



By Allison Gregory

Adapted from the book by Barbara Park

Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.

(www.playscripts.com)

Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells! was commissioned
by and presented in a World Premiere at Childsplay, Inc., Tempe, Arizona

Davis Saar,
Artistic Director

Steven Martin
Managing Director

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and Greg Feltus.

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Walton Foundation.

Educator Resources

About the Show

Laugh and learn with Junie B. Jones this holiday season! This hilarious and heartwarming tale, based on Barbara Park's best-selling book series, is a festive treat for all! Tattletale May is constantly spoiling Junie B.'s fun. Junie hatches the perfect plan to teach her a lesson when she draws May's name for Secret Santa, but as her first-grade teacher, Mr. Scary advises, "The holidays are the time of year that we spread peace and goodwill." Junie B. has a tough choice to make — keep the best gift for herself or discover the joy of giving.

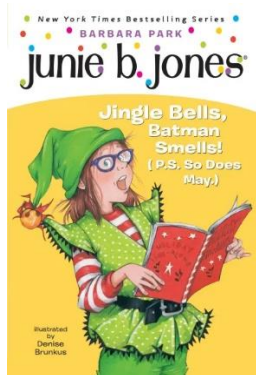
Like many children, Junie B. struggles with resolving her conflicts peacefully and taking others' perspectives. Through her hilarious antics, young audiences explore meaningful lessons about friendship, empathy, and the true spirit of the season in this AMFA Children's Theatre production!

Running Time: 65 minutes

Recommended Age: 5 and up

Before the Show

Read the Book



Pre-Reading Activities

At holiday time, people often give and receive gifts.

Begin by talking with your students about the act of gift-giving. Write the words "giver" and "receiver" on the board and have students brainstorm what makes a good giver and receiver.

How do you choose a present for someone? How can you show someone that you appreciate their present? What should you not do when you get a gift? Is it possible to be a bad giver? How?

[EducatorsGuide_JunieBJones_Book25.pdf](#)

Class Discussion

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

Use these discussion prompts after reading the book to help make connections between the book and student's lives. You can discuss these as a class, in small groups, or use them as journal prompts.

- Junie B. has a hard time following the rules. There are times that she does follow the rules even when she doesn't want to. What tricks do you use to help yourself follow rules?
- Junie B.'s school has a tradition of Secret Santas. What are some other holiday traditions? What's your favorite holiday tradition and why?

Theatre Etiquette

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

Watch this short video on [Theatre Etiquette](#)

Discuss appropriate audience behavior and why it's important.

