

# Discovery Series



Tuesday, February 18, 2020

9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

Victoria Theatre

Based on the books by Mo Willems

Written by Mo Willems and Tom Warburton

Music by Deborah Wicks La Puma

Produced by Kennedy Center Theater for Young Audiences on Tour



VICTORIA THEATRE ASSOCIATION

# Curriculum Connections

## Discovery Series

Welcome to the 2019-2020 Discovery Series at Victoria Theatre Association. We are very excited to be your education partner in providing professional arts experiences to you and your students!

We hope your students have a few laughs at DON'T LET THE PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS! THE MUSICAL. The main character, Pigeon, is just desperate to drive the bus and no one will let him. Luckily, Pigeon is ready to jump in and save the day when the Bus Driver has a problem that may make all his passengers late. What's a person to do except for trust that maybe Pigeon will be a great driver?

The information and activities in this resource guide have been carefully crafted to help you and your students explore the many ways a live theatre experience can open up learning opportunities. Grade level icons will help you determine which activities are good for students, too. And don't forget to take advantage of the local resources listed inside to extend the play-going experience and make even more curricular connections for you and your students. Thank you again and welcome!

### The Education & Engagement Team



You will find these icons listed in the resource guide next to the activities that indicate curricular connections. Teachers and parents are encouraged to adapt all of the activities included in an appropriate way for your students' age and abilities. *DON'T LET THE PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS! THE MUSICAL* fulfills the following Ohio and National Education Standards and Benchmarks for PreK through third grade.



### Ohio's New Learning Standards Related to DON'T LET THE PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS! THE MUSICAL

**English:** RL.K.3, RL.K.5, RL.1.3, RL.2.3, RL.3.2, RL.3.3

**Social Studies:** People Working Together, Communities: Past and Present, Near and Far

**Arts:** TH:Re7.1.K, TH:Re7.1.1., TH:Re7.1.2. TH:Re7.1.3.

This resource guide was created by Natalie Katona. All activities are available for distribution and use in the classroom or at home.

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# About the Play



Whatever you do, don't let The Pigeon star in his own musical production! Because it's not easy being The Pigeon— you never get to do ANYTHING! But when the Bus Driver has a crisis that threatens to make her passengers late (gasp!), maybe that wily bird CAN do something. Starring an innovative mix of actors, puppets, songs, and feathers, this new musical is sure to get everyone's wings flapping. This show features a script written by Mo Willems, the creator of the #1 New York Times best-selling, Caldecott-honor award winning Pigeon picture books, along with longtime collaborator and executive producer, Mr. Tom Warburton, and featuring music by Deborah Wicks La Puma!

## Spotlight on Mo Willems



**Mo Willems** is the esteemed author of *Don't Let Pigeon Drive the Bus*. Pigeon's other adventures include *The Pigeon HAS to Go to School!*, *Don't Let The Pigeon Stay Up Late!*, *The Pigeon Wants a Puppy*, and many other titles. Willems has written over 50 titles that include The Pigeon and other characters such as Knuffle Bunny and Elephant & Piggy. His television career includes being a writer and animator for *Sesame Street*, *Codename: Kids Next Door*, *The Off-Beats* and *Sheep in the Big City*. Awards Willems has been honored with are three Caldecott Honors, two Theodor Seuss Geisel Medals, six Emmy Awards, and he is a New York Times Best Selling Author. To learn more about Mo Willems, his characters, and what he's currently working on, visit: <http://www.mowillems.com/>.



## Ohio Spotlight



Aullwood Audubon Center is a 200-acre sanctuary with six miles of trails winding through prairie, forests, marsh, ponds and meadows. Aullwood provides two themed discovery rooms and six thematic classrooms with kid-friendly displays, exhibits, games, places to watch animals, and animal specimens on site for students to touch and investigate. There is a Bird Watching Room where students can observe different types of birds as they feed and take water at the different stations Aullwood has set up. Students will also be able to hear the different bird calls through a built in audio system. Aullwood has different guided programs that they will run for classrooms who book a field trip. One of those programs is the Birds of Prey program. Students will study hawks and owls that are native to Ohio. They will also get to dissect an owl pellet. To schedule a visit to Aullwood Audubon Center visit: <http://aullwood.audubon.org/>.

# Pre-Show Conversation Starters



*DON'T LET THE PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS! THE MUSICAL!* is a brand-new musical about The Pigeon and his quest to get to drive the bus. The Pigeon pulls all the stops to try and convince everyone that he should be able to drive the bus. Before seeing the show, answer these questions with your students:

- 1) Should the Pigeon be allowed to drive the bus? Why? Or why not?
- 2) How does The Pigeon try to convince people he should drive the bus?
- 3) What are some things you're not allowed to do? Why are you not allowed to do them?
- 4) Why does The Bus Driver not want The Pigeon to drive the bus?
- 5) What are some things The Pigeon would be allowed to do?



