



THEATRE IV
Classroom
Connections

Stuart Little

by Joseph Robinette • based on the book by E.B. White

Teacher Resources



In the Classroom

Theatre IV's *Stuart Little* and the Classroom Connections Study Guide are produced in support of states' standards, as well as those set by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) for students in grades K - 5.



At the Library

Stuart Little
Charlotte's Web
The Trumpet of the Swan
by **E.B. White**

In 1970, E.B. White was awarded the **Laura Ingalls Wilder Medal**. The award honors an author or illustrator whose books have made an important and lasting contribution to literature for children. Other authors who have received this award are **Dr. Seuss**, **Maurice Sendak** and **Marcia Brown**.



On The Web

The following websites have activities and information related to E.B. White and *Stuart Little*:

<http://oncampus.richmond.edu/academics/education/projects/webquests/machines/>

www.factmonster.com/spot/stuartlittle1.html

www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000803.shtml

www.eduplace.com/kids/tnc/mtai/white.html

<http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/white.htm>



Play Synopsis:

From the loving heart of **E. B. White**, author of *Charlotte's Web*, comes this merry musical from Theatre IV about a noble mouse who jumps headlong into adventures big enough to match any imagination. The play brings to life this fantasy classic where Stuart, a mouse, is born into the Little family. Although he is quite different than other members of the family, Stuart is loved by all - except perhaps Snowbell, the family cat. Stuart's adventures include getting caught in a window shade, sailing a boat, making friends, and embarking on a journey of a lifetime. By turns funny, tender and exciting, *Stuart Little* mixes gorgeous child-size puppets with live actors to work theatrical magic.

About E.B. White:

The author Elwyn Brooks (E.B.) White was born in 1899 in Mount Vernon, New York. After college, he worked as a reporter, and in 1927 he became a writer for *The New Yorker* magazine; later he wrote a column for *Harper's* magazine. Even though E.B. White was already a successful writer, he wanted to try something new. He decided to write stories for the children in his family. In 1945 he started publishing these stories as books. In addition to *Stuart Little*, he wrote *Trumpet of the Swan* and *Charlotte's Web*. Today these three books are considered classics of American Children's Literature.

"We Set the Stage for Learning" Theatre IV, Richmond, VA.



You can do it!

Make a Book:

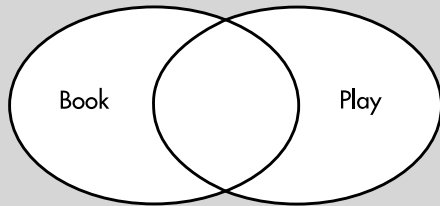
Illustrate the following pages and fill in the page numbers. Put the pages in order.

Illustrate a cover for your book and make a title page including the title of the book and the author (you!). Add a page for your favorite part of the story!



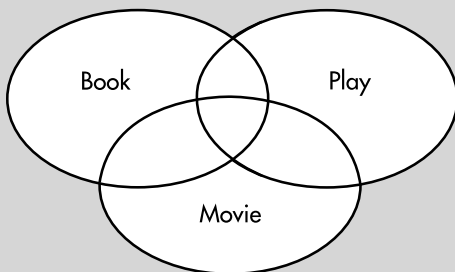
Easy Activity

Read the book *Stuart Little*. Then compare the book and the play. Use a diagram to show what is alike and what is different.



Challenge Activity

Watch the movie, *Stuart Little*, and diagram what is alike and different about the three versions of the same story.



Stuart's Journey



By: _____

Stuart meets a bird named Margalo.



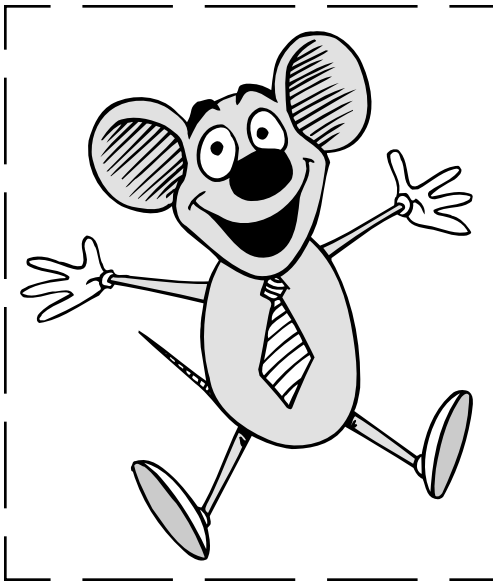
Stuart sails a boat.

