

A hand-drawn number '13' in blue ink on a piece of lined, spiral-bound notebook paper. The paper is crumpled and has a torn edge on the left side. The background is a solid blue color.

13

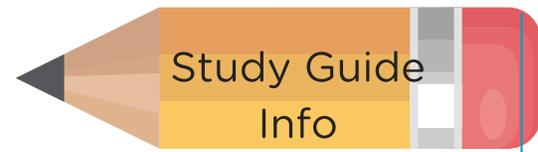
THE MUSICAL

Study Guide
June 27 - July 7, 2019



Columbus Children's
THEATRE

Why A Study Guide?



Welcome to 13 The Musical! 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 13
- Further discuss the show after seeing a performance
- Connect 13 to your classroom curriculum across a number of subject areas
- Dive into further readings to learn even more!



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



About 13 The Musical

Geek. Poser. Jock. Beauty Queen. Wannabe. These are the labels that can last a lifetime. With an unforgettable rock score from Tony Award-winning composer, Jason Robert Brown, 13 is a musical about fitting in – and standing out! Evan Goldman is plucked from his fast-paced, preteen New York City life and plopped into a sleepy Indiana town following his parents' divorce. Surrounded by an array of simpleminded middle school students, he needs to establish his place in the popularity pecking order. Can he situate himself on a comfortable link of the food chain... or will he dangle at the end with the outcasts?!?

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

Then Again, Maybe I Won't

By, Judy Blume

Grades 6 - 8

Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret

By, Judy Blume

Grades 6 - 8

The Outsiders

By, S.E. Hinton

Grades 6 - 9

Theatre Location

The Park Street Theatre
512 Park Street
Columbus 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 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 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 on stage and designs dance moves that help tell the story of a musical. They also teach 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 13 script given to all actors, directors, and designers:



EVAN - A bright, nerdy boy who is excited to become a man. New in town and trying to find a place to fit in, he eventually becomes close with Patrice and Archie. Our story's protagonist.

PATRICE - A shy, intelligent, bookworm. Archie's best friend and Evan's new friend.

BRETT - The vain star quarterback. Leads a pack of popular boys, including Malcolm and Eddie

MALCOM - A wannabe popular kid and one of Brett's sidekicks.

EDDIE - A wannabe popular kid and one of Brett's sidekicks.

KENDRA - The bubbly, popular, head cheerleader. Lucy's best friend and unknowing rival.

ARCHIE - A good-humored, intelligent, unpopular kid. Patrice's best friend who has to use crutches.

LUCY - A manipulative girl who secretly desires to have Kendra's boyfriend. Sneaky and feisty.

RABBIS - Jewish congregational leaders or teachers. In this show they are in Evan's imagination.

STUDENTS - The student body of Dan Quayle Junior High.



Themes From 13



Acceptance

Acceptance is a big theme in 13. Evan moves to Appleton where he has to adapt to his new life from the big city to small Midwestern town.

When he gets to his new school, he hopes to make friends with everyone. By doing so he will be able to invite them all to his Bar Mitzvah, and be able to have the biggest and best party to feel accepted in his own religion. Not only is Evan trying to be accepted by his peers, but so are all the other students of Dan Quayle Jr. High. Archie wants to feel accepted for who he is, Patrice wants Evan to like her for who she is, the wannabe kids want to be accepted by the popular kids, and so on.

