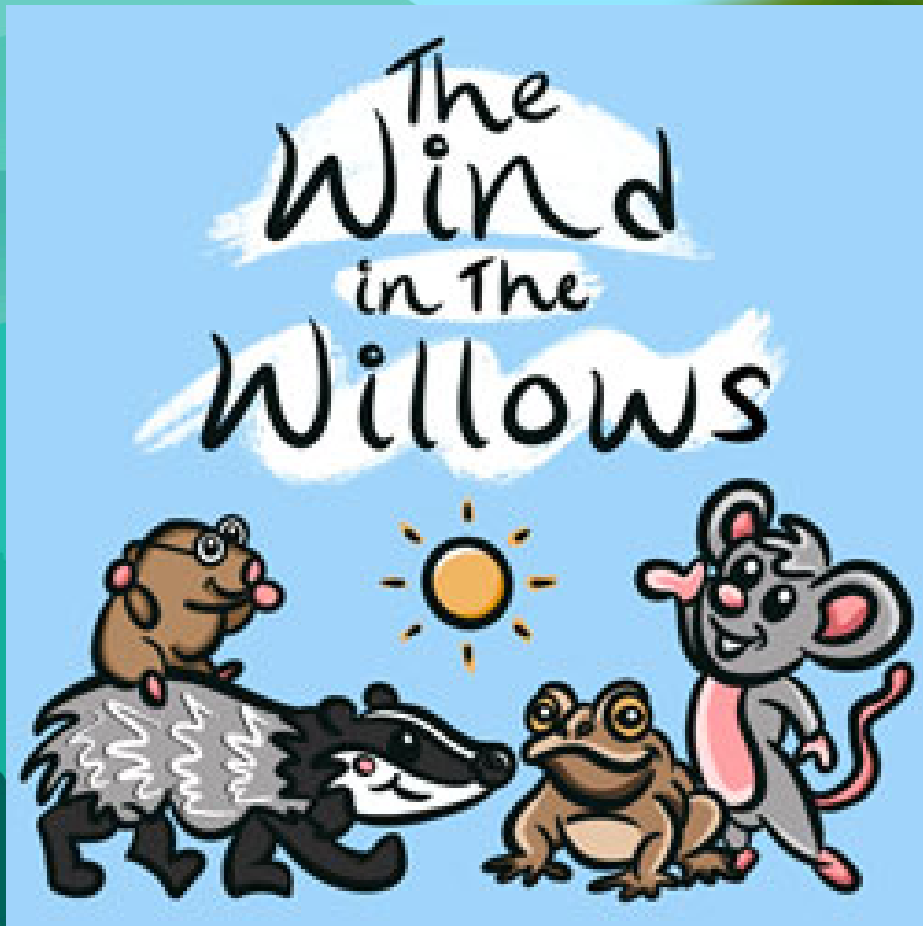




FOUNDED 1809

# WALNUT STREET THEATRE

## EDUCATION



# STUDY GUIDE

Walnut Street Theatre Touring  
Outreach 2025



# Show Synopsis

In a whimsical adventure, Toad, Rat, Mole, and Badger learn that by working together and respecting nature, they can protect their beautiful home from harm and keep it thriving for all to enjoy.

## Discussion Questions

### Pre-show

- What is your favorite part about being outside?
- What are some things you do to help protect the Earth?
- Have you ever had an adventure with your friends? What did you do? How was it similar to what you think might happen in the play?

### Post-show

- What do you think about Toad's changes throughout the story? What does it mean to learn from our mistakes?
- If you could have a day of adventure with one of the characters, who would it be and what would you do?
- What else would you like to explore about nature?

## Theatre 101

**PLAYWRIGHT:** The person who writes the script.

**DIRECTOR:** The person in charge of orchestrating the entirety of the production. They lead the actors, designers, and production crew to put the show on its feet.

**COSTUMES:** What the actors wear during the show.

**SCENERY:** Everything on stage (except props) used to represent the setting, or the place in which the story is occurring.

**PROPS:** All physical items on stage with the exception of the scenery. This includes lamps, chairs, pens, paper, books, and more!

**LIGHTS:** Stage lights illuminate the actors so that they look their best. The colors used, focus of the light, and amount of lighting sets the mood and environment of a scene.