Stuart comes to live with the Little family.



Stuart gets stuck in the window shade.

Measuring in "Stuarts"



Cut out this 3 inch picture of Stuart Little to measure objects in your classroom or at home. Classify objects as "Taller Than" or "Shorter Than" Stuart Little

How do you measure Up?

With a friend's help, measure how many "Stuarts" tall you are. Circle the right number:

I am...

- 14 15 16 17 18**
19 20 21 22

"Stuarts" tall.

Sizing Things Up:

Stuart Little's size both helps him and gets in his way. There are certain things Stuart can do because of his size - like sail a model boat. There are also certain things Stuart cannot do because of his size - like get out when he gets trapped in the window shade.

Make a list of things that you can do because of your size and things that you cannot do because of your size.

Challenge Activity:

If a "Stuart" is 3 inches tall, how many Stuarts long is a 12 inch ruler? A 48 inch table? A 60 inch tall person?

Extra Challenge:

If Snowbell the cat is eighteen times Stuart's size, how big is Snowbell (in inches)? How big is Snowbell (in feet)?



Imagine that you are 3-inches tall like me! What would you do that you can't do now?

Write a letter describing an adventure you might have if you were three inches tall.



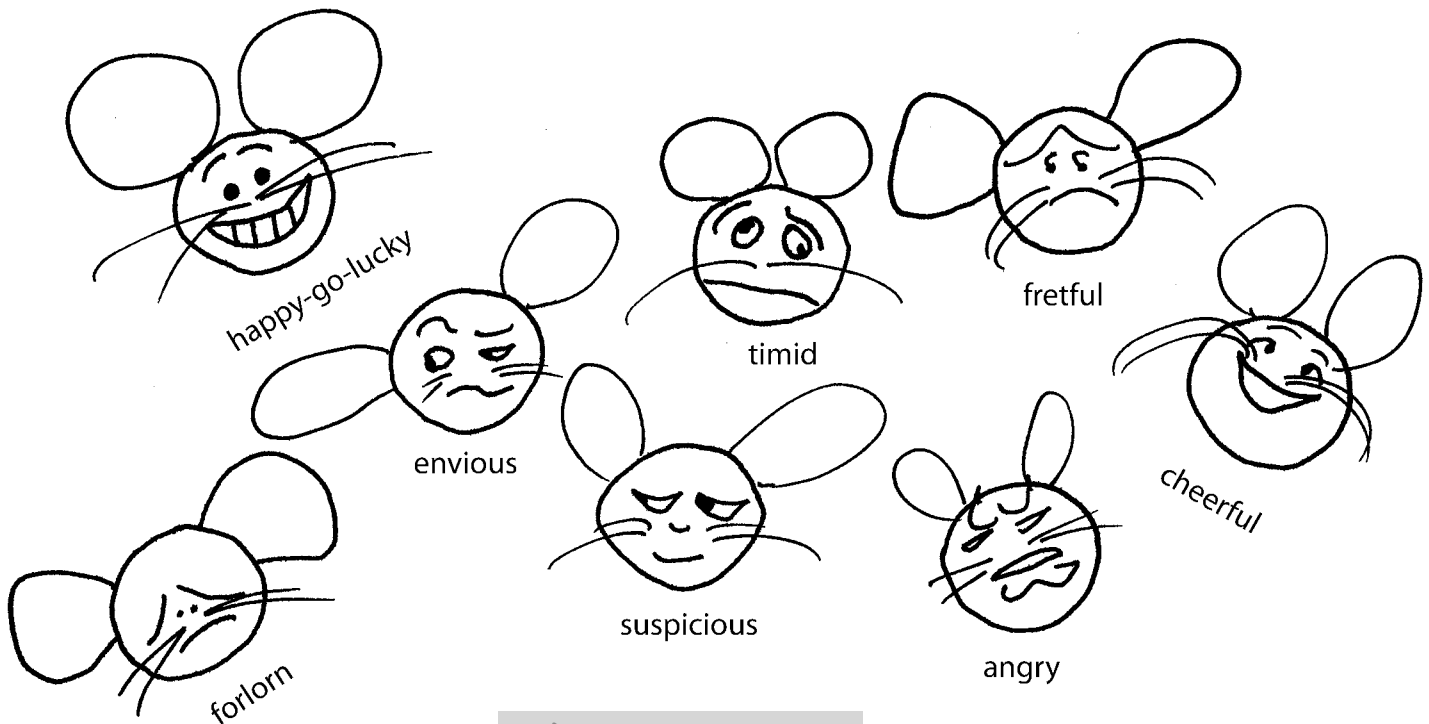
Challenge Activity

Which character traits best describe Stuart Little? Cross off those that do not. Then, in the space provided, define the two terms that you think best describe Stuart's character in the play.