## A Job for The Pigeon



Homing pigeons are a special breed of pigeons that are domesticated, meaning they are dependent on humans and become less wild. These pigeons had a special talent: they would return home after flying long distances. A homing pigeon, commonly referred to as a carrier pigeon, because it would carry messages. A message was written on thin paper that was rolled into a small tube. The message was then be attached to the pigeon's leg with a thin band. The pigeon would be released and would deliver the message back to its original nesting spot. The pigeon could usually deliver me message within a day. One-way carrier pigeons were used was to send messages of critical updates in both World Wars.

# Bus Driver Vocabulary



In order to be a bus driver, The Pigeon would have to know the language and the rules of the road! Here are some common vocabulary terms all bus drivers need to know:

			
<p>A <b>blue</b> traffic sign- motorist services like a rest stop</p>	<p>A <b>brown</b> traffic sign- recreation or scenic area such as a park, climbing area, zoo, or camp ground</p>	<p>A <b>green</b> traffic sign- important information for drivers like exit numbers or how many more miles until important cities</p>	<p>A <b>red</b> traffic sign- stop</p>
			
<p>A <b>white</b> traffic sign- tells you what you can and can't do on the road</p>	<p>An <b>orange</b> traffic sign- there is construction coming up or you are in a construction zone</p>	<p>A <b>yellow</b> traffic sign- be careful of road conditions</p>	
			
<p><b>Solid yellow lines</b> no passing on this road</p>	<p><b>3 H's</b>- Horn, Hazard light, and Help are the three rules to backing up safely</p>	<p><b>Turn indicator</b>- the lights the driver clicks on to show they're turning or changing lanes</p>	

# Would You Let The Pigeon Do This?

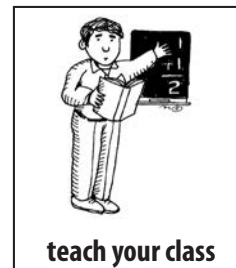
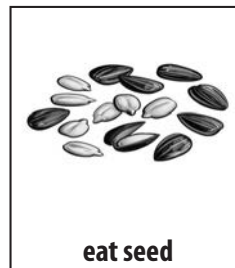


Name \_\_\_\_\_

Read the captions and study pictures on the second half of this page and decide if you would or would not let The Pigeon do this activity. Then, cut out those pictures and glue them into the "The Pigeon Can" or "The Pigeon Cannot" column. Challenge yourself to explaining to a partner why you put each of the pictures into their column!

## The Pigeon Can

## The Pigeon Cannot



# Bus Driver Vocabulary Match



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Test yourself to see if you're ready to drive the bus! Match the sign or picture to the descriptions of what it is supposed to tell you on the road!

This color sign means to stop.



Yellow

Bus drivers read this color sign to know how many miles they have until the next town.



Blue

This sign will let you know if a park is coming up on your trip.



Brown

If you see this on the road, you can't pass the car in front of you.



Red

This color traffic sign means you need to be careful of something dangerous on the road.



Green

This sign will tell you what you're allowed to do on the road.



Solid yellow lines

The color of this sign lets the driver know they can get help here.



White

These are the three rules that help a driver back up safely.



Turn Indication

Drivers turn this on when they need to turn right or left.



Orange

This sign's color alerts you that there will be construction up ahead.



3 - H's

# Bus Driver Vocabulary Scenerio



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Read through the story about The Pigeon's chance to get to ride the bus and using the definitions in this resource guide fill in the blanks with the appropriate bus driver vocabulary!

blue traffic sign

red traffic sign

orange traffic sign

brown traffic sign

solid yellow lines

3 H's

green traffic sign

white traffic sign

turn Indicator

yellow traffic sign

The Pigeon was so excited because it was finally his turn to drive the bus! He had The Bus Driver to ride with him and teach him all the tips of the road. They slowly pulled out of the bus barn and onto the actual street. The bus driver wanted to go to Dayton and had The Pigeon check the \_\_\_\_\_ to see how much further it would be. They drove along for a couple minutes and the Bus Drive points to a \_\_\_\_\_ so The Pigeon would know to stop. Once they got going again, The Pigeon noticed that the car in front of them was driving closer but The Pigeon couldn't pass them because of the \_\_\_\_\_. As they were coming to the \_\_\_\_\_ that let them know a rest stop was coming up, The Bus Driver reminded The Pigeon to click on \_\_\_\_\_ so the car behind them knew they were turning. When they left the rest area and got back on the road they noticed a \_\_\_\_\_ telling drivers the speed limit was 35 miles per hour. However, The Pigeon was told to drive a little bit slower because a \_\_\_\_\_ let them know that a curve was coming up in the road and after the curve a \_\_\_\_\_ let the pair know that there was going to be road work for the next couple of miles. Finally, they saw the Dayton city sign that let them know they had reached the city! They kept driving a little further north until they saw the \_\_\_\_\_ for the nature park, Aullwood. That is when The Bus Driver walked The Pigeon through the three rules that help buses back up called \_\_\_\_\_. That was the end of The Pigeon's turn driving the bus!



