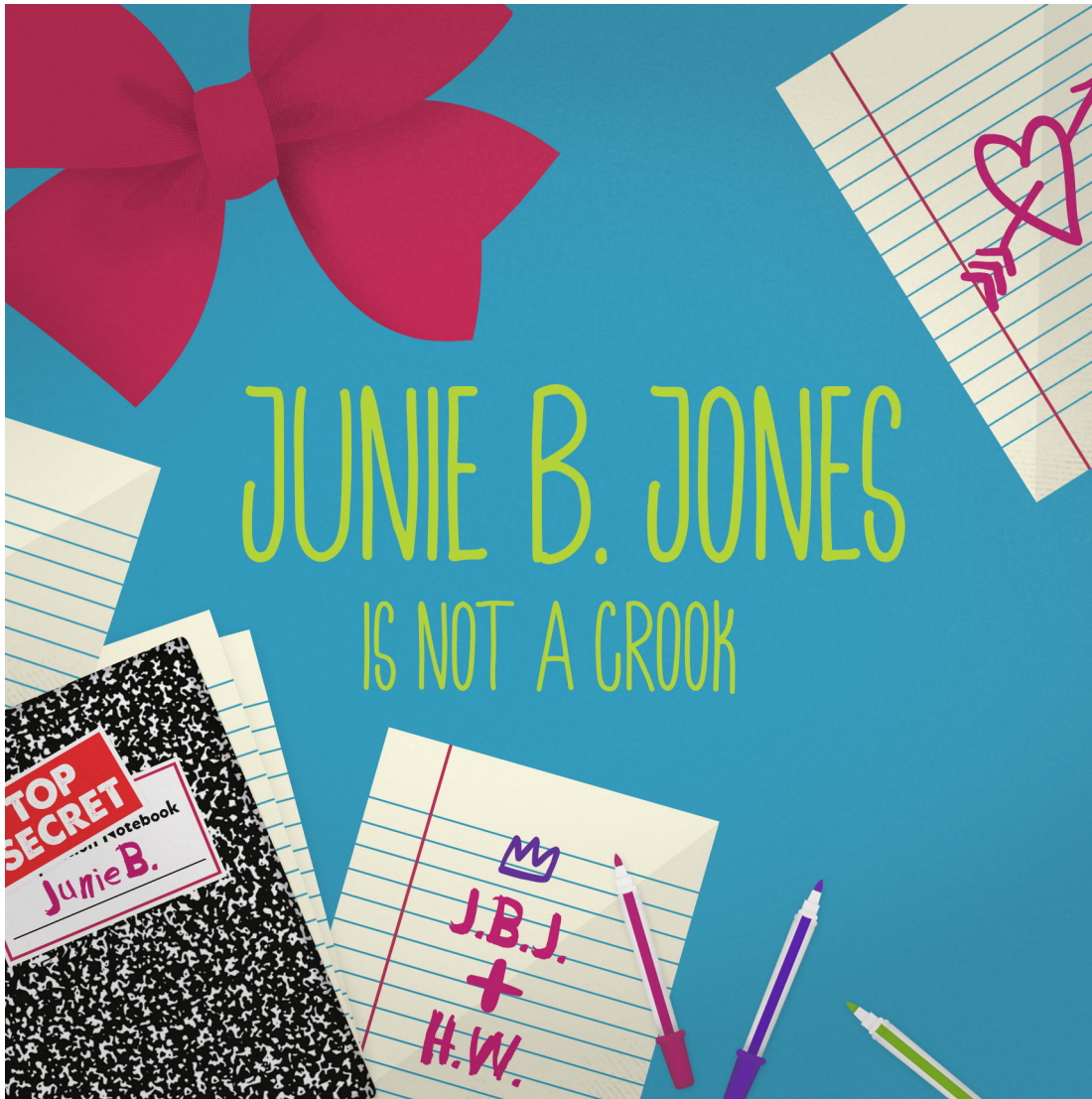


# PLAY GUIDE



## Junie B. Jones Is Not a Crook

Adapted by Allison Gregory. From the Series by Barbara Park.

