



Based on the Elephant & Piggie books by Mo Willems

Published by Hyperion Books for Children

Script and Lyrics by MO WILLEMS

Music by DEBORAH WICKS LA PUMA

Children's Theatre and Performing Arts programs are supported in part by the Shubert Foundation and the Alice L. Walton Foundation.

Educator Resources

About the Show

Jump into the joy of **ELEPHANT & PIGGIE'S WE ARE IN A PLAY!** —a rollicking musical adventure straight from the pages of Mo Willems' beloved, award-winning children's books! This high-energy show features best friends Gerald the Elephant and Piggie the Pig as they navigate the ups and downs of friendship, big feelings, and unexpected surprises.

When Gerald, the thoughtful elephant who tends to worry, and Piggie, his endlessly upbeat best friend, are invited to a party by the Squirrelles—a trio of singing, dancing squirrels—their day takes a delightful and unexpected turn. Gerald's doubts and anxiety bubble up, while Piggie throws herself into the fun with fearless enthusiasm. As surprises unfold, the two navigate soaring highs, sudden hiccups, and joyful discoveries—realizing that true friendship means sticking together, even when things feel uncertain.

Brimming with toe-tapping tunes, unforgettable characters, and big belly laughs, this delightful musical invites audiences to join in the magic of live performance—with plenty of playful, interactive moments along the way. With clever storytelling and joyful energy, it's full of heart, humor, and meaningful moments that linger long after the final bow.

Running Time: 50 minutes

Recommended Age: 3 and up

Before the Show

Read

The story of the play comes from these six **ELEPHANT & PIGGIE** books with a few ideas from some other books in the series. Read all 25 books and see if you can tell which ones.

I AM INVITED TO A PARTY!

LISTEN TO MY TRUMPET!

I AM GOING!

SHOULD I SHARE MY ICE CREAM?

I LOVE MY NEW TOY!

WE ARE IN A BOOK!

Classroom Conversation

English Language Arts Standard K-5: CC.1.OL Participate in collaborative conversations.

Find character trait discussion prompts on pages 7-9 of [EP Teachers-Kit FINAL 2.pdf](#)

Share one of the suggested **ELEPHANT & PIGGIE** books and ask students to consider the choices the pair makes to determine if their actions and attitude exhibit appropriate character-building behavior.

Fine Arts Activities

Visual Arts Standard K-8: CR.2 Students will organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

Theatre Standard K-8: CR.1 Students will generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

Elephant & Piggie Paper Bag Puppets!

Find Elephant and Piggie templates and instructions on pages 19-21 of [EP Teachers-Kit FINAL 2.pdf](#)

Readers Theatre Puppet Performance!

Find instructions on page 18 of [EP Teachers-Kit FINAL 2.pdf](#)

Theatre Etiquette

Theatre Standard K-8: RE.7.2 Students will exhibit appropriate audience behavior

Watch this short video on [Theatre Etiquette](#) and discuss appropriate audience behavior and why it's important.

Using Elephant & Piggie in the Classroom

Pre-Reading, Post-Reading, and Extension Activities from PigeonPresents.com and Hyperion Books for Children in this [EP Teachers-Kit FINAL 2.pdf](#)

Social Emotional Learning

Creative Writing and Language Arts

Health

Physical Education

Math

Science

Fine Arts: Art, Music, Theatre

Social Studies and World Cultures

After the Show

Classroom Discussion

English Language Arts Standard K-5: CC.1.OL Participate in collaborative conversations.

Theatre Standard K-5: RE.7 Students will perceive and analyze artistic work.

ELEPHANT & PIGGIE'S WE ARE IN A PLAY! is a musical adaptation. An adaptation means the story was changed a bit. In a musical, parts of the story are told in song.

- Which **ELEPHANT & PIGGIE** stories did you see during the show? What is the difference between an author and a playwright? Between a book and a script?
- What were some of the things that were different between the books and the play? What were some of the things that remained the same? Why do you think the playwright made the changes they made?
- Why do you think the playwright chose to put those moments in the story into song? How did the musical numbers affect the story?

Fine Arts Activities

Visual Arts Standard K-5: CR.2 Students will organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

General Music Standard K-5: CR.1 Students will generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

Make musical instruments out of craft supplies and everyday objects. Then experiment with playing the instruments, taking turns and discussing the sounds they make. In **ELEPHANT & PIGGIE'S WE ARE IN A PLAY!**, Piggie plays her trumpet to sound like an elephant. Do any of the instruments you made sound like animals?