Art Activity

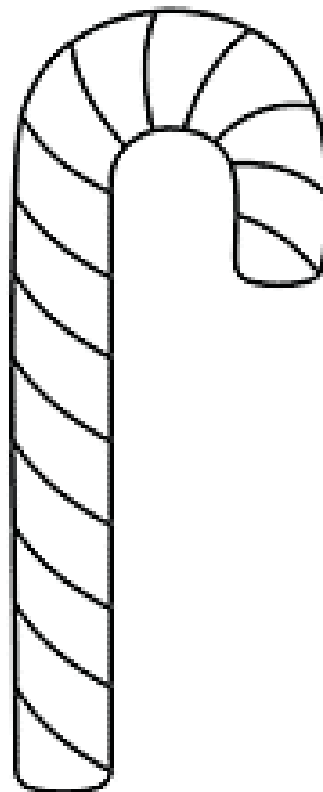
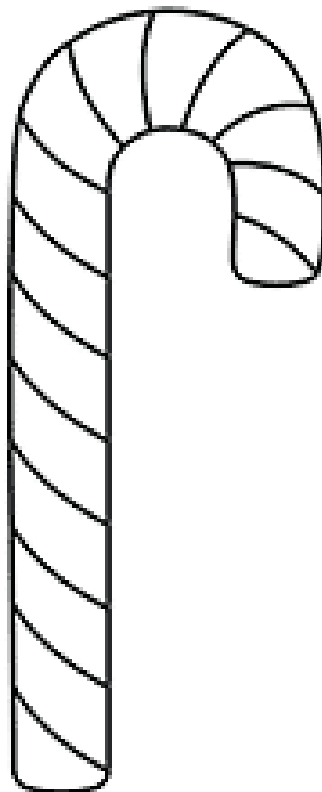
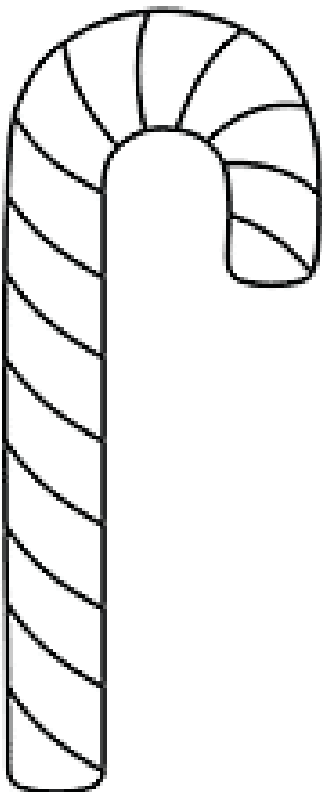
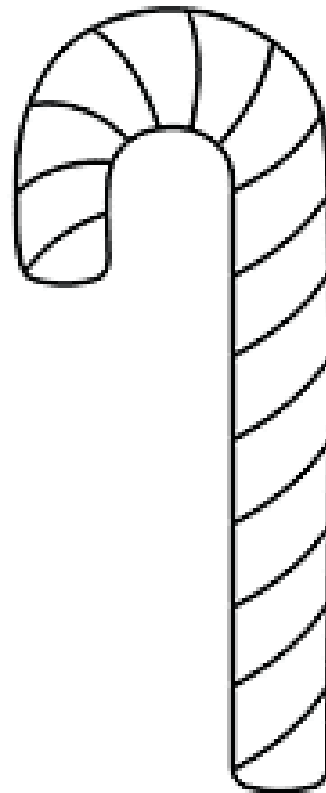
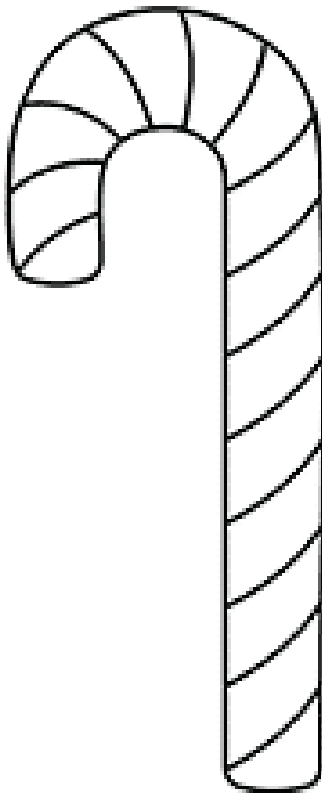
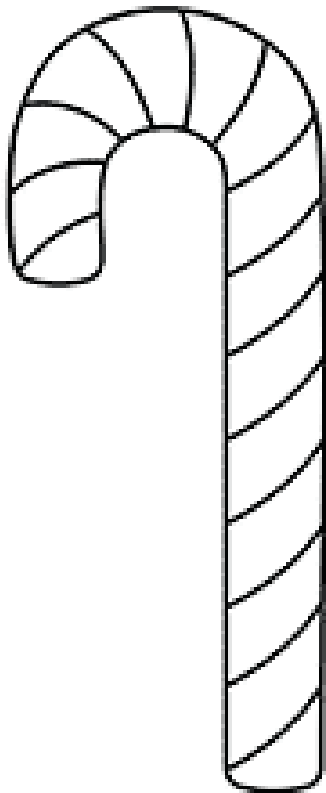
In Room One, all the students have candy cane garlands decorating their desks. Have students create their own garlands by cutting out candy cane shapes and coloring them.

Materials

Candy cane handout
Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
Scissors
Yarn or string
Single hole punch
Tape

1. Color candy cane shapes
2. Cut out candy cane shapes
3. Punch hole in top of candy canes
4. Slide on yarn or sting
5. Tape it around desk

"Who says all candy canes have to be red and white is what I want to know!" – Junie B. Jones



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.

JUNIE B. IN JINGLE BELLS, BATMAN SMELLS! is an adaptation by playwright Allison Gregory of the book **JUNIE B. FIRST GRADER: JINGLE BELLS, BATMAN SMELLS! (P.S. SO DOES MAY)** by author Barbara Parks.

