Presents

Guess How Much I Love You
and
I Love My Little Story Book

Tuesday, October 18, 2005
10am and Noon, Bowker Auditorium

Study guides are also available on our website at www.fineartscenter.com - select Performances Plus! from Educational Programs, then select Resource Room.

The Fine Arts Center wishes to acknowledge MassMutual Financial Group for its important role in making these educational materials and programs available to the youth in our region.
Dear Teachers,

The world of the theater is an amazing place, where stories, music, color, lights, movement, and the imagination come together. The Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia has adapted two award-winning storybooks—Guess How Much I Love You by Sam McBratney and Anita Jeram, and I Love My Little Storybook by Anita Jeram—into a theatrical production that is sure to be an inspirational springboard for classroom activities that celebrate creativity, storytelling, and the love of reading.

In this study guide you will find activity sheets that are easily reproducible, as well as suggestions for other in-class activities that will enrich and expand upon the experience of reading the books and seeing the live production of the play.

Here’s hoping that seeing the play and sharing the books are experiences you and your class will enjoy and remember—all the way to the moon and back!
“Guess how much I love you,” Little Nutbrown Hare asks Big Nutbrown Hare. Little Nutbrown Hare shows his daddy how much he loves him: as wide as he can reach and as high as he can hop. But Big Nutbrown Hare, who can reach farther and hop higher, loves him back even more. So Little Nutbrown Hare loves his daddy right up to the moon—what could be bigger than that? Just one thing, and Big Nutbrown Hare knows what it is. . . .

It’s easy to see why *Guess How Much I Love You* has been one of the world’s most beloved picture books for nearly ten years. With author Sam McBratney’s warm and witty text and Anita Jeram’s expressive watercolors, the story has found a way to measure the immeasurable bond between parent and child.

In the classroom, *Guess How Much I Love You* offers a wonderful opportunity for your students to use their imaginations to explore their feelings. This charming story also offers a unique introduction to the concept of guessing and estimating.

**Guess How Much I Love You Reproducible Sheets**

- **Guess How Much I Love You Coupons:** With the ten reproducible coupons, your students can promise hugs and kisses to someone they love. They can also fill in the blank coupons, offering to help around the house, make breakfast in bed, or perform any other special task. Students can color the coupons, cut them out, and give them to parents, siblings, friends, grandparents, or any special person in their lives.

- **Guess How Much I Love You Greeting Card:** Children adore creating their own cards to give to the ones they love. Give a sheet to each of your students, and then invite them to color in the cards, cut them out, and draw or write their very own special message inside. This is a wonderful activity for Valentine’s Day, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, Grandparents’ Day, or any day.

- **“I Love You As Much As . . .” Coloring Sheet:** Inspired by the image of Little Nutbrown Hare stretching out his arms, this coloring sheet will give your students an opportunity to express the unique dimensions of their own love for someone special in words and/or pictures.

- **Activity Sheets:** The activity sheets include a maze to reunite Little Nutbrown Hare with Big Nutbrown Hare and an exercise to match the hopping hares.
More *Guess How Much I Love You* Activity Ideas

- **Guess How Many, How Big, How Long:** With *Guess How Much I Love You* as an inspiration, engage the class in a series of estimation games: How many pennies are in the jar? How many steps from the front of the classroom to the back? How long is each child’s arm? After the children make their guesses, find out the actual answers. How far off were you?

- **How Far?** In the story, Little Nutbrown Hare and Big Nutbrown Hare express their love for each other in farther and farther distances. Ask your students to measure progressively farther distances—from one desk to another, from one side of the classroom to the other, from the classroom to the lunchroom, from one side of the playground to the other, from the school to each of your students’ homes, from the school to the mall, and so on until you measure the distance from Earth to the moon . . . and back. For the longer distances, rulers, maps, and the Internet may be helpful.

- **Guessing to Know You:** In this activity, your students can play a guessing game to get to know each other better. Pair up your students and invite them to ask each other to guess things about themselves. For instance: Guess what my favorite TV show is. Guess how many brothers and sisters I have. Guess what kind of pet I have. Each student has three tries to guess the answer, after which his or her partner reveals the answer.
Anita Jeram’s *I Love My Little Storybook* ushers children into the magical world of reading. An eager little bunny lies on the grass, opens his storybook, and within moments enters a world of enchanted forests, gentle lions, stomping giants, and sleeping princesses. It’s just a glimpse of the many adventures children can discover in books.

