



# MISS ELECTRICITY

CCT Touring Show  
2018-2019



Columbus Children's  
THEATRE

# In This Study Guide

Study Guide  
Info

Experiencing a Columbus Children's Theatre Touring Production is an engaging, fun, and educational way for students to experience live theatre! We are happy to give you a simple, yet informative guide, that will allow you to expand your students' viewing of this production of Miss Electricity. In this study guide you will:

page 2 - Introduce students to theatre etiquette.

page 3 - Introduce students to the roles of a theatrical production.

page 4 - Discuss the background of the show.

page 5 - Provide insight to the show's themes.

page 6 - Ask questions to be used in further discussion.

page 7-9 - Highlight several activities to connect the play to other content areas in your classroom.

For more information about Columbus Children's Theatre and what we do to 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)



# Theatre Etiquette


There are certain unspoken rules that apply to theatre audiences that only those that have been initiated into the process know. It is essential to learn and understand how to be a good audience member during a live performance, so that it can be an enjoyable experience for all!

Above all, it is important to remember that the actors on stage can see and hear you at the same time you can see and hear them. Be respectful of the actors and your fellow audience members by being attentive and observing these DO's and DON'T's. Viewing a live show is a special experience, one that you will remember for a lifetime, so it's very important to remember the rules of theatre etiquette. That way, everyone can have a good time!

- DO be seated on time!
- DON'T get up during the performance.
- DO use the restroom before the performance!
- DON'T use electronic devices (unless access devices).
- DO clap and laugh if you see something that you like!
- DON'T talk to your neighbor during the performance.



# Roles in a CCT Touring Performance



Putting on the Show

CCT's touring productions are the result of many people working collaboratively together. Many people know and understand what actors are—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 the world on stage in which the show may exist. They work with the actors to help them interpret their characters and move on stage. They also work closely with designers in planning the sounds, lights, scenery, costumes, props, - basically, everything you see on the stage

## **The Designers:**

- Work with the director and with each other to create the look of the world of the show. This includes Set Designer, Costume Designer, Sound Designer, Props Master and others.

## **The Road Manager:**

- Organizes every aspect of the production—schedules, resources and communicates with the director, designers, and Resident Artists. The Road Manager works with the Director of Theatre Education at CCT to also ensure all shows and workshops meet CCT's high educational standards. They are in charge of making everything run smoothly and on time, from rehearsal to performance, every time!

## **The Cast:**

- The cast is what we call the group of actors who are on stage performing the characters in front of the audience. They practice for many hours over many days to learn how to tell the story.

## **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 done to share the story with you!

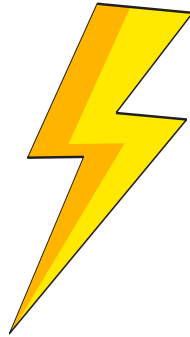
# About The Author & The Show

About the Show



## The Author:

Kathryn Walat received her BA from Brown University, and her MFA from the Yale School of Drama. She teaches playwriting at the Savannah College of Art and Design. Walat's play, *Victoria Martin: Math Team Queen*, premiered Off-Broadway at the Women's Project and has appeared in *Dramatics* magazine and *New Playwrights: The Best Plays of 2007*. Her work has been commissioned and produced by La Jolla Playhouse (*Miss Electricity*), Actors Theatre of Louisville (*The Open Road Anthology*), and The Hangar Theatre (*Androcles and the Lion*), and developed at such places as the Public Theater, Manhattan Theatre Club, Playwrights Horizons, Yale Repertory Theatre, and Sundance Theatre Lab. She recently completed commissions for New Georges (*This Is Not Antigone*) and MCC (*See Bat Fly*). [www.kathrynwalat.com](http://www.kathrynwalat.com)



## The Show:

Get ready for an electric adventure! When 5th grader Violet and her assistant/neighbor Freddy seek to break a world record, Violet suddenly finds herself struck by lightning... TWICE! With her new electric powers, Violet seeks to take on the school bullies and her geography test, but at what cost? With themes of friendship and self-discovery, curriculum connections of science and mythology, and the intriguing element of fantasy within reality, *Miss Electricity* is a dynamic live adventure. *Miss Electricity* promises exciting classroom integration possibilities through topics such as the Guinness World Records, the science of lightning, and discovery of Greek gods, as well as a strong social and emotional component that can engage audience members in many layers of critical thought.