- 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 book and the play? What were some of the things that remained the same? Why do you think the playwright made the changes they made?

Use these discussion prompts after seeing the show to think critically about the themes from the show. You can discuss these as a class, in small groups, or use them as journal prompts.

- At the end of the play, Junie B. has to make a very important choice. What does she decide and why do you think she chose to do what she did?
- At the end of the play, we get the feeling that May and Junie B. might actually get along and be friends. What happened in the story to help us believe this? Do you think they'll become friends or do you think they'll fight again? Why?
- What kinds of school performances have you been in? How did you feel before the performance? After?

Writing Activities

English Language Arts Standard K-5: W.4.P Produce writing using precise language and grade-appropriate conventions.

My Own Personal Beeswax Journal Prompts

In Room One, Mr. Scary has his students write in a daily journal. They are allowed to write about anything they want, as long as they write every day.

Journal keeping promotes communication skills, and has been used by presidents, kings, queens, explorers, inventors, artists, movie stars, and rock legends to record their thoughts and feelings about their lives. Use these journal prompts after seeing the show to connect themes from the show to the students' lives.

- Write about a time that you had to perform in front of people. How did you feel? Did things go as rehearsed?
- Junie B.'s favorite toy is Philip Johnny Bob. Write about a favorite toy. Do you talk to your toy?
- Write about the best present you ever gave to someone. How did it make them feel? What about the best present you ever received. How did it make you feel?

Music Activities

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

Crazy Carol Sing-Along

Junie B. Jones changes the words to the song *Jingle Bells*. Start by having students brainstorm as many holiday songs as they can think of. Review the lyrics to the songs as needed. Then divide your students into small groups and have each group choose one of the songs from the list. Have the groups change the words to their chosen song. It could become a silly song about what happens when a family gets into a snowball fight or even a song about your class! Be sure to keep the song positive and appropriate!



Art Activities

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

Portrait of an Imaginary Friend



Junie B. has an imaginary friend in Philip Johnny Bob. He is a stuffed elephant who lives in Junie B.'s room and gives her advice. Using colored pencils or crayons, and a large sheet of paper, create a portrait of your very own imaginary friend complete with name, age, and a description of his/her personality. What kind of advice would your imaginary friend give you? Share with the class.

Meet the Author



Barbara Park was best-known as the creator and author of the *New York Times* bestselling Junie B. Jones series. Barbara won more than 40 children's book awards, including several Children's Choice Awards. Barbara Park was born in Mount Holly, New Jersey, on April 21, 1947, and spent most of her adult life in Arizona. There she, with her husband, Richard, raised her two sons and spent time with her two young grandsons. Park died on November 15, 2013, after fighting ovarian cancer heroically for seven and a half years.

[Barbara Park | Penguin Random House](#)

Photo: © Pamela Tidswell

Meet the Playwright

Allison Gregory's plays for young audiences are produced widely across the country and include *Go Dog. Go!*, adapted from the P.D. Eastman book and co-written with Steven Dietz; *Ronia, the Robber's Daughter*, adapted from the Astrid Lindgren novel; *Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!*; *Junie B. is Not A Crook*; and *Junie B., Toothless Wonder*—adapted from the beloved book series by Barbara Park; and a contemporary reimagining of *Red Riding Hood*. Allison has been recognized by TYA USA as “One of the ten Most Produced TYA Playwrights.” allisongregoryplays.com

[Allison Gregory | Playscripts, Inc.](#)



Additional Reading

If your students enjoyed **JUNIE B. IN JINGLE BELLS, BATMAN SMELLS!**, check out these books at your school or local library.

JUNIE B., FIRST GRADER (AT LAST!) by Barbara Park

RAMONA QUIMBY: AGE 8 by Beverly Cleary

NATE THE GREAT AND THE MONSTER MESS by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat

FIRST GRADE HERE I COME by Nancy Carlson

IVY AND BEAN by Annie Barrows

Additional Resources

[RHCB JunieBJones Activities 2024.pdf](#)

www.teachingbooks.net/content/interviews/BPark_qu.pdf

<http://journalbuddies.com>

Script Library

The Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts has written and produced original, high-quality Children's Theatre productions for over 40 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](#)