What a Mouse!

Trait #1: _____

Trait #2: _____



The play *Stuart Little* is based on the book *Stuart Little* by E.B. White. The book and the play are alike in many ways. The **characters** include Stuart, George, Mrs. Little, and Mr. Little. Both are **set** in New York City, and both include these **events** which make up the **plot**: Stuart meets Margalo. Stuart sails his boat. Stuart travels to find Margalo.



Easy Activity

Who's Who?

Fill in the blanks using the word list...

author: A person who _____ a book.

illustrator: A person who creates _____ for a book.

characters: The _____ in the story.

setting: _____ the story occurs.

When and where

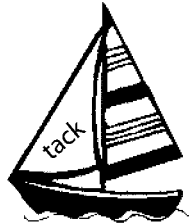
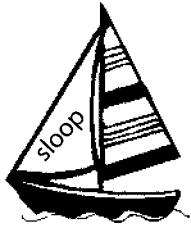
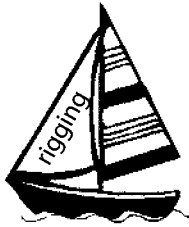
pictures

writes

people or animals

Captain Stuart's Lingo

Use a dictionary to define the sailing terms below.



Dictionary Tip

To look up words in the dictionary, use **Guide Words**. **Guide Words** appear at the top of each dictionary page. They are alphabetically arranged (in ABC order) and are the first and last words to appear on that page.



Challenge Activity

In the play, Stuart and Dr. Carey talk about another sailor. Here is a part of what they said:

Dr. Carey: Why he doesn't know a *squall* from a *squid*.

Stuart: Or a *jib* from a *jibel*!

Dr. Carey: Or a *luff* from a *leech*!

Stuart: Or a *deck* from a *dock*!

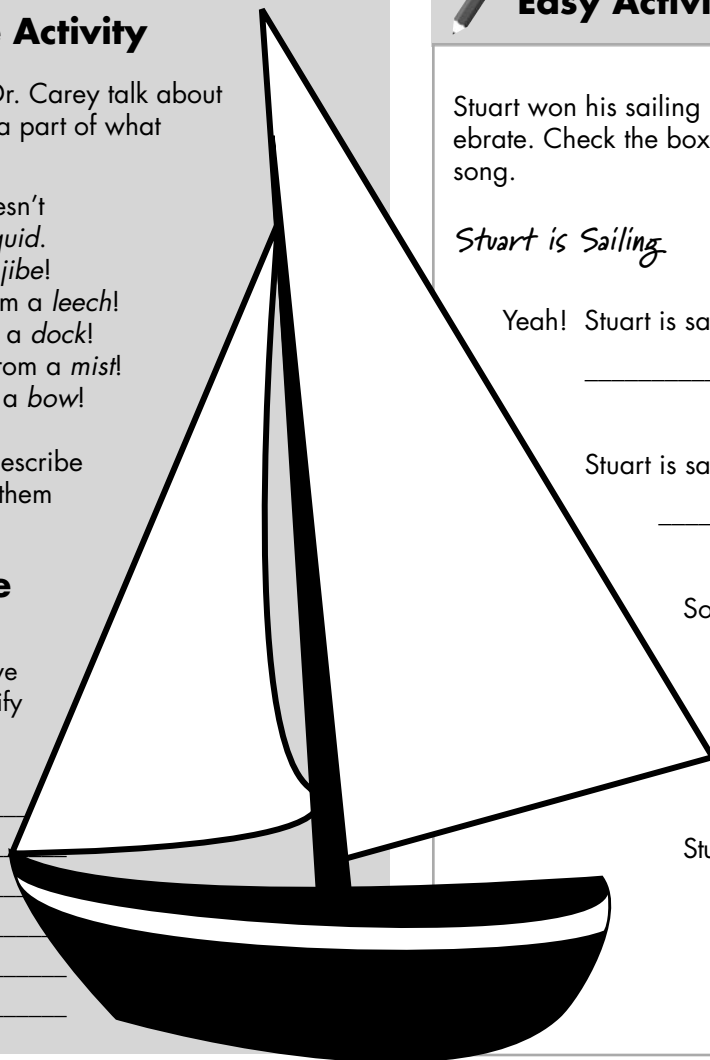
Dr. Carey: Or a *mast* from a *mist*!