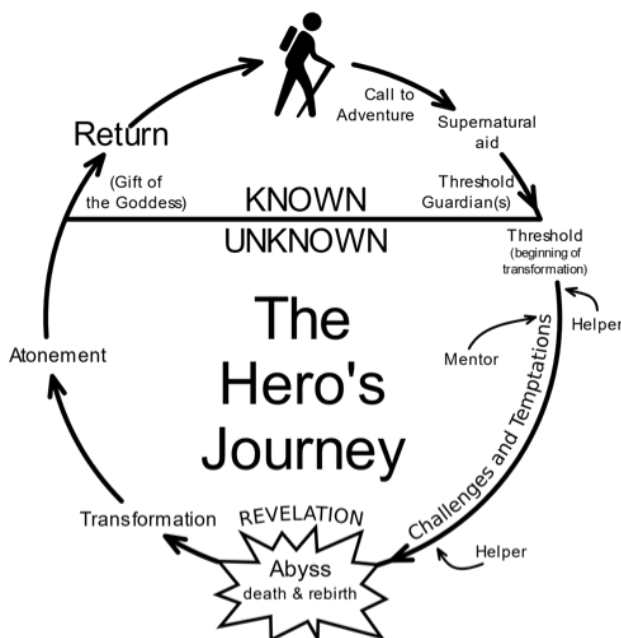
# Themes & Characters

## Themes:

**Friendship** is a key theme in Miss Electricity. Violet learns on her journey of becoming electric what real friendship means.

**Judgement** is another common theme. Violet and her friend are judged for being different or doing wrong, whether that be real or just perceived as a wrongdoing by others. Violet also judges herself by her accomplishments. She does not believe she is special or enough based on what world records other people have achieved. Often in these tales we learn that judging others or yourself does not lead to justice.

Tales of **heroism** and **courage** in the face of adversity have been popular for hundreds, if not thousands of years. In fact, one of the most widely used story structures in the world is something called the “Hero’s Journey.” This theme can be explored in different ways and on different scales, but perhaps the most common are traditional hero stories about characters who are essentially destined for greatness, and, on the flipside, stories about ‘unlikely’ heroes who achieve greatness despite the odds... which is our heroine, Violet.



## Characters:

- Narrator - Our storyteller-helper
- Violet - A 10 year old girl having a hard time in the 5th grade
- Freddy - Violet’s neighbor and assistant, in the same class
- Mom - Violet’s mom
- Billy the Bully - A bully in Violet’s class
- Connie Can’t Do - Another kid in Violet’s class
- Mrs. Waldo - Violet’s teacher
- Zeus - Ruler of the Greek Gods
- Athena - Goddess of Wisdom
- Owl - Athena’s friend

# Guinness Book of World Records

So what are the Guinness Book of World Records?

The Guinness Book of World Records is a reference book published annually, listing world records both of human achievements and the extremes of the natural world. The brainchild of Sir Hugh Beaver, the book was co-founded by brothers Norris and Ross McWhirter in Fleet Street, London in August 1954. The book itself holds a world record as the best-selling copyrighted book of all time. As of the 2017 edition, it is now in its 62nd year of publication, published in 100 countries and 23 languages. The international franchise has extended beyond print to include television series and museums. The popularity of the franchise has resulted in Guinness World Records becoming the primary international authority on the cataloguing and verification of a huge number of world records; the organization employs official record adjudicators authorized to verify the authenticity of the setting and breaking of records. <http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/>

## Questions:

- How is Violet a bad friend to Freddy?
- Does Violet change as a friend throughout the play?
- How is Freddy a good friend?
- What character or characters teach Violet the value of true friendship?
- Who in the play judges Violet the most?  
Other characters? Herself?
- How does Violet's journey follow the "Hero's Journey" model?
- In what way does Violet show courage?





