Performances plus!

Presents

Max and Ruby

Thursday, October 11, 2007
10am and Noon in Bowker Auditorium

Study Guides for Teachers are also available on our website at www.fineartscenter.com - select For School Audiences under Education, then select Resource Room.

Dear Teacher,

We have created the following study guide to help make the theater experience with Max and Ruby as meaningful as possible for your students. For many, it will be their first time viewing a live theatrical production. We have learned that when teachers discuss the play with their students before and after the production, the experience is more significant and long-lasting. Our study guide provides pre and post production discussion topics, as well as related activity sheets. These are just suggestions; please feel free to create your own activities and areas for discussion. We hope you and your class enjoy the show!

Background
Our play is based on the Max and Ruby series of stories by award-winning author Rosemary Wells, and the popular television series on Nick Jr. and Noggin.

The Story
1. Ruby the bunny wants to do something special for her grandmother and decides to put on a show. She starts looking for her little brother Max so he can help with the production. With the help of neighbors, she finds Max as well as her Bunny Scout friends who agree to help her put on the show.

2. While Ruby tries to write her show Max is busy playing with toys that come to life and sing.

3. Max and Ruby head to Grandma’s to pick out costumes and Max becomes distracted by a frog. Finally they get to Grandma’s attic and start sorting though the treasures for the perfect costumes.

4. Back at home Ruby decides Max should have a nap so she can write her play. He wants a scary story before bed which makes him unable to sleep so he ends up listening to Superbunny on the radio.

5. Ruby’s scout friends build her a castle but the play still isn’t finished and Max continues to be distracting. Finally Grandma shows up for the play and Ruby apologizes and describes all the various interruptions she’s had through the day. Each distraction is performed by Max and the Scouts and Grandma thinks it’s a great play about their day. Ruby is satisfied but Max gets distracted once more and everyone ends up looking for him again.
Before Seeing the Play

1. You may want to read several books from the Max and Ruby series and review the plots and characters with your students.

2. Discuss brothers and sisters with the class. Who is a big brother/sister? Who is a little brother/sister? Make a chart of brothers and sisters in the classroom. What kind of relationships do the students have with their siblings? Have them describe some of the things they do together.

3. Have the children talk about putting on a show. Have they ever played dress-up and performed for family and friends? How do you prepare for a show? What do you use for a stage or a set? Costumes? Do you write the words or make it up as you go along?

4. Is anyone in the class a cub/boy scout or girl scout? Have them describe what it means to be a scout, what they do together or how they help each other.

After Seeing the Play

1. Ask your students how the play was different from the Max and Ruby books you read. How was it the same? Discuss the costumes. How did the actors portray bunnies?

2. Max doesn’t say much in the play. How was the actor able to show how Max felt and thought without saying very many words?

3. Describe Max and Ruby’s relationship. What does Ruby think of her little brother? How is Max able to get what he wants from Ruby?

4. Ruby wants to put on a play for her grandmother. What are some other things you could do for someone in your family to show you appreciate them? How can you give a gift without spending any money?

Activities:

Creative Dramatics (Pre K – K)
1. Use the attached rabbit template to make a rabbit stick puppet. Cut out and decorate the rabbit, attach to a popsicle stick or tongue depressor to make a puppet, leaving room for the child to hold the stick. Have the children use the puppets to act out scenes from the play or create their own stories. They can even hide behind a bookcase or shelf and put on a performance for the class with just the puppets showing.
2. Teach the children “I See Three,” a fingerplay song about counting:

I see three-one, two, three  
Three little bunnies  
Reading the funnies  

(hold up three fingers, one at a time)

I see three-one, two, three  
Three kittens  
Wearing mittens  

(hold up three fingers as before)

I see three-one, two, three  
Three little frogs  
Sitting on logs  

(hold up three fingers again)

I see three-one, two, three  
Three bears  
Climbing upstairs  

(squat)

(pretend to climb)

Creative Dramatics (Grades 1-2)
Have your students create a play based on some specific everyday events. They can use the play Max and Ruby as an example. Use the five Ws: who are the characters, where does it take place, what happens in the scene, when does it happen and why are the characters in the scene? Examples of scenes might be:

- Going to the park to have a picnic
- Having a play date at your friend’s house
- Visiting relatives far away
- Celebrating a favorite holiday
- Preparing a meal with your family

Creative Writing
1. Fill in the words- Use the attached sheet to complete the sentences using the words in the text box.

