

Disney and CAMERON MACKINTOSH's

# MARY POPPINS JR.

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Study Guide

September 13 - 30, 2018



Columbus Children's  
THEATRE

## Why A Study Guide?

Welcome to the wonderful world of Mary Poppins JR.! Within our study guide you will find helpful tips to prepare your students to experience and talk about the performance. Use this guide to:

- Introduce students to theatre etiquette
- Introduce students to the roles of a theatrical production
- Share insider knowledge about the world of the show
- Explore themes of Mary Poppins JR.
- Further discuss the show after seeing a performance
- Connect Mary Poppins JR. to your classroom curriculum across a number of subject areas
- Dive into further readings to learn even more!

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For more information about Columbus Children's Theatre and how we inspire, enrich and empower the imaginations of children and their families through live theatre and theatre education, visit our website at [www.columbuschildrenstheatre.org](http://www.columbuschildrenstheatre.org)

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## About Mary Poppins JR.

Based on the beloved Disney movie, your favorite British nanny is back! Mary Poppins JR. holds all the magic of the original award-winning Broadway musical, with the simplicity of the shorter version. Come and see this enchanting tale of how one nanny can teach a whole family the importance of valuing each other and learn that "anything can happen if you let it."

Before  
the Show

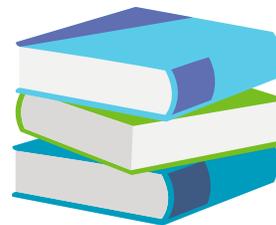
## Theatre Etiquette

Theatre etiquette is a simple set of rules to help audience members fully enjoy the show, and for actors and the backstage crew to safely perform their work for you! Here are some important elements of theatre etiquette at CCT:

- Arrive on time
- For the safety of the actors and the audience, please stay seated for the performance
- Visit the restroom before the performance begins
- The use of electronic devices (other than access devices), is strictly prohibited
- Please do not talk to your neighbor during the performance
- If you like something that you see, you may clap or laugh - it shows the actors that you like what they are doing!

## Suggested Reading

- My Best Friend the Suffragette by Sally Morgan (Grades 1-2)
- Walt's Imagination: The Life of Walt Disney by Doreen Rappaport (Grades K-3)
- Mary Poppins Series by P.L. Travers (Grades 4-8)
- A Question of Courage by Marjorie Darke (Grades 7-9)



## Theatre Location

The Park Street Theatre  
512 Park Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

# Who is Involved in a Theatrical Production?

Performances at Columbus Children's Theatre are the result of groups of people working together. Many people know and understand what an actor is - the people on the stage telling the story. But did you know that there are more people working hard "behind-the-scenes" to make the performance happen? Below are just a few of those people.

## The Director

- Responsible for the overall concept of the show - they guide a vision to create a world on stage in which the show may exist.
- Works with the actors to help them interpret their characters and move on stage.
- Works closely with designers in planning the sounds, lights, scenery, costumes, props - basically, everything you see on the stage.

## The Choreographer

- Directs the dances onstage.
- Design dance moves that help tell the story of a musical
- Teaches the dances to the actors.



## The Designers

- Work with the director and with each other to create the look of the lights, scenery, costumes, make-up, sound and special effects. They make the world on stage come to life.

## The Stage Manager

- Organizes every aspect of the production - schedules, resources and communications.
- In charge of making everything run smoothly from rehearsal to performance.
- Guarantees the same great performance every single time, whether you attend a show during the school day, or with your family in the evening or on the weekend.

## The Crew

- There are a lot of different crew people. Some help build the scenery, costumes, and props you see on the stage, and some are working backstage during the show helping actors change costumes, moving pieces of scenery on and off, or operating the lights and sound.

## The Cast

- The Cast is what we call all of the actors who are on stage performing the characters in front of the audience.

## The Audience

- This is where you come in! The show you see would not exist without you. The hard work everyone puts in to create a show is all meant to share a story with you.

## Who Are The Characters?

As described in the Mary Poppins JR. script given to all actors, directors, and designers:

- Mary Poppins: Jane and Michael's extraordinary and strange new nanny; neat and tidy, quite strict, very exciting, and practically perfect in every way.
- Bert: a man with many occupations who is good friends with Mary Poppins; he also acts as a narrator in the story and brings a lively and joyful personality with him everywhere he goes.
- Jane Banks: the high-spirited, bright, and willful daughter of George and Winifred.
- Michael Banks: the quite cheeky, youngest member of the Banks family who is never short on excitement.
- George Banks: a tired banker, Winifred's husband, and regimented father to Jane and Michael.
- Winifred Banks: George's wife, who tries with a fervent spirit to be the perfect homemaker and mother to Jane and Michael.
- Katie Nanna: Jane and Michael's overwhelmed and fed-up nanny.