In the classroom, *I Love My Little Storybook* is a wonderful starting point for a variety of storytelling and imagination activities. Here are some ideas that you can use with your class after reading the story together and seeing the play.

**Activity Ideas**

- **Share Your Favorite Storybook:** The little bunny who narrates this story truly loves everything about his storybook—from the way it feels when he opens the pages to the magical world he enters inside it. Invite each of your students to bring in from the library or from home their own favorite storybook. Then ask them to share with the class the reasons why they love the book.

- **Draw the Giant:** One of the characters the bunny meets inside his little storybook is a giant who tromps around the magic forest with humongous feet. His feet are so humongous, they’re all we see of him. Your students can use their imaginations to draw what they think the rest of the giant looks like.

- **Who Would You Like to Meet in a Storybook?** In *I Love My Little Storybook*, the narrator travels to a magic forest inside his little storybook. There he meets a friendly lion, a princess, and a giant. Ask your students whom they would like to meet in the pages of a storybook. It could be anyone—a real person, a favorite cartoon character, someone from history, a Martian. Encourage your students to stretch their imaginations. Then ask them to write a story about what that meeting might be like.

- **Our Storybook Journeys:** Ask children to think about all the stories you shared so far in class this year. Then help them recall the many places they have journeyed together in storybooks. Let students share their memories aloud. If any of the storybook places are real
places, ask students to find them on a map. You can also hang up a map in the classroom
and, with colored pins, mark off the many places you and your class have traveled in stories.
If any of the places are make-believe, ask students to use their imaginations to create their
own maps or pictures of those places.

• **Pull a Story out of a Hat:** On small pieces of paper, write the names of the characters
  from *I Love My Little Storybook*: the friendly lion, the frog prince, the princess, the giant, the
  little bunny, the fairies, or any other favorites. Place the names in a hat or basket, and ask
  each child to pull out a name. Then ask students to write a story about the character they
  pulled out of the hat. Or ask children to write a story about their favorite character in the
  book or play.

• **Story Starters:** The previous activity can work well with story starters, too. Instead of
  writing characters’ names on slips of paper, write a variety of opening lines based on
  illustrations in the book. For instance: “Once upon a time, a little bunny dove under the
  water to tell the fishes something very important.” Ask your students to use the opening
  line they pick out of the basket or hat to start a story.

• **Make Your Own Book:** One of the things the little bunny loves about his little storybook
  is how it feels to hold the book in his hands and to flip the pages—in short, the physical
  attributes of the book itself. Help your class create their very own storybooks. Staple
  or sew pages together to create booklets, and then invite your students to write and
  illustrate their own stories. Encourage them to create book covers, title pages, and
  a dedication. And don’t forget about the book description on the back cover.

• **Create a Journey Together:** Write a class story about a magical place that you
  can reach only in the pages of your story. What would it be like? Would it be a
  forest, or a magical city, or a place in outer space? Who would live there? What
  would they look like? And what would happen to them?
Loaded with Love

Color and cut out these coupons. Then give them to someone you love.

I will give you _____ hugs today

I will give you _____ kisses today

I will give you _____ hugs today

I will give you _____ kisses today
Make your own greeting card
Color, fold along the dotted line, and write a message for someone you love.
"I love you as much as . . ."
Maze
Help Little Nutbrown Hare find Big Nutbrown Hare.
Matching Game

Draw a line from Little Nutbrown Hare in column 1 to the matching image in column 2.

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NOTICE TO ALL TEACHERS AND CHAPERONES

- **PERFORMANCES BEGIN PROMPTLY AT 10AM OR NOON.**
  Many of our performances sell-out. This means we can have up to 1,600 students to seat. Please help us by arriving at least **30 – 15 minutes** prior to the start of the performance. This will allow our ushers to get everyone seated and for you and your students to visit the rest rooms and get settled. It is important that we begin our performances on time so that all schools can meet their lunch and/or dismissal times.

- **PLEASE CHECK LOCATION OF PERFORMANCE WHEN MAKING YOUR BUS RESERVATION.**

- The staff of the Fine Arts Center need your help! An increasing number of students are coming into the performance space with gum, food, beverages and portable music players. **None of these items is allowed in the halls for performances.** Many of these items are stowed in backpacks and are not easily noticed. Our goal is to offer high quality performances for young people. In order to enhance the experience, we ask for your cooperation in preventing these items from entering the hall.

- For the comfort of all concerned, we ask that backpacks, lunches and other gear be left on the bus. Our long-standing policy of no cameras or tape recorders still is in effect.