# Activity Suggestions for Further Fun and Learning!

## Science:

Let's build a circuit!

Build an electric circuit by using play dough! Get creative by building fun circuit boards out of play dough and connecting them with LED lights. Connect a battery pack and watch your circuit board light up!

You will need:

- a battery pack
- LED light
- Conductive Play dough
- 1 cup Water
- 1 1/2 cups Flour (A gluten free version of this dough can be made by replacing the flour with gluten-free flour.)
- 1 Tbsp. Vegetable Oil
- 1/4 cup Salt
- 3 Tbsp. Cream of Tartar
- \* 9 Tbsp of Lemon Juice can be a substitute
- Food Coloring (optional)

Go to this website for more details! <http://www.science-sparks.com/easy-play-dough-circuits>



What conducts electricity?

Some materials allow electricity to move through them and others don't; which are which?

You will need:

- Battery or battery pack
- LED bulb or small bulb
- Aluminum foil (folded lengthwise and rolled up)
- Objects to test such as a key, eraser, coins, chalk, candle, wood, etc.
- Tray or table
- Paper and pencil to record results

Test objects by placing the object between the battery and the bulb, then touching the foil to the base of the bulb. The bulb should light up (or not). Go here for more details on this experiment.

<https://carrotsareorange.com/electricity-experiments>



## Mathematics:

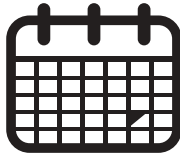
Time me!

All students in the class can try to hop on one foot like Violet.

Time them to see how long everyone can hop and record each student's time. From here you can challenge students to find the average time, shortest and longest times, and even give out "Guinness Class Records!"

This is also a great opportunity for students to take on the jobs of timer, recorder, and leader for the activity.

Connecting to  
the Standards



Daily Timeline

Violet tries to stay on schedule with the help of Freddy. Use this timeline activity to see if you can stay on track during your day!

What you need:

- Index cards
- Markers

First label index cards with various times of the day.

Make sure the times you choose are times that something important happens each day (get up, leave for school, go to piano, baseball practice, bedtime, etc.). Be sure to include "am" and "pm" so that your student has to think about whether this is 7:30 in the morning or the evening.

Give the cards to your student and have them fill out the cards according to what they do at these specific times throughout their day. Let them be creative in how they fill the cards out—writing, drawing or any combination of the two.

Once the cards are filled out, mix them up and then have your student arrange them in order from earliest to latest.

Do the cards that they have made represent their day? If there are gaps, have them make additional cards including the times, and activities, that are most important to them.

When they are done, tape the cards together to create their daily timeline

Find the activity in more detail here:

<https://www.education.com/activity/article/daily-timeline/>

## Social Studies:

It's all Greek to me!

Violet learns about a few Greek gods in Ancient Greek Mythology.

Have students choose a Greek god or goddess to research and ask students to draw their own version of what that god might look like.

The god may be dressed in clothing from ancient Greek times or may have an updated look wearing modern fashions.

How would this god dress based on their purpose and history?

Students can also design other Greek gods, such as the god of schools or the god of peace, and draw their version of these gods.

Name the Capitals - Have students learn the states and their capitals, just like Violet!



## English Language Arts:

Do you U-N-D-E-R-S-T-A-N-D?

Connie-can't-do has a habit of spelling out words aloud a lot in the show. Have student's participate in a spelling bee by spelling words out!

A Hero's Journey. - Have your student write their own short hero's journey story. Use the hero's journey model as a reference guide.

We can't wait  
to perform at  
your school!

See You Soon!