Stuart: Or a *bow* from a *bowl*!

Which of these words describe parts of a boat? Write them in the boat to the right.

Extra Challenge

Two of these words are spelled the same, but have different meanings. Identify these words, and record their meanings.



Easy Activity

Stuart won his sailing race! Help compose a song to celebrate. Check the box with the correct words to finish the song.

Stuart is Sailing

Yeah! Stuart is sailing one of the boats. See how it _____? floats car

Stuart is sailing along. He's even whistling a _____! flute song

So glad we found him, yes indeed!
It really was a very great _____.
 park deed

So on we sail, we'll never forget.
Stuart's the best mouse we've ever ____!
 met cat



THEATRE IV

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Richmond, VA 23220
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www.theatreiv.org

Theatre IV Presents...

Stuart Little
by Joseph Robinette
Based on the book
by E.B. White.

Theatre IV...

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"We Set the Stage for Learning"
Theatre IV, Richmond, VA.

More Teacher Resources...

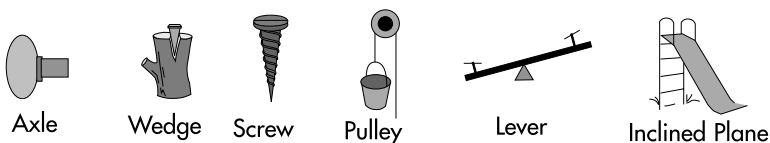
Additional Core Curriculum Activities

Social Studies

- Gr. K When Stuart substitutes, he talks to students about **good rules**. They came up with: No swiping anything, No being mean, and No hurting feelings. Can you add to their list? What makes a rule good?
- Gr. 1 During Stuart's journey, he asks a repairman which direction he should travel. **Create a map** of the classroom, labeling North, South, East, and West. Discuss the importance of knowing directions when traveling.
- Gr. 2 Discuss the **difference between urban, suburban, and rural areas**. Classify the settings in the play according to urban, suburban, and rural. Elicit ideas about urban, suburban, and rural areas in your state.
- Gr. 3 In *Margalo's Song*, she describes "fields once tall with wheat, ... pastures deep in fern and thistle, ... [and] vales of meadowsweet." **Describe and illustrate** the type of region Margalo might have come from.
- Gr. 4/5 Stuart lives in New York City, NY. Based on the places in the play, including Central Park with its sailboat pond, Stuart's house, Dr. Carey's office, and the alley where the cats live, **create a map of Stuart's world**. Be sure your map includes a title, compass rose, and a legend, or a key, of symbols used. You may make up street names and other locations on your map. Extension: view an online map of NYC and look for patterns in the way that streets are named and organized.

Science

- Gr. K/1 **Design a simple sink/float experiment** to discover what materials float and what materials sink. Suggestions include fabric, Styrofoam, plastic, wood, metal, glass (i.e., a marble), and paper. Ask students to classify objects they think will sink and float (hypothesis), and then test those objects and record observations. What materials would be best for Stuart's next boat?
- Gr. 2 What type of weather is necessary for Stuart to sail his boat? **Discuss wind energy**. What are the pro's and con's of relying on wind? Using a straw to blow through and a model sailboat, simulate the way wind acts on the sails to push the boat forward. Record your observations and sketch the sailboat, including vectors to represent wind direction.
- Gr. 3/4 Mrs. Little made Stuart a pair of ice skates using just paper clips! **Review simple machines**, using the following web resource: <http://sln.fi.edu/qa97/spotlight3/spotlight3.html> (also refer to the diagrams below). How could you use everyday objects to make Stuart-sized things (such as a toothbrush, a sliding board, a baseball bat, or even a Stuart-cycle that he could ride on his journey to find Margalo)?



- Gr. 5 Stuart, despite his amazing abilities, is a mouse. **Research mice and their habitats**. What do mice need to survive? Where do they live, and where are they in the food chain? What animals prey on mice? What do mice eat? As a class, create an informational poster about mice and their habitats.