# We Wouldn't Let The Pigeon Classroom Book



Name

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Use the blank space on this page to draw an activity that you would not let The Pigeon do! On the lines below your illustration, write what it is you are not allowing The Pigeon to do. Teachers, once each student has created a page, bind these pages together into a classroom book so that students have their very own The Pigeon text!

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# The Pigeon on the Bus Song



The Pigeon has one goal, to drive the bus. Unfortunately, The Pigeon isn't allowed to and has to come up with excuses to try and convince you he should be allowed. Take the classic song "The Wheels on the Bus" and see if you can change the verse to be about Pigeon! Then, sing your verse for the class and see if you can learn other students' verses to then create an entire song about The Pigeon.

Here is the verse to "The Wheels on the Bus" to help you get started:

## The Wheels on the Bus By Verna Hills

The wheels on the bus go up and down (8 syllables)  
Up and down, up and down (6 syllables)  
The wheels on the bus go up and down (8 syllables)  
All through the town (4 syllables)

Notice that there is **repetition** in the song "The Wheels on the Bus". **Repetition** means certain words or lines repeat in the song. We also counted **syllables** for each line. **Syllables** refer to how many beats or word sounds there are in a word. Try to have your verse match the **syllable count** and the **repetition** of the original song!

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# Resources for Students and Adults

## Books by Mo Willems:

*Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!*, Written by Mo Willems. Scholastic Inc., 2003.

*Don't Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late!*, Written by Mo Willems. Disney Pr. 2006.

*The Pigeon Needs a Bath!*, Written by Mo Willems. Walker Books, 2014.

*The Pigeon Has Feelings, Too!*, Written by Mo Willems. Hyperion Books for Children, 2005.

*Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale*, Written by Mo Willems. Hyperion Books for Children, 2004.

## Publications for Teachers and Parents:

*Operation Columba- The Secret Pigeon Service*, Written by Gordon Corera. Williams Morrow, 2018.

*The Homing or Carrier Pigeon: Its History, Management and Method of Training*, Written by W.B. Tegetmeier. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2017.

*The Case of the Carrier Pigeon: A Brains Benton Mystery*, Written by Charles E. Morgan III. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2017.

*The Long Flight Home*, Written by Alan Hlad. A John Scognamiglio Book, 2019.

*Vlad and the First World War*, Written by Kate Cunningham. Illustrated by Sam Cunningham. Reading Riddle, 2017.

## Websites for Teachers and Students:

<http://www.mowillems.com/>- This is the official site of Mo Willems. This site has an archive of the author's favorite interviews and answers to fans' questions. It also offers games based on Willems's characters as well as merchandise to purchase. Willems also keeps his blog on this site and runs a Twitter for The Pigeon.

<https://www.pre-kpages.com/pigeon-activities-for-preschoolers/>- A website geared towards Pre-k activities to do with Don't Let Pigeon Drive the Bus! Activities include number games, crafts, puppets, worksheets, and other lessons related to Mo Willems's book.

<https://www.kindergartenworks.com/kindergarten-teaching-ideas/dont-let-the-pigeon-writing-activity/>- This is a writing activity for kindergartners. It will teach the students how to draw The Pigeon and provides lettering for the title of the book. This page could be helpful if you're doing the class book in this Resource Guide!

[http://pigeonpresents.com/content/uploads/2017/08/pigeon\\_teachguide.pdf](http://pigeonpresents.com/content/uploads/2017/08/pigeon_teachguide.pdf)- This online teacher's guide offers lessons for Don't Let Pigeon Drive the Bus! and The Pigeon Finds a Hot Dog!. It provides writing prompts, inferring lessons, and discussion topics that relate to the two texts.

## Victoria Fuse's Local Resource



The Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority (RTA) is Dayton's public transportation agency and services the Montgomery County and western Greene County. The RTA has over 3,000 stops on their 34 routes. Over 9 million passengers ride an RTA route each year. Their vision is "to be a premier public transportation that connects people and communities". Their mission is "to provide great value, dependable service, and to be responsive, timely and accountable for all that we do. Some jobs The Pigeon could apply for with RTA are a bus driver, bus mechanic, a utility cleaner, or an accountant. Learn more about the RTA at <http://www.i-riderta.org/>.



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**ON TOUR**



Since 1992, there have been over 40 tours playing in hundreds of cities. Those tours have played in 49 states and parts of Canada. Over two million children, teachers, and parents have been audiences to these touring productions. Kennedy Center Theater for Young Audiences on Tour continued to be a leader in bringing original productions to communities that offer imaginative, original, and inspiring content. To learn more visit: <https://education.kennedy-center.org/programs/family/ontour/index.cfm>

**DON'T FORGET**

All schools that receive scholarships for a show and/or transportation are asked to create thank-you letters or cards for our sponsors. Please address your students' thank-you notes to:

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