[5 instruments kids can make | Good Food](#)

Rubber Band Guitar

1. Place the end of the cardboard tube up against the end of the tissue box and draw around it. Carefully cut out to create a hole. Paint the cardboard tube and craft sticks and allow them to dry.
2. Remove any plastic from the tissue box and then open out and lay flat. Paint the inside and allow it to dry. Cut a piece of colored paper and stick it to the base of the tissue box (this will become the inside of the guitar).
3. Glue the box back together with the painted side on the outside and allow it to dry. Insert the cardboard tube into the hole you cut at the top, then secure it in place with tape.
4. Glue the craft sticks in place at either end of hole in the front of the box, as shown (pictured above). Allow to dry, then stretch the elastic bands around the whole box.
5. Finish with decorations of your choice – buttons, sequins, ribbon, pom-poms, etc.

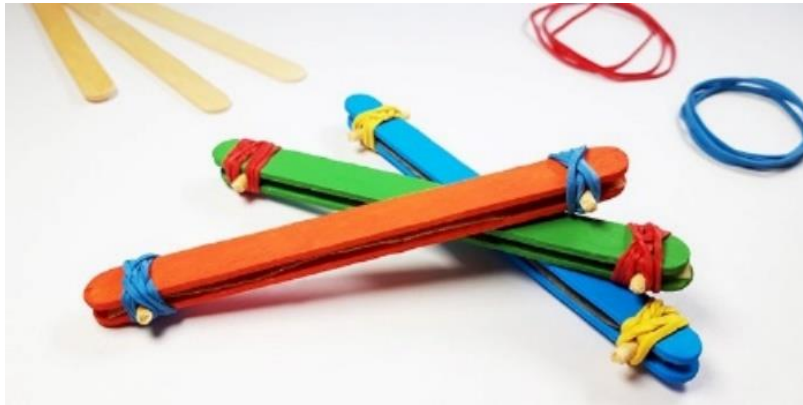


Craft Stick Harmonica

1. Paint two craft sticks on both sides and allow them to dry.
2. Cut a piece of wax paper the same width and length as the craft sticks and place between them.
3. Cut the toothpicks to about ¾ inch long and lay one vertically between the sticks and wax paper at one end. Wrap an elastic band around the craft sticks, going either side of the matchstick to secure in place.

Acrylic or poster paints
Balloons
Buttons (optional)
Colored paper
Colorful washi tape
Craft sticks
Disposable wooden spoons
Fillable plastic eggs
Glue
Long cardboard tube
Non-toxic paint
Paintbrushes
Paper straws
Pencils
Ribbon (optional)
Rubber bands of different sizes and thicknesses
Ruler
Scissors
Small pom-poms
Tape
Tin cans (no sharp edges)
Tissue box, or small cereal box with an oval hole cut in the front
Uncooked rice or dried lentils
Wax paper
Wooden toothpicks

4. To finish, repeat step 3 at the other end of the craft stick. To use, blow through the small gap between the craft sticks.



Tin Can Drum

1. Cut off the neck of the balloon. Stretch the remaining balloon over the top of the tin. Pull the sides of the balloon down so that the top is taught, and the balloon has a firm grip on the sides of the tin. It should stay in place, but you could use an elastic band or tape to keep it secure if not.
2. Glue on the decorations and allow them to dry.
3. To make a drumstick, glue a pom-pom to the end of a straw. Repeat for the second drumstick and allow it to dry. Now you're ready to bang out a rhythm!



Paper Straw Panpipes

1. Lay the straws flat on a table and decide on the lengths you'd like them to be – the larger the steps between the straws, the bigger the difference in pitch.

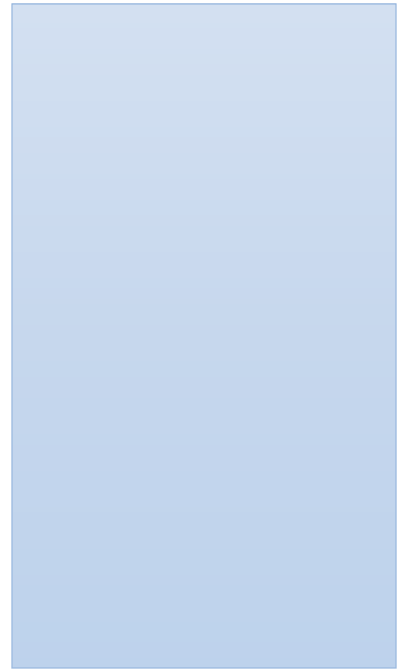
2. Mark with a pencil, then cut the straws to different lengths. Lay them out next to each other, with the top edges lined up.
3. Apply glue to the back of the craft stick and carefully place on top the straws, making sure it touches every straw. Allow to dry.
4. Finish by covering the craft stick with ribbon or washi tape, to decorate. To play, simply blow across the top of the straws.