2. Give students writing prompts to complete the sentences or begin a paragraph or story:

- My little/big brother/sister always...
- If I could have super powers, I would...
- My favorite thing to imagine is that I am...
- One thing that really scares me is...

Artistic Expression
What can you find in an attic or storage area – a strange hat, a picture frame or an old toy? Have the children bring in an item or two from their house and create something with it.

- Make a costume out of it and create a story about who they are.
- Bring in several items and create a class sculpture. Have the students give it a name and write about it.
- Create an imaginary story about something old you find at home and what it was used for.
Bibliography:
Books
Rosemary Wells is the creator of dozens of award-winning books for children. In addition to favorites such as Timothy Goes to School and Noisy Nora, she has written and illustrated all of the books in the Max & Ruby series, including:
- Max & Ruby’s Busy Week
- Bunny Party
- Max’s ABC
  And many more!

Look for these new titles in September 2007!
- Ruby’s Falling Leaves
- Max & Ruby’s Winter Adventure
- Max & Ruby’s Christmas Tree

Internet:
Learn about author Rosemary Wells at www.rosemarywells.com

Check local television listings, play games, print out coloring pages, make snacks and send cards from the Max & Ruby site of Nick Jr. www.nickjr.com/shows/max_ruby/index/itml

Purchase Max and Ruby books from Penguin Young Readers! Visit www.penguin.com/maxandruby for a complete list of Max & Ruby titles.

Purchase Max and Ruby Games, Music/Video/DVDs, Toys and other themed merchandise at Ty’s Tox Box: www.tystoybox.com/2200/13205/13205/1

Fun with Words Answer Key:

Part One (Fill in the Blanks):
Fall
Leaves
Maple
Wheelbarrow

Part Two (Word Search):

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STRIKE OUT

START

FINISH!

Help Max find a way to all the pins
Max & Ruby

Complete the sentences using a word from the text box:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>nap</th>
<th>frog</th>
<th>Super bunny</th>
<th>Grandma</th>
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<td>costume</td>
<td>treasure</td>
<td>cookie</td>
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1. Ruby wanted to put on a ________ for her grandmother.
2. Max wanted to catch a _________.
3. Max and Ruby went to Grandma’s to pick out a _________.
4. Ruby and her friends were ___________ scouts.
5. If Max would take a ________, Ruby could finish writing.
6. ___________ is Max’s favorite hero on the radio.
7. Ruby’s scout friends made her a ________ out of bricks.
8. Max thought they would find ____________ in the attic.
9. Max really wanted to eat a _____________.
10. ____________ really loved Max and Ruby’s play.
Use the template to create a Max puppet:
Use the template to create a Ruby puppet:
Part 1: Fill in the blanks

What season is it in this picture?  

What is Ruby collecting in her book?  

How many points are on this leaf?  

What is Max using to carry the leaves?
Part 2: Word Search

Find the following words in the word search:
Leaf, Oak, Fall, Leaves, Ruby, Max, Maple

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Look for new Max & Ruby books based on the hit TV show!
Available wherever books are sold.

Coming in September 2007:
Ruby’s Falling Leaves
Max & Ruby’s Winter Adventure
Max & Ruby’s Christmas Tree

Available wherever books are sold or visit www.penguin.com/maxandruby
Evacuation Procedures
Bowker Auditorium

Note: Interior house conditions may necessitate alternate exit routes.

Sections A - K and the Pit exit toward stage.

Sections L - U exit toward lobby.

West side exit stairwell Left.

Balconies

East side exit stairwell right.
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 **30 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 needs your help! An increasing number of students are coming into the performance space with gum, food, beverages, cell phones 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!*
School Bus Parking: Students should be dropped-off at the circle near 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 1/1/07) 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) 545-2116
- 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 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. Turn right (east) on Route 9 over the Coolidge Bridge and through Hadley. Turn left (north) on Route 116 (across from Staples) heading toward campus. Turn right (east) at first exit at “University of Massachusetts,” then 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 under “From the South”.

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. Please call the Arts & Educational Programs Office if you require permits at (413) 545-2116. 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.