**SOUND:** Everything you hear during a performance that doesn't come from the actors.

**ACTORS:** The actors are the people that perform the show on-stage.

**AUDIENCE:** The lucky people that get to watch the show!

## Audience Rules

- **Be a Good Audience:** Keep quiet—no talking, sleeping, or poking your neighbor. The actors can see and hear you, so let's not distract them!
- **Leave Gadgets at Home:** No phones, cameras, or tablets during the show. They might distract everyone.
- **React at the Right Time:** Laugh, clap, and cry when it feels right. And don't forget to give a big clap at the end!
- **Stay in Your Seat:** Stay seated throughout the show. It helps everyone see and enjoy.
- **Bathroom Before the Show:** Visit the bathroom before the performance starts.

# Activity: SoundScape

- **Gather 'Round:** Everyone stand in a big circle!
- **Pick a Theme:** Let's choose a fun theme for our sounds! Examples: magical forest, a busy city, space
- **Start the Beat:** One brave person starts with a simple sound, like "stomp, stomp, stomp, stomp" or "clap, clap, clap, clap." Let's get the rhythm going!
- **Add Your Sound:** One by one, each person adds their own sound that fits our theme. if the theme is space maybe you say "beep, boop, beep, boop" like the buttons of a rocket ship. Remember to keep it in rhythm!
- **Move with It:** Make your sound extra special with a fun movement! If you say "whoooooosh," you could swing your arms like you're flying through the air!
- **Keep It Going:** Once everyone has added their sound and movement, let's keep the groove alive until the last person goes!
- **Have a Blast!** Enjoy making your magical machine of sounds and movements together! Let's make some awesome noise!

## Discussion Activity:

- How did the characters show they cared for the Earth? Can you think of similar ways we can help our environment?
- How do the characters show teamwork when they face challenges? Why is teamwork important?
- How do you feel when you see beautiful trees, flowers, or animals? What can we do to keep them safe?
- Why is it important to be nice to nature and to each other?

# Bring The Show To Life

Before diving into the scene below, talk with your class about the different elements in a play. What is the setting of the scene? What is the conflict? What props could they use to help tell the story?

## Sample Scene Questions

Why do you think Toad is so dramatic about his motorcar?  
How would you react if something you loved was ruined?

What do Rat, Mole, and Badger want Toad to understand about his actions?

How do each of the characters move their bodies differently from one another?  
(Think about what kind of animals they are)

What background sounds or actions could you incorporate to enhance the "poop poop" sound effect?

## Building a Character

Actors build a character by pretending to be someone or something else. The following things help actors portray the character to the best of their ability.

Physical Movement

Objective: What they want!

Character voice

Obstacle: What is in their way?

# Sample Scene

Words in parenthesis are not read out loud! They describe the action of the scene!  
Characters names seperated by a / means they speak at the same time.

**RAT/MOLE/BADGER:** Mr. Toad?!

**TOAD:** What happened? Where am I?

**BADGER:** You're in the meadow, and you very nearly killed us all, that's what happened!

**TOAD:** Who, me?

**RAT/MOLE/BADGER:** Yes, you!

**MOLE:** Toad, you're the one who's been tearing through the meadow?!

**TOAD:** Oh, old friends! *(He pulls them into a group hug against their will.)* Wait until you see my new-- *(He looks over and sees it in a heap.)* MOTORCAR! Oh, my motorcar! It's ruined! *(He starts wailing dramatically.)* It's gooone! It was so beautiful, and now it's goooooone! I loved it! It went "poop poop" when I drove it, and now it's smashed in a million pieces!

**RAT:** Where did you even get a motorcar? I thought you were excited about horses!

**MOLE:** I thought you were excited about bicycles!

**BADGER:** I thought you were excited about carriages!

**TOAD:** Nooo, I'm bored with horses! I'm bored with bicycles! I'm bored with carriages! I only like motorcars now! And now I've crashed it! *(He sobs dramatically.)* This is the third motorcar I've crashed this week!

**RAT:** You crashed three cars this week?!

**TOAD:** Yes, well, it was icy earlier in the week! But I thought today, the first day of spring, would be different. But it turns out it wasn't the ice spinning my car around, it was just my terrible driving. Oh well, it's no problem. I'm very rich, I can buy as many motorcars as I want.

**MOLE:** But Toady, it is a problem! That's very dangerous! You could hurt yourself! Or someone else!

**BADGER:** I'm not sad at all to see this car in a heap. There will be no more motorcars for you!

**TOAD:** Oh, there will be plenty more motorcars for me. In fact, I'm having a new one delivered tomorrow!

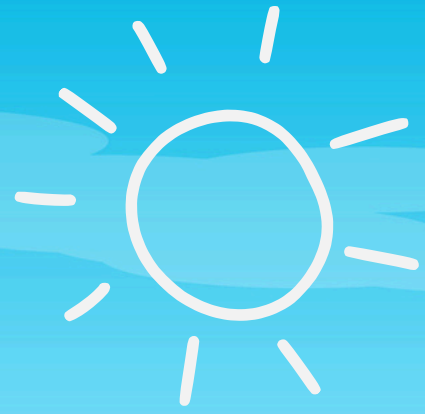
**RAT/MOLE/BADGER:** Tomorrow?!

