

THE VELVETEEN RABBIT TEACHER'S GUIDE

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Notes to the teacher:

Guides are distributed to facilitate learning and discussion and to provide an enhanced theatre experience for our audience. These pages have been written with young students in mind so that they will have a better understanding of the production they will be seeing. Teacher's Guides are developed by members of the Nine O'Clock Players.

Seat assignments are predetermined based on age levels of classes. Ushers will ask adults to sit near the aisles.

SYNOPSIS OF THE PLAY

Based on a story by Margery Williams, this version of *The Velveteen Rabbit* begins with a young boy opening his gifts on Christmas day. Among all of his gifts is a beautiful, fluffy Velveteen Rabbit. After the holiday celebration, the boy's nana throws the rabbit into the toy closet with all of his older toys. When the Velveteen Rabbit lands in the toy closet, all of the toys come to life and start to tease him, telling him he is old fashioned and good for nothing. They chide him for lacking the modern mechanical abilities of the toy soldiers, the clockwork mouse and the toy boat. At least they can do something. All he can do is look cute. The Rocking Horse enters the scene and tells the Velveteen Rabbit that he can become real - but only if the boy really loves him. A moving story about the power of love - and a little bit of magic.

How does the Velveteen Rabbit become real? Come to see our production of *The Velveteen Rabbit* and you will find out.

BEFORE ATTENDING THE PLAY: THEATER ETIQUETTE

Students need guidance in how to behave while watching live theatre. Some pointers you can share with your students are:

- How the audience acts is important. Students must not walk in the aisles while actors are present or try to touch the actor or props. They can applaud when appropriate, but talking when actors are speaking or singing is to be avoided.
- Audience members may not be on their phones during the performance and taking photos or recording during the play is prohibited.

BEFORE THE PLAY: VOCABULARY

- Jealous: resentful, envious, want to have something someone else has
- Nana: nanny, childcare provider, babysitter
- Old fashioned: outdated; does not fit in with modern times
- Real: actual, genuine, not fake, natural
- Scarlet Fever: a contagious disease that causes a red rash
- Teasing: annoying another person by calling him names
- Velveteen: imitation or fake velvet

BACK AT SCHOOL, AFTER THE PLAY

- Create a comic strip based on the characters, setting and plot of *The Velveteen Rabbit*.
- What is/was one of your favorite toys? Why? Draw a picture of your favorite toy and describe what it could do if it were real.
- How much do you know about real rabbits? Write a speech and present to the class a story or factual account of rabbits.
- Write a letter to a friend describing your experience of going to see the Nine O'Clock Players production of *The Velveteen Rabbit*.