published plays and musicals including *The Paper Chase*, *Anne of Green Gables*, *Stuart Little*, *The Chocolate War*, *A Rose for Emily* and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. He collaborated with E.B. White on the authorized stage version of *Charlotte's Web*, and with composer Charles Strouse on the musical version. Robinette's plays have been presented by Lincoln Center, the Goodman Theatre, Stage One of Louisville and the Honolulu Theatre for Youth. His works have been produced in all 50 states and in several foreign countries including Germany, Spain, England and South Africa. Robinette is the recipient of numerous awards including the Charlotte B. Chorprenning Award for a distinguished body of work. He is a member of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers and is a founding member of Opera for Youth. In 2002, as professor of theatre at Rowan University, he received the Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award for Demonstrated Excellence in the University Classroom.

Photo courtesy of [Dramatic Publishing](https://www.dramaticpublishing.com)

Stuart Little

About the Play

The Summary

In this adaptation, six actors tell the story of Stuart Little. Stuart Little was born to a family of humans; however, he looked very much like a mouse! His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Little, loved him like family. Snowbell, the household cat, is not pleased to have a mouse be part of the family.

Stuart's small size makes getting around difficult. As Stuart grows up, he begins to explore. He explores the New York City buses and sails toy sailboats. Stuart makes friends with Margalo, the bird. When Angie the cat decides to hunt Margalo, Margalo is forced to flee the Little house. Stuart leaves his home to find Margalo. On his journey, he meets a girl just his size named Harriet. They go on a date before Stuart heads further north. As the six actors wrap up the story, we know Stuart feels like he is headed in the right direction.

The Characters

Stuart Little

Mr. Little

Mrs. Little

Hank

Storekeeper

George

Leroy

Angie

Mr. Clydesdale

Doctor

Snowbell

Bus Driver

Dr. Carey

Zeke

Bureau Chief

Dog

Margalo

Telephone Repairwomen

Pigeon

Harriet Ames

Woman with Newspaper

***In this production, six actors play the twenty one characters.**

Discussion Questions

Asking questions that lead students up the “thinking ladder”.

Use the following pattern in asking questions:

1. Ask OPEN questions to encourage and engage children.
2. Ask FOCUSED questions to elicit and organize specific information
3. Ask CONNECTING questions to help children learn to see the relationships between events, characters and ideas.
4. Ask broad questions to help children GENERALIZE/ learn to draw conclusions.
5. Accept, record and read all responses on the board, chart or overhead for all to see.



image source: classroomclipart.com

OPEN question examples:

- What did you notice at the play today....What did you see?
- What about the play was different from the book/story?
- What surprised you?
- What impressed you?

FOCUSED questions: (questions that probe children’s’ insights)

- What did Stuart wish for? (_____.)
- How was his wish granted? (_____)

ANALYZING/CONNECTING questions:

- What did Stuart learn about wishes?
- Why do you think the Stuart wanted to go home?

Stuart Little

Activities

Design a Backdrop

In *Stuart Little*, Jack and Annie visit Brooklyn, New York. If Jack and Annie were in Brooklyn in 1947, what would the buildings and decorations behind them look like?

1. Imagine New York City is behind Stuart Little.
2. What would be behind him? Draw and color what you imagine in the rectangle.
3. Compare your drawing to a peer's. What is similar? What is different?
4. The set designer would give this drawing to the technical



The set designer would give a drawing like this to the technical director to begin building the set.

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for students to draw their imagined Brooklyn backdrop.

Stuart Little

Activities

Build A Story:

Read students *Stuart Little*, stopping to clearly show any pictures or illustrations to the students. When finished, ask the students to illustrate the plot/action as it occurred throughout the story. Have students volunteer to share their illustrations with the rest of the class.

Somebody:

Who is the main Character?

Wanted:

What did the character want?

But

What was the problem?

So:

How did the character try to solve the problem?

Then:

What was the resolution to the problem?



Stuart Little Activities

Friendly Letter Writing

We love to hear from you at Orlando Shakes! So write us a letter to let us know what you thought! Introduce your topic, state your opinion, supply a reason for your opinion and close the letter. Follow to format below to include a heading, salutation, body, closing, and signature. Format an envelope according to the picture and send it our way. Teacher and parent comments are also appreciated! Thank you!

From:

Print Name

Street Address

City

State

Zip




Dear Orlando Shakespeare Theater,

Sincerely,

Sign Name

Print Name

Print Name	
Street Address	
City _____, State _____, Zip _____	
Orlando Shakespeare Theater ATTN: Education Department 812 East Rollins Street Orlando, FL 32803	