**TOAD:** Oh, yes! It's even bigger than this one! Get ready for "POOP POOP!" Anyway, ta-ta, old friends!

# Adventure

An exciting journey or experience where you try new things and explore. It can be fun and sometimes a little risky, like going on a treasure hunt or discovering a new place!

# Reference Sheet



## Respect

Treating others and the world around you kindly and fairly. It means listening, being nice, and understanding that everyone and everything has value.

## Harmony

A state where everything works well together and feels balanced. It's like when different animals in a forest live happily side by side, or when friends get along and support each other.

## About our earth...

**Home Sweet Home:** Earth is the only planet known to have life, making it our unique and special home in the universe!

**Breathe Easy:** Trees and plants on Earth produce oxygen, which we need to breathe. One large tree can provide enough oxygen for two people!

**Speedy Spin:** Earth spins on its axis at about 1,000 miles per hour, but we don't feel it because we're moving with it!

**Living Planet:** Earth is home to an estimated 8.7 million species of plants and animals, many of which are still undiscovered!

**Growing Green:** The Amazon Rainforest produces 20% of the world's oxygen and is often called the "lungs of the Earth."

**Earth's Age:** Earth is about 4.5 billion years old! That's older than the dinosaurs, who lived around 65 million years ago.

## Little Actions for a Big Impact

Plant  
Trees

Save  
Water

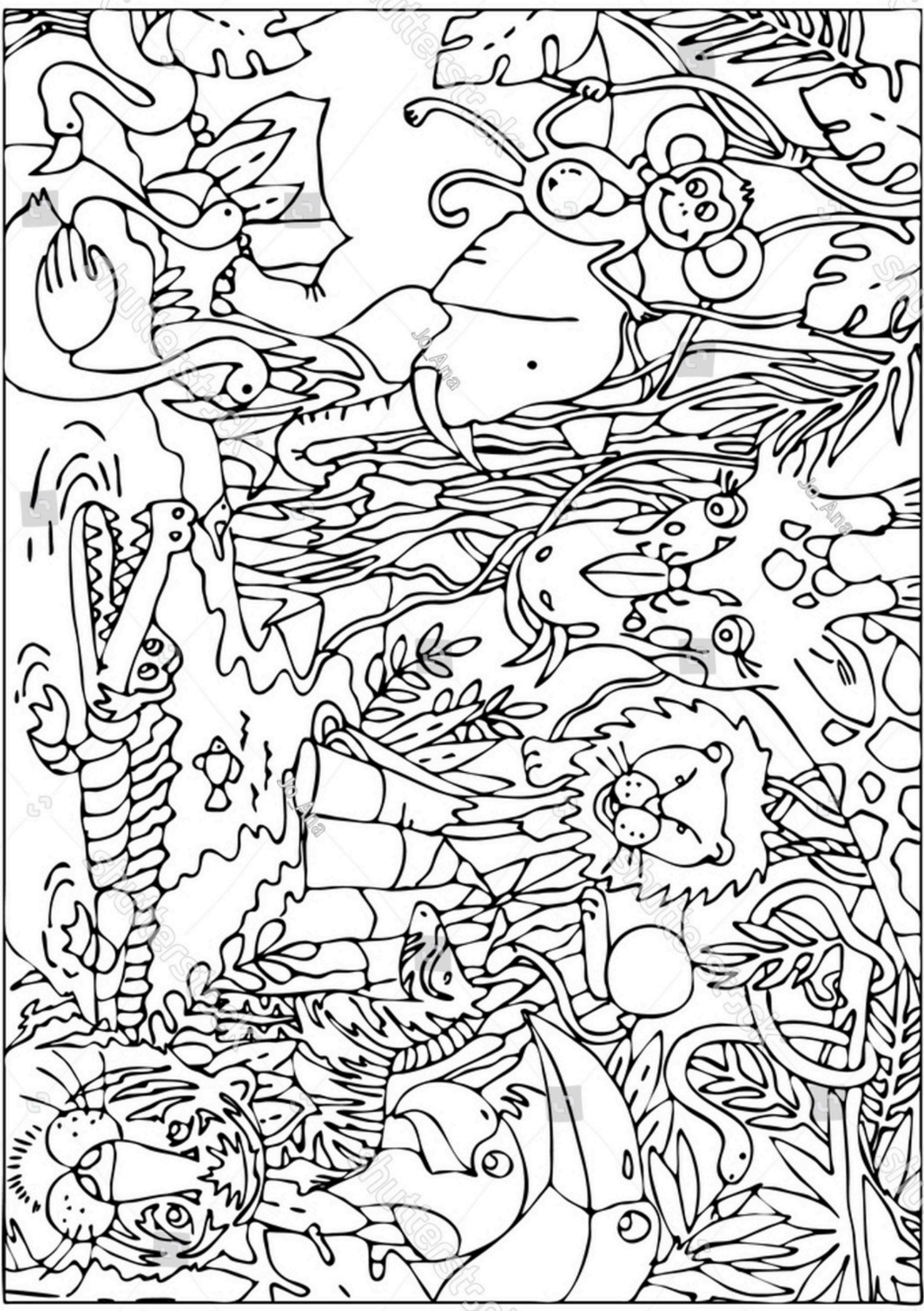
Support  
Wildlife

Pick up  
Litter

Recycle



Worksheet: Look closely at the picture and use bright colors to bring the hidden animals to life!



How many people  
does it take to put  
on a show?

## Production Team:

Director:

**Brian Kurtas**

Stage Manager:

**Maya Chester-Ziv**

Assistant Stage Manager:

**Devon Duffy**

Props:

**Kelly Devlin**

Costumes:

**Adriana Soto Ruiz**

Written by:

**Jenny Stafford**

Adapted from:

the Novel by **Kenneth Grahame**

## Cast:

**Toad:** Joey B. Williams

**Rat:** Lindsey McCue

**Mole:** Briana Myers

**Badger:** Isaac Ripley

11 people helped  
