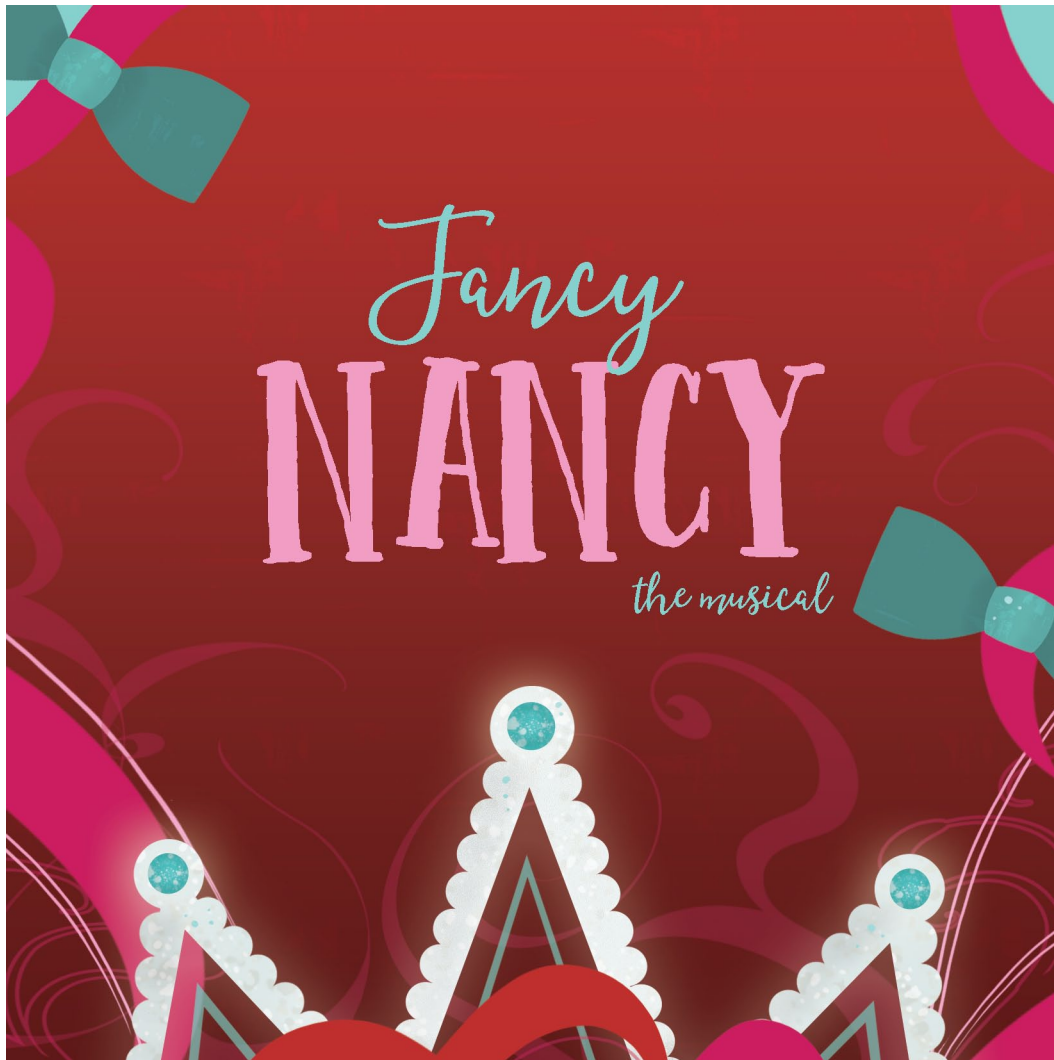


PLAY GUIDE



Fancy Nancy the Musical

Book and Lyrics by Susan DiLallo, Music and Lyrics by Danny Abosch
Based on the *Fancy Nancy* book series by Jane O'Connor
Illustrated by Robin Preiss Glasser

**Presented on the LCT Main Stage: September 27-30,
October 4-5 & 11-14**

On Regional Tour: October 18-24



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Thank you to our
Major Contributors:



Dear Educator -

Lexington Children's Theatre is proud to be producing our 78th 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.

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

"Anyone can be fancy!" Nancy Clancy starts off the musical with a joyous song teaching her friends Rhonda, Wanda, and Lionel all about how to be fancy. After learning the basics, Lionel shares the fact that their school is putting on a ballet! "I Wonder What I'll Be," sings each of the friends, but Nancy and Bree KNOW they'll be cast as mermaids in the production.

