



Town Hall Theatre's
Miss Nelson is Missing!

Educational Guide
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ABOUT THE PLAY

In this hilarious musical a well meaning but frazzled teacher, Miss Nelson, just can't get her students to behave! One day Miss Nelson comes up missing and much to the horror of her class an evil, witchy substitute arrives named Miss Viola Swamp! The kids will do anything to get back their teacher, even if it means behaving!

PRE-PERFORMANCE

THEMES TO LOOK FOR:

Courage	Teamwork
Kindness	Respect
Guilt	Judgment
Good Sportsmanship	Fairness
Trustworthiness	Integrity

VOCABULARY WORDS

Hail	Affection
Respect	London
Conduct	Tokyo
Square root	Beijing
Relationship	J.R.R Tolkien
Individuality	Tarantula
Geography	Fray
Conscience	Quest
Maestro	Navigate
Caper	Prank
Dr. Jeckyll & Mr. Hyde	

A lesson using the *Miss Nelson is Missing* book!

Instructional Objective: To increase the children's appreciation for literature, foster vocabulary growth, practice prediction skills, practice speaking to groups, develop creative writing skills, and facilitate group interaction through discussion.

Target Vocabulary: misbehaving, unpleasant, ruler, missed, detective, wicked, discouraged, ceiling, whispered, giggled.

Anticipatory Set: Ask the children to get into pairs and discuss a time when they lost something. Then, display the cover of the book and ask for ideas on what might happen in the book.

Statement of Objective: "As we watch the play, I want you to think about what's happening and consider how the story might end."

Imagine how you would feel if you were a student in Miss Nelson's class."

Direct Instruction: Read the book while clearly showing the pictures to the class. Stop the story in the middle.

Guided Practice: Ask the class to use a piece of paper to write or draw (depending on level) about how they imagine the story will conclude. Another possible guided practice activity for this book is Reader's Theater.

Closure: Group discussion where individual students volunteer to share their conclusions with the rest of the class. Then, the teacher proceeds to finish reading the book so that the students can see how the author finished the book.

THEATRE VOCABULARY LIST



Acting: pretending to be a character.
Beginning, Middle, End: Three parts of a story.

Characters: A person portrayed in a drama, novel or artistic piece.

Conflict: The struggle between the opposing forces, ideas or interests in a play.

Courage: The spirit that enable one to face danger and fear with confidence and resolution, bravery.

Dialogue: A conversation that takes place between two or more characters that expresses thoughts,

feelings and actions.

Facial Expression: The manner in which an actor uses his or her face to portray an emotion.

Improvisation: Using a character to express thoughts and feeling or to act out a scenario without prior rehearsals.

Movement: How the actor uses his or her body to create a character.

Plot/Storyline: The action of the story, the development of the story, has a beginning, middle and end.

Point of View/Perspective: Feelings, opinions, and experiences that affect the reader's outlook.

Setting: Time and place where a story occurs.

Teamwork: Working together as a team.

Three tools of an actor: Voice, body and the imagination.

Vocal Expression: The way the actor uses his or her voice to express an emotion

POST PERFORMANCE

DISCUSSION

1. Can kids behave all the time? Why or why not?
2. What do you think would be an appropriate punishment for the kids of room 207 for misbehaving so badly with Miss Nelson? Was Miss Viola Swamp's reign enough? Will she have to come back again?
3. Have the kids really learned their lesson? Do you think that they will go back to being naughty? Why or why not?
4. In the play Miss Nelson has to pretend that she is someone very different from herself in order to make her students pay attention. Have you ever had to pretend that you were someone different from your usual self in order to have someone pay attention to you? How did that make you feel? Did it make you feel like you weren't being your "real" self?
5. Miss Nelson gets very creative when faced with a class that doesn't behave. What are some big problems that you or someone you know are facing? What would Miss Nelson do in that situation?

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Character Comparison

Use a Venn diagram to compare and contrast the story's two main characters, Miss Nelson and Miss Viola Swamp. Students can draw a character in each side of the diagram and fill the rest of the space with words that describe each woman.

Clue Hunt

Students will probably figure out who Miss Viola Swamp really is. Brainstorm with them the clues that led them to that conclusion. Use the book as a guide for clue-seeking.

Emotions Chart

Read *Miss Nelson is Missing* and have students locate the places where they would have been angry, annoyed, upset, or happy if they had been in Miss Nelson's class. Create a chart on the board to fill out with the students.

Letter Writing

Have students write a letter to Miss Nelson to persuade her to return to the classroom. In the letter, students can make a list of rules they would follow in the future.

Papier-Mache Puppets and Masks

Create Papier-Mache Puppets and Masks of the two main characters in *Miss Nelson is Missing*, Miss Nelson and Miss Viola Swamp. Then have students act out the story. Their classmates can play the roles of Miss Nelson's students.

Websites used for the making of this educational guide include:

<http://www.teachervision>

www.stageone.com

<http://www.m-w>