Maracas

1. Paint the wooden spoons and allow them to dry.
2. Place a couple of spoonful of rice or dried lentils into the egg and close it.
3. Glue the spoons to either side of the egg – line up the spoons so that the handles meet at the end. Let the glue dry.
4. Stick a strip of colorful tape or ribbon over the joint of the egg. Wrap some more tape or ribbon around the handles to hold them together. Allow to dry if using glue. Your maracas are now ready to shake, rattle and roll!

Alternative: Make a simple shaker from a cardboard tube. To do this, cut a cardboard tube in half, then tape up one end. Fill with a couple of spoons of rice, then tape closed and decorate.



Meet the Author & Playwright



Mo Willems is all about letting imaginations run wild. He is the beloved artist and author behind #1 NYT bestselling and Caldecott Honors-awarded picture books like **DON'T LET THE PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS!** and the **KNUFFLE BUNNY** series as well as his celebrated **ELEPHANT & PIGGIE** early reader series, for which he's won 2 Theodor Seuss Geisel Awards, 5 Geisel Honors and an Eisner Award. Mo's title **DON'T LET THE PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS!** was the inaugural induction into the Picture Book Hall of Fame. Mo has published more than 70 children's books — more than 50 of them NYT bestselling titles — with over 26 foreign language translations. In addition to his Caldecott Honors, he garnered 6 Emmy Awards for his writing on Sesame Street, where he began his remarkable career. Mo also has created 3 television specials, 6 animated series, 7 musical adaptations, 5 licensed theater productions and 3 touring exhibits. Mo loves playing in new sandboxes. He regularly collaborates with other globally renowned artists and organizations to create bright and innovative new works in the worlds of classical music, opera, comedy concerts, dance, painting, and digital content. Mo's art has been exhibited around the world, including in major solo retrospectives at the High Museum of Art in Atlanta and The New York Historical in NYC. Over the last decade, he has become the most produced playwright of Theatre for Young Audiences in the U.S., having written or co-written four musicals based on his books. In 2023, Mo co-founded the Hidden Pigeon Company to extend the reach of his beloved characters and stories across multiple platforms. Mo Willems is a former child. [Mo Willems | Music Theatre International](#)

Meet the Composer

A composer, music director and orchestrator, Deborah Wicks La Puma is one of the most produced Theatre for Young Audiences artists working today. Some of her most popular musicals include **ELLA ENCHANTED** (based on the book by Gail Carson Levine), **OLIVERIO: A BRAZILIAN TWIST**, and **EINSTEIN IS A DUMMY** with playwright Karen Zacarías, and the off-broadway hit **SHE PERSISTED** (based on the book by Chelsea Clinton) with playwright Adam Tobin.



Deborah has created three musicals with bestselling children's author Mo Willems: **ELEPHANT & PIGGIE'S WE ARE IN A PLAY**; **NAKED MOLE RAT GETS DRESSED: THE ROCK EXPERIENCE** and **DON'T LET THE PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS: THE MUSICAL**. On the small screen, she has worked with Willems on the adaptation of **NAKED MOLE RAT GETS DRESSED: THE UNDERGROUND ROCK EXPERIENCE** (released 2022 on HBOmax), and the upcoming animated series **UNLIMITED SQUIRRELS**.

As a music director and orchestrator she has worked with major regional theatre companies across the country, including the Guthrie, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, South Coast Repertory, La Jolla Playhouse and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

She received her MFA from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, and her bachelor's degree from Stanford University. Her honors include the Harold Oaks Award for Sustained Excellence in TYA, an Off-Broadway Alliance Award for Best Family Musical, the Jane Chambers Playwriting Award, an NEA New American Works Grant, two Parents' Choice Awards, and a Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Musical Adaptation.

[Deborah Wicks La Puma | Music Theatre International](#)

Additional Reading

If your students enjoyed **ELEPHANT & PIGGIE'S WE ARE IN A PLAY!**, check out these books by Mo Willems at your school or local library.

DON'T LET THE PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS!

KNUFFLE BUNNY: A CAUTIONARY TALE

LEONARDO, THE TERRIBLE MONSTER

Additional Resources

[EandP-pigday-eventkit.pdf](#)

[EP Teachers-Kit FINAL 2.pdf](#)

Script Library

The Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts has written and produced original, high-quality Children's Theatre productions for over 45 years. If you are looking to produce a new play for a school, group, or theater, AMFA licenses scripts from a selection of original and adapted plays in our archive.

Check us out at this link! [Script Library | Performing Arts | AMFA](#)