When the cast list is posted, Rhonda is thrilled to be a wave, Wanda can't wait to practice as a seahorse, and Lionel is excited to be a shark, but Savannah, a new student, is cast as the mermaid. Nancy and Bree share their heartbreak with "I'm a Tree" (and an oyster, respectively). In an attempt to cheer them up, Nancy's mother sings with them "You'll Always Feel Much Better After Tea."



Later on, Rhonda and Wanda enjoy some sisterly competition, but admit that it's always better to have each other "On [Their] Team." Lionel runs in with "Something Terrible!" Savannah has been in a bike accident and hurt her ankle, so now a new mermaid must be assigned.

Nancy and Bree can't help but be hopeful, but Madame Lucille calls and offers the part to Bree. The news crushes Nancy, who finds comfort with her Mother's words, "You'll Always Be My Star." Before the big performance, Nancy gives Bree her favorite seashell tiara to help her be the fanciest mermaid ever.

At the end of the performance, the audience applauds wildly, reminding Nancy of an important lesson: "Fancy's more than what you wear and more than being polite... all you need to do is make the best of what you've got" to make the world "A Fancier Place."

Special Accolades

In *Fancy Nancy*, Nancy's mother helps her figure out a lot of her feelings and what to do in challenging situations. Have your students choose one person in their lives who cares for them. Then have them make a list of all wonderful ways in which their chosen person helps to enrich their lives. Have each of your students design a "Thank You" card for their chosen person. They can add words, pictures, or patterns to create the perfect card to show their appreciation for their chosen individual.



What to know - before the show!

Opposites & Antonyms

Being fancy is not always easy. Speaking in a fancy way can be even more difficult! To understand fancy words even better, see if you can find the opposite word, or antonym. See if you can match the words below by drawing a line to connect a word with its antonym.



FANCY
KIND
SWEET
DELICIOUS
GENTLE
HAPPY
BEAUTIFUL
LARGE
DARK
COMMON

TINY
EXTRAORDINARY
SOUR
SAD
UGLY
LIGHT
MEAN
SIMPLE
ICKY
HARSH

KAS: ELA: LA.K.5c

Showing Proper Etiquette

Part of being fancy is being polite. Have your students practice being polite and showing proper etiquette to each other. Below is a list of impolite and polite ways of treating others. Have your students pick a partner and act out one of the suggestions below. The rest of the class will then determine if the action is polite or impolite. If the action is impolite, discuss the polite or proper way to act in that specific situation.

- You are late for an appointment.
- Someone drops their belongings on the floor and you help them pick it up.
- Someone cuts in line for the water fountain.
- A person sneezes on someone else.
- An individual gives a person a compliment on their artwork.
- Someone is talking very loudly while someone else is taking a test.
- A person is chewing their food very loudly.
- A friend writes a thank you note for a present they received.
- Someone opens a door for a person with their arms full.
- A person introduces the new kid at school.
- Someone trips another person and laughs.
- An individual steals food off another's plate.
- A person spreads a rumor about a classmate.



KAS: ELA: LA.K.5d

What to know - before the show!

Learn a Little Fancy French

KAS: NL.II.1, NL.IR.2



In *Fancy Nancy*, Nancy likes French words because they sound fancy. Do you know any French words? Below is a list of French words to assist your class in learning some French before attending the play.

	ENGLISH WORD	FRENCH WORD	HOW TO SAY IT
Polite Phrases	Hello	<i>Bonjour</i>	bon-je-or
	Good Evening	<i>Bonsoir</i>	bon-swar
	Please	<i>S'il vous plaît</i>	see-voo-play
	Thank You	<i>Merci</i>	mare-see
	Excuse Me	<i>Excusez-moi</i>	x-kyoos-ehm-wa
	Goodbye	<i>Au revoir</i>	o-rev-wa-r
	I'm Sorry	<i>Je suis désolé</i>	je swee des-o-lay
	Really good	<i>Tres bien</i>	tray-been
	What's your name?	<i>Comment vous appelez-vous?</i>	koh-mahn voo-zah-play voo
	That's fantastic!	<i>C'est fantastique!</i>	say fan-tast-eek
My name is _____.	<i>Je m'appelle _____.</i>	je' m-appel	
Numbers	One	<i>Un</i>	Un
	Two	<i>Deux</i>	Deu
	Three	<i>Trois</i>	Twa
	Four	<i>Quatre</i>	Katr
	Five	<i>Cinq</i>	Sank
	Six	<i>Six</i>	Seese
	Seven	<i>Sept</i>	Set
	Eight	<i>Huit</i>	Weet
	Nine	<i>Neuf</i>	Nuf
	Ten	<i>Dix</i>	Dees
Colors	Red	<i>Rouge</i>	Roo-j
	Orange	<i>Orange</i>	Oh-ran-j
	Blue	<i>Bleu</i>	Bl-uh
	Green	<i>Vert</i>	Vair
	Yellow	<i>Jaune</i>	Je-own
	Purple	<i>Violet</i>	Vee-o-lay
	Pink	<i>Rosé</i>	Row-say
Black	<i>Noir</i>	Noo-ar	

What to know - before the show!