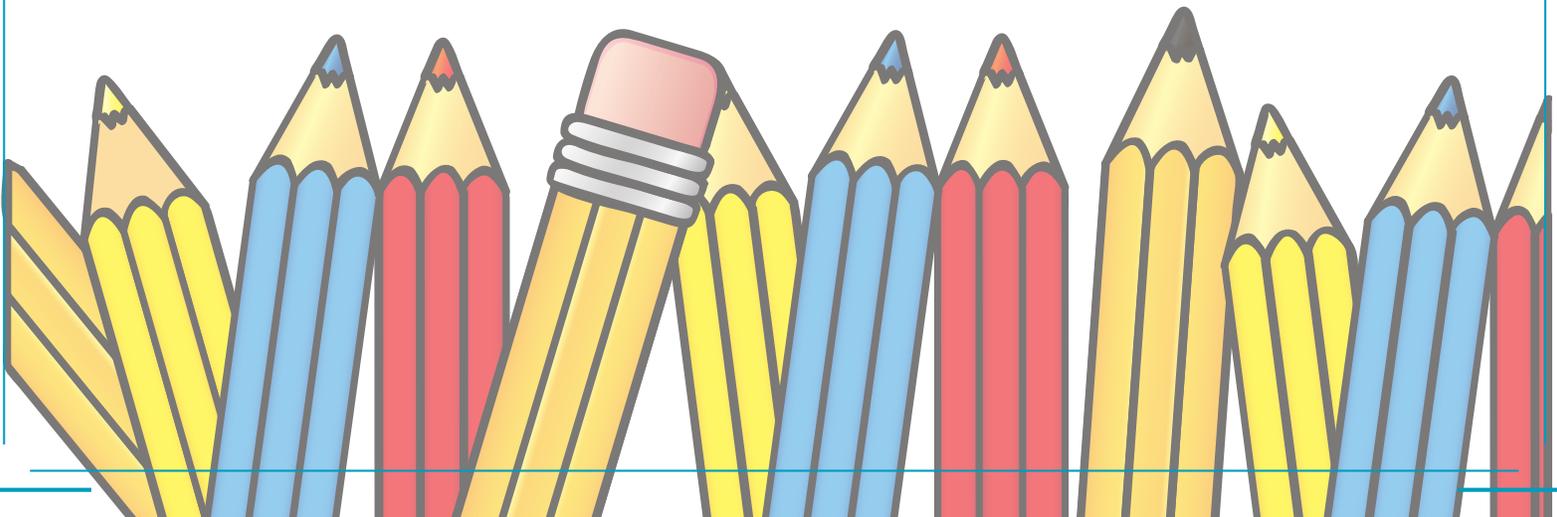
Growing Pains

Let's face it growing up isn't easy. 13 touches heavily on how awkward everything is in that period between childhood and young adult.

Hormones are activated, bodies are changing, suddenly your friends start dating; and what's with this giant pimple on my chin?? Evan and the rest of the students, awkwardly try to navigate these new emotions throughout the whole show.

Jealousy

The theme of jealousy can be found in abundance in 13. Lucy is jealous of Kendra because Brett likes her more. Brett becomes jealous of Evan because he thinks he and Kendra are dating. The wannabes and geeks are jealous of the popular kids. Jealousy is a catalyst for conflict and drama.



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 is the religious significance in the Jewish tradition to have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah?
- Bullying is unfortunately common in schools, and even adults can experience it. Have you ever encountered or seen someone being bullied? How do you handle bullying?
- Have you ever known someone that is differently abled than you? What similarities do you share?
- How does small town life differ from city life?
- Evan has to adapt to his new living situation. Does adapting mean giving up your principles?
- Think of a time when peer pressure was tempting you to do something you didn't want to. How did you handle it?



Activity Time!



Use these activities with your students to deepen their understanding of the story, and to add enrichment across content areas!

Narrative Writing

Imagine you are an old friend of Evan's from New York. He has written you a letter and is asking for help on a certain situation he has gotten himself in his new home of Appleton. What advice would you give him?

Have a Debate

One of the most condemning raps on violence in films and video games is that it desensitizes young viewers. In 13 the students sneak into an R rated movie. This desensitizing, some say, promotes violent behavior. There is a wealth of information to support and other information to discredit the notion. Research the topic through studies that have been done and have a teacher moderated debate in the classroom.



Express Yourself!

Evan expresses his anguish at having to leave his home to go to a strange place populated by strange people. This has to be an upsetting time for him. Is anyone really listening to his unhappy cry? Songs, like art, are a way of expressing yourself. Have students bring in a piece of their own art. - whether it be a painting, a drawing, poetry, or a song. Have the students explain their work.

Activities Continued!



Persuasive Writing Project

Choose a right of passage ceremony other than the ones mentioned in the lessons. Write an essay on your choice. Include opinions on how you feel about right of passage in general. Do you think it is a silly custom or a tradition worth preserving? How important is it to define exactly when a person is considered a man or a woman? From your research on your choice, say how you think this whole idea got started. At the end, propose a new rite of passage ceremony for your generation.

We can't wait to
perform for you!
See you at the
Theatre!