**Presented on the LCT Main Stage: September 17-24, 2017**

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# Dear Educator -

Lexington Children's Theatre is proud to be producing our 79<sup>th</sup> season of plays for young people and their families. As an organization that values the arts and education, we have created this Play Guide for teachers to utilize in conjunction with seeing a play at LCT.

Our Play Guides are designed to be a valuable tool in two ways: helping you prepare your students for the enriching performance given by LCT's performers, as well as serving as an educational tool for extending the production experience back into your classroom.

We designed each activity to assist in achieving the Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS), including the National Core Arts Standards for Theatre. Teachers have important voices at LCT, and we rely heavily on your input. If you have comments or suggestions about our Play Guides, show selections, or any of our programming, your thoughts are greatly appreciated. Please email Jeremy Kisling, our Associate Artistic Director in Charge of Education, at [jkisling@lctonstage.org](mailto:jkisling@lctonstage.org).

Please use the Teacher Response form following a performance. We are thrilled that you rely on LCT to provide your students a quality theatrical experience, and we hope this resource helps you in your classroom.

**LCT's Education Department**

## The mission of our education programming



The mission of Lexington Children's Theatre's Education Department is to **provide students of all ages with the means to actively explore the beauty, diversity, complexity, and challenges of the world around them through the dramatic process.** We strive for young people to develop their own creative voice, their imagination, and their understanding of drama and its role in society.

## Your role in the play

You may wish to have a discussion with your class about your upcoming LCT experience and their role as audience members. Remind your students that theatre can only exist with an audience. Your students' energy and response directly affects the actors onstage. The quality of the performance depends as much on the audience as it does on each of the theatre professionals behind the scenes and on stage.

Young audiences should know that watching live theatre is not like watching more familiar forms of entertainment; they cannot pause or rewind us like a DVD, there are no commercials for bathroom breaks, nor can they turn up the volume to hear us if someone else is talking. Your students are encouraged to listen and watch the play intently, so that they may laugh and cheer for their favorite characters when it is appropriate.

At the end of the play, applause is an opportunity for your students to thank the actors, while the actors are thanking you for the role you played as an audience.



# What to know - before the show!

## Play Synopsis

Junie B. and her friends, Lucille and Grace, are on the playground as Junie B. shows off the new furry mittens her Grandpa bought her. The girls notice a new kid at school, Handsome Warren, and each wants to be his girlfriend. Later, in her classroom, Junie B. is still playing with her mittens. Her teacher, Mrs., takes them from her and says she can have them back during recess. Once they're outside again, Junie B. decides she should break up with her boyfriend, Ricardo, who agrees to the breakup and runs away. Junie B. folds her jacket and places her mittens on top of it. She then drags Warren over to the other girls, but he says she is a "nutball" and runs away. Junie B. notices her mittens are missing, and her teacher takes her to the Lost and Found in the school office. While she's there, Principal tells her that students bring lost items here because it's the right thing to do. Junie B. sees many things she wants to take, even though they don't belong to her, but no mittens.

As Junie B. walks back to her classroom, she finds a pen on the floor that writes in four colors! She decides not to take it to the Lost and Found. Finders keepers, right? That night, she dreams she catches the Mitten Crook and gets her mittens back, but she wakes up realizing they're still lost. She runs to ask Grandpa Frank Miller if they can buy some more mittens. He asks if she has checked the Lost and Found and then tells her about the time he lost his wallet and someone drove all the way to his house to return it. Junie B. feels badly she kept the pen and worries she might be a crook. The next day at school, she sees the Pink Fluffy Girl wearing her mittens. Mrs. makes the girl return them to Junie B. and reminds her that "finders keepers is not the rule." Junie finally takes the pen to the Lost and Found.

The next day at school, the three girls try again to get Warren's attention. He can't take it anymore and yells at them, "go away!" Junie B. stays behind and tries to cheer him up, even offering him her mittens. Warren is sad because he doesn't have any friends at this new school. Junie B. tells him a knock-knock joke and the two of them laugh. They share more jokes and decide to be friends. Just then, Ricardo appears and announces he's found his pen that writes in four colors!



*Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells! 2010 Photos by Eric Abele*

# What to know - before the show!

## Author vs. Playwright

The author's job is to write a book. He or she creates an original story or adapts a known version of a story. The playwright takes the book and re-writes the story into a script with dialogue and stage directions to be performed on a stage. The playwright may need to change the story a little to make it a better play. In this case, the playwright combined elements from the books *Junie B. Jones Is Not a Crook* and *Junie B. Jones Loves Handsome Warren*. The author and playwright may have discussions about the changes or the playwright may have permission to change anything he or she wants. No matter how they work together, the playwright must acknowledge it was the author's story first. Otherwise, it would be stealing. No finders keepers!

- If you could turn any book into a play, what would it be?
- What parts of the story did Allison Gregory change?
- If you wrote a story, would you let someone else turn it into a play? Why or why not?

**Author:** Barbara Park was best known as the creator and author of the *New York Times* bestselling Junie B. Jones series, the stories of an outrageously funny kindergartener who has kept kids laughing and reading for more than two decades. The series has sold more than 60 million copies in North America alone. Park originally intended to teach high school history and political science, but she quickly realized her calling was to be a writer. Park won more than 40 children's book awards, including several Children's Choice Awards.

**Playwright:** Allison Gregory is a playwright and theatre collaborator, whose plays have been produced all over the country. Her play *Not Medea*, an O'Neill finalist, will receive a 2016 National New Play Network Rolling World Premiere at B Street Theatre, Contemporary American Theatre Festival, and Perseverance Theatre. Gregory also writes plays for young audiences including *Go, Dog. Go!* (co-written with her husband Steven Dietz), *Peter and the Wolf*, and *Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!* She lives in Austin, Texas where she is the cofounder of Austin 'Wrights.

**KAS: RE2.1, RE3.1.a-c**

## Finders Keepers?

Junie B.'s search for her "stolen" furry mittens brings her up against the fine line that sometimes distinguishes "finding" and "stealing."

Define these words with students, highlighting how they are different. With these terms in mind, ask students to reflect on the scenes in which Junie B. found the nickel in the street, the teddy backpack in the Lost and Found, and the multi-colored pen by the water fountain. Discuss the actions of the person who found Grandpa Miller's wallet and the Pink Fluffy Girl who kept Junie B.'s mittens. Present students with a variety of "lost object" scenarios, further illustrating the difference between "finding" or "stealing." For example, "You find a dollar buried in the beach sand while building a sand castle and you decide to keep it." "You see a dollar fall out of a women's purse on the bus and you decide to keep it."

Students can be asked to write a short story about a "lost or found" situation, describing what they lost/ found, what they did, why they did it, and whether or not they would still do the same.

**KAS: RE2.4, RE3.1, WR2.3, WR2.5**

# What to know - before the show!

## Word Search

V L F K R L P Z Y N G N I T L J F  
F O A Z O B T E D D Y B E A R I F  
Z S S V E J M U E M Q K T I Q Q I  
D T U O I D P T T I G I E M G W N  
Y L H T M I T T E N S U I X Q C D  
H B C L Q I U P G F L R Z X T L E  
Z O S X S M M C R D U G Z J G R R  
F L Y F B G C G A N C B E U E C S  
S P S D T E Y Z C J I C D E O D K  
Z A T L X L J O E W L W C G U A E  
N Y O N M J R M S M L A M X Z Y E  
A I L U V U W R D Z E R C O E X P  
P W E Y Z N U S S N L R E G G Z E  
E R N R Z I O G D K L E B F L S R  
N I O X W E X L P G H N Q B Q A S  
M W R M J B A C K P A C K N I E G  
J X M H K P B W O C J N J Z B W V

Pen  
Grace  
Lucille  
Stolen

Backpack  
Junie B  
Mittens  
Teddy Bear

Finders Keepers  
Lost  
Mrs  
Warren

# How to grow - after the show!

## You Are Unique!

In *Junie B. Jones Is Not a Crook*, Junie B. discovers that she can make more friends by being her own unique self than by pretending to be just like her friends. Have your students fill out the short questionnaire below. Then have them introduce themselves to the class by reading their answers out loud. The class should then point out and discuss the similarities and the differences in their answers to the questions.

1. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am \_\_\_\_\_ years old.
2. There are \_\_\_\_\_ people in my family.
3. My favorite school subject is \_\_\_\_\_.
4. I like to eat \_\_\_\_\_.
5. My favorite thing to do is \_\_\_\_\_.

To extend this activity, bring in several magazines and have the young people build a "me" collage by selecting images that best describe their life and likes.

**KAS: SL2.1a & 1b, SL2.6, SL3.1b & 1d, SL3.6, VAPr4.1.2, VACr2.1.3**

## Lost and Found Imagination Box

Label a box "Lost and Found," just like in Junie B.'s school. The difference is that there is nothing in this box. Call up a student from the class and have them pantomime a lost object from the box. For instance, should the facilitator call out a cell phone, the students may either talk or text on the phone OR shape their body into a phone. Challenge the class by having them switch up whether they are acting out the object or becoming the object.

**KAS: THCr3.1.2c, THCR3.1.3a**



# How to grow - after the show!

## The Art of the Idiom!

Every language has its own collection of sayings called “idioms.” Junie B. Jones uses a lot of idioms when she talks. Idioms are groups of words that have a “figurative meaning,” meaning they are essentially pictures you can speak with.

Give your students one of the phrases below. Have them start by drawing a picture of the words and then observe the difference between the visual and the meaning of the phrase. For example, how does “under the weather” look? Is that what it literally means?

Here’s our list:

1. **The best thing since sliced bread.**  
A good invention or innovation. A good idea or plan.
2. **Don’t bite off more than you can chew.**  
Don’t take on a task that is way too big.
3. **You can’t judge a book by its cover.**  
You cannot judge something primarily on appearance.
4. **Something that costs an arm and a leg.**  
Something that is very expensive.
5. **Don’t cry over spilt milk.**  
When you complain about a loss from the past.
6. **Sometimes you have to cut corners.**  
When something is done badly to save money.
7. **Don’t count your chickens before the eggs have hatched.**  
Don’t make plans for something that might not happen.
8. **Don’t put all your eggs in one basket.**  
Do not put all your resources into one possibility.
9. **Every cloud has a silver lining.**  
Be optimistic; even difficult times will lead to better days.
10. **Feel a bit under the weather.**  
Feeling slightly ill.
11. **Hit the nail on the head.**  
Do or say something exactly right.
12. **Let the cat out of the bag.**  
To share information that was previously concealed.
13. **On the ball.**  
When someone understands the situation well.
14. **Once in a blue moon.**  
Happens very rarely.
15. **A piece of cake.**  
A job, task, or other activity that is easy or simple.



# How to grow - after the show!

## What to Read Next

### **The Little, Little Girl with the Big, Big Voice**

by Kristen Balouch

A little girl with a very loud voice has trouble finding a jungle friend to play with until, at last, she meets the one jungle animal whose roar is louder than hers!

### **Miss Alaineus: A Vocabulary Disaster**

by Debra Frasier

When Sage's spelling and definition of a word reveal her misunderstanding of it to her classmates, she is at first embarrassed but then uses her mistake as inspiration for the vocabulary parade.

### **Junie B. Jones and the Stupid Smelly Bus**

by Barbara Park

In her own words, a young girl describes her feelings about starting kindergarten and deciding not to ride the bus home.

### **The Kid in the Red Jacket**

by Barbara Park

When 10-year-old Howard has to move with his family to a faraway state, he's forced to adjust to a new school and to being shadowed by the little girl in a nearby house.

## LCT teaches in YOUR school!

### Would you like to see some of these play guide activities modeled in your classroom?

Book a workshop for your class with one of LCT's teaching artists! In our pre-show workshops, our teaching artists will engage students in acting skills and themes from the play through drama activities. In our post-show workshops, students will extend their play-going experience by strengthening their personal connection to the play and deepening their understanding of the themes and characters.



Call us at 859-254-4546 x226 to book a pre or post-show workshop for your class!

To learn more about Lexington Children's Theatre and our programming for your school visit:  
[www.lctonstage.org/for-educators/in-school-experiences/](http://www.lctonstage.org/for-educators/in-school-experiences/)