Finding the Fancy



Nancy Clancy is an expert on everything proper. Practicing good manners, dressing up for every occasion, and knowing French words—she is sure she is doing everything correctly, but how did all these traditions start?

The practice of etiquette dates back to the royalty of the middle ages, who wrote books telling other the exact way they should behave, from eating and dressing to ruling a country and interacting with other world leaders. In the 19th century, the practice of etiquette became more about general appreciation of good manners. Most of Nancy's behavior finds its roots in this time, known as the Victorian era, but many of the rules from that time may seem absurd today.

Victorians On the Street

Unmarried women were not to walk down the street by themselves. When walking with a woman, a man always walked closest to the street to protect the lady from splashing and other hazards. This also put the woman under awnings and overhangs, protecting her from any chamber pots being emptied out of windows.

Victorians at Parties

Guests were expected to arrive 15 minutes late to parties. At balls, every woman had a dance card in which she wrote her partner for each dance. Writing a partner's name was creating a promise that could not be broken, and a woman could not dance with the same man more than three times. Choosing the right partner for the last dance before dinner was a very important task, as that partner would be the man who escorted her to dinner.

Victorians in Conversation

In polite conversation, one never asked direct questions. For example, one would never ask, "Is your brother well?" Instead one would say, "I hope your brother is well." French was considered the superior language for upper-class gatherings, which is why RSVP, for *répondez s'il vous plaît*, or "please respond," is still used on invitations today.

Etiquette Around the World

Nancy is used to the etiquette of her own culture, but other cultures value varying behaviors and have different rules.

- In India, food should only be eaten with the right hand, as the left is reserved for things that shouldn't be discussed at the dinner table.
- In Japan, one shouldn't refill their own glass. Instead, they should wait for their empty glass to be noticed and filled by someone else.
- Careful! In Kenya or Germany, a guest should finish everything on their plate to show they enjoyed the food, while in China, guests should leave food on the plate to show they were given more than enough food. In India, an empty plate will be refilled.
- In China, it is polite to decline the offer of a gift three times before accepting, to show that one is not greedy. When the gift is accepted, it is the giver who should express gratitude.
- A flower says a hundred words! In Russia, an odd number of flowers is kind gift, while even numbers of flowers are reserved for funerals. In Germany, red flowers are only used to express romantic interest, while in Bulgaria yellow flowers express hatred.



How to grow - after the show!

Nancy's Journey in Pictures

Nancy tries her best to be kind and polite. But when the part she's assigned in her school's dance recital isn't the one she wanted, Nancy learns to make the most of any situation.

Divide your students into three groups and assign each group the beginning, middle, or end. Have each group create a *tableau* (the fancy and French word for frozen picture!) of how Nancy and her friends feel at each point in the play based on the key plot points listed below.

Review with your students how Nancy felt:

- In the beginning of the play before the dance recital
- In the middle when she finds out her part and how she feels about it
- At the end when Nancy performs in the recital as a tree

When each group shares their *tableau*, ask the rest of the class to describe what they see and what they think is happening in the picture. After all the groups have shared, discuss with the class how they would feel if they were in Nancy's shoes in each part of her journey.

KAS: TH:Cr.1.1.1c; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3

Look the Part

Nancy is always ready to make a costume for any character. Costumes help bring characters to life onstage while also giving the audience key information such as the play's time period or even a character's favorite color. Costumes can be made from just about anything. Nancy knows exactly how to use what she has around her to be resourceful and make the perfect costume. Have your students bring in recyclable materials such as bottles, newspaper, or toilet paper rolls. Working in groups, ask your students to design their fanciest costume pieces using the recyclables and other provided art supplies. Then let each group present their designs in a class fashion show!

TH:Cr1.1.3b; TH: Cr1.1.4b

Madame Says

Nancy uses a great deal of fancy words and gestures to guide the way she completes everyday tasks. For her, it's not enough