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There are more characters in the show such as The Bird Woman, and the Chimney Sweeps, Mrs. Brill the housekeeper, and others who make up the ensemble of the musical. The ensemble is the group of actors that create the world of the play by being cast in smaller roles and dance sequences. Without the ensemble, there wouldn't be any large chorus numbers, and the world of the play would be lacking the energy and enthusiasm that a group can bring to the stage.

# What are the Themes of Mary Poppins JR.?

## **Family**

Mary Poppins helps Mr. and Mrs. Banks understand the importance of spending time with family and cherishing the moments you have with your children. With the help of Mary Poppins, the Banks Family is able to see that loving one another and investing your heart into your family is incredibly important and worthy of their time.

## **Wisdom and Knowledge**

It is evident throughout the show that Mary Poppins values wisdom and knowledge. She makes sure that the children are listening to the rules and guidelines that she believes are important to live a full and successful life.

## **Happiness**

Throughout the musical we see Mary Poppins and Bert introduce the children to moments of happiness and joy, and that it doesn't cost much to obtain them. Happiness can be found in the simplest of activities, like visiting the park or flying a kite. We don't have to obtain material items to find happiness.



## What's Next?

Use these questions to spark conversation on the way back to school from the theatre, in your classroom the next day, or as writing prompts for students' journals!

- What wisdom does Mary Poppins pass onto the children and Mr. Banks, and how does it help them?
- What, if any, wisdom does Bert share with the children?
- Do you think Mr. Banks has always been so uptight and stuffy, or did his job make him act this way?
- What lessons does Mary Poppins teach the Banks to help them grow closer as a family? Do you think the parents learn any lessons, and if so what are they?
- Why do you think Mary Poppins denies the amazing things she does?
- Why do you think Mary Poppins provokes awe and amazement in the children?
- What do you think Mary Poppins suggests is the key to happiness?



# Ohio's Learning Standard: Science

Theme: Observations of the Environment

- Let's Go Fly a Kite!: use handmade kites as a tool to learn about wind and the specific properties of air as they apply to weather
  - Disney Family Mary Poppins Kite instructions: <https://family.disney.com/craft/mary-poppins-kite/>
  - NASA Museum in Box lesson, "Principles of Flight" [https://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/kites\\_k4.pdf](https://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/kites_k4.pdf)



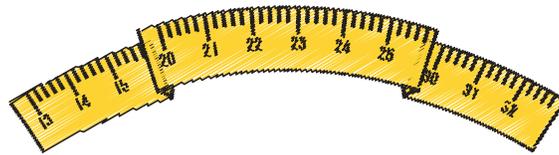
- Up Through the Atmosphere: make an anemometer to teach students how to measure wind activity.
  - Scholastic lesson to build your own weather tool! <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/anemometer/>



## Ohio's Learning Standards: Mathematics

Domain: Measurement and Data

- Measure like Mary: use a measuring tape to find out the height of objects around your classroom!
  - Other great measurement ideas from MTI Instruments  
<https://www.mtiinstruments.com/knowledge-center/15-measurement-activities-for-students/>



## Ohio's Learning Standards: Financial Literacy

Topics: Financial Responsibility and Decision Making and Credit and Debt

- Learn to be a Banker like Mr. Banks; open a class store and bank to facilitate interactive learning about money, credits, and debits.

- Opening Your Class Store and Bank  
<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plans/teaching-content/opening-your-class-store-and-bank/>

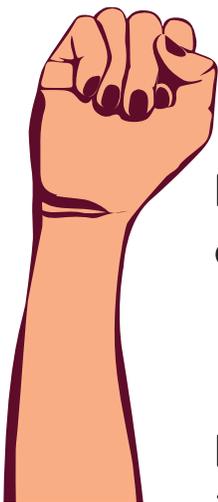


## Ohio's Learning Standards: Social Studies

Although not a focus of the stage version of *Mary Poppins JR.*, in the movie, Winifred Banks identifies as a suffragette, the movement of which was prominent in England at the time of the play. There are a multitude of options for connections with the classroom - here are a select few.

### Strand: Government

- Votes for Women! Design and color a "Votes for Women!" poster while learning about the women's suffrage movement in Great Britain and the United States.



- Learn the difference between the terms suffrage and suffragist, and access lesson plans related to Historic Places through the National Parks Service:  
<https://www.nps.gov/articles/suffragistvssuffragette.htm>

- Scholastic Teacher's Activity Guide to Women's Suffrage:  
<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/suffrage/index.htm>

- BBC "Bitesize Guide" to women's greater political equality:  
<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/guides/zx9887h/revision/1>

# Ohio's Learning Standards: English Language Arts

Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!

- Do an activity where you learn about all the LARGE words in the English language. Examples from the musical include: atrocious, precocious, undertake
- Every Task you UNDERTAKE Becomes a Piece of CAKE!

All of the songs in the musical include rhyming schemes. Learn about rhyming words through rhyming sheets (bonus for using vocab words from the songs in Mary Poppins JR.)

<https://www.themeasuredmom.com/teach-rhyming-words-fun-printable/>



We can't  
wait to see  
you at the Park  
Street  
Theatre!