- At the conclusion of the performance please remain in your seats until your school group is dismissed.

*We hope that you and your students enjoy your theatre experience!*
PARKING POLICY

FOR GROUPS NOT TRAVELING BY SCHOOL BUS

We are pleased to announce that we have made arrangements with the UMass Parking Services to allow our patrons to park in the Campus Parking Garage for the reduced rate of just $1 during your stay.

This rate is available to home school families and schools that will arrive by private transportation rather than by bus. Please let us know at the time you make your reservations that you will be traveling by car. Parking passes will be mailed with your invoice approximately one month prior to each performance. You will be sent a sheet that includes 10 parking passes that you may cut and give out to drivers in your group. Should you require additional passes, please photocopy the sheet. The passes are valid for the garage only on the date of your reserved performance. You may park in the garage for performances in either the Concert Hall, Rand Theater or Bowker Auditorium. Parking at meters on campus does not apply.

We hope that this policy will better meet your needs. Please do not hesitate to call our office if you have questions.

Programming Office: (413) 545 – 0190.
PARKING AND DIRECTIONS FOR THE FINE ARTS CENTER

BOWKER AUDITORIUM

In Stockbridge Hall

Bowker Auditorium

School Bus Parking: Students should be dropped-off behind Stockbridge Hall which is accessed via the road to the Campus Center Parking Garage off of Commonwealth Avenue. University Security will direct buses to an appropriate parking lot during the performance (typically by the football stadium). PLEASE BE SURE YOUR BUS DRIVER KNOWS THAT ALL PERFORMANCES LAST APPROXIMATELY 1 HOUR AND THEY SHOULD RETURN A FEW MINUTES BEFORE THE ANTICIPATED END TIME. If drivers are not with the buses, they may miss the radio call from security asking them to return for pick-up, resulting in unnecessary delays returning to your school.

Individual cars: We recommend parking in the Campus Center Parking Garage which is directly next to Stockbridge Hall/Bowker Auditorium. All other available parking during weekdays is at meters. There are few meters available that are close to Bowker Auditorium. Available lots and pricing (current as of 9/1/04) are listed below:

Parking in the Garage is available to our patrons at a discounted rate of $1. To receive this rate you MUST give the Garage attendant a parking pass. To receive your pass, please call our office to let us know that you will be arriving by car. Parking passes are sent with the invoices. (413)545-0190

Parking meters are enforced Monday – Friday, 7AM – 5PM. Meter rates are $1.00 per hour.

Parking Garage – next to Bowker - accessed across from the Mullins Center off Commonwealth Avenue
Lot 25 – next to Mullins Center with 3 & 5 hour meters

From the North: (Vermont, Greenfield) I-91 south to Route 116. Follow signs on 116 “To the University of Massachusetts.” Exit ramp leads to Massachusetts Avenue. Turn left (east) on to Massachusetts Avenue toward the campus. At first light turn left on to Commonwealth Avenue. At next light turn right and follow signs for the Parking Garage.

From the South: (Springfield, Holyoke) I-91 north to Route 9. East on Route 9 over the Coolidge Bridge and through Hadley. Left at Route 116 (across from Staples) heading north toward campus. Right at first exit at “University of Massachusetts” bear right onto Massachusetts Avenue toward campus. At first light turn left on to Commonwealth Avenue. At next light turn right and follow signs for the Parking Garage.

From the West: (Northampton, Pittsfield) Route 9 east through Northampton and over Coolidge Bridge. Follow remaining directions from “From the South” above.

From the East: (Belchertown, Ludlow) North on Routes 21, 181 or 202 to Route 9 into Amherst. Right on to North Pleasant Street (main downtown intersection), north through center of town. Turn left at Triangle Street (Bertucci’s Restaurant on your right), rejoining North Pleasant Street. Stay on North Pleasant until it enters campus. Go straight through light – street has now become Massachusetts Avenue. At bottom of hill turn right on to Commonwealth Avenue. At next light turn right and follow signs for the Parking Garage.
For Concert Hall, Rand Theater and Bowker Auditorium – Patrons traveling by car are encouraged to park in the parking garage. Discounted parking is available in the garage for $1. A parking permit is required for discounted parking in the garage. Call the Programming Office if you require permits at (413) 545 – 0190. All other parking on campus is at available meters at the rate of $1 per hour. Parking is enforced Monday – Friday, 7AM – 5 PM.

Buses will drop-off students as indicated on map. Buses will be given parking instructions by Campus Security.