create this show  
for you!





# WALNUT STREET THEATRE

## EDUCATION

Walnut Street Theatre has the unique distinction of being the oldest, continuously operating theatre in the English-speaking world, having served Philadelphia audiences for over 210 years! Due to the direction of Producing Artistic Director Bernard Havard, Walnut Street Theatre has been a self-producing, non-profit theatre company for over 30 seasons. Walnut Street Theatre continues to entertain and enlighten diverse audiences with high quality theatrical programming. With more than 50,000 subscribers, the Walnut is also the most-subscribed theatre company in the world! Last season, 172,000 children and adults were impacted by the Walnut's Education Programs, including our theatre school with classes for kids and adults, Camp Walnut, Our Touring Outreach Program to local schools, and our artist-in-residency programs.

### DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION:

T.J Sokso

### ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION:

Amanda Pasquini

### EDUCATION PROGRAMS MANAGER:

Maya Chester-Ziv

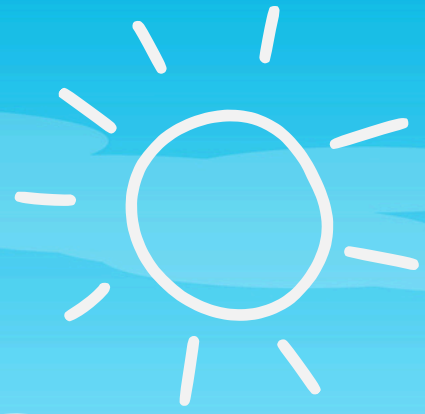
### EDUCATION APPRENTICE:

Devon Duffy

[Walnut Street Theatre For Kids](#)  
[Drama Games for Kids](#)

**Additional  
Resources:**

# Opportunities



## **The Theatre School at Walnut Street Theatre**

Classes for kids, students, and adults!  
For students of all ages! Great for networking, providing a creative outlet, and professional training.  
Find your inner star at the Walnut!  
Call 215-574-3550, ext. 510

## **Walnut Street Theatre Residency Program**

Let us design a dramatic and educational program for your school! We support teacher's objectives with personalized programs that meet your needs and budget.  
Call 215-574-3550, ext. 566

## **Walnut Street Theatre Touring Outreach**

Bring a show to your school! Open a dialogue with students about important issues that affect them!  
Call 215-574-3550, ext. 584

## **Walnut Street Theatre for Kids**

Bring your kids to Walnut Street Theatre! Bring a show to your school! Open a dialogue with students about important issues that affect them!  
Call 215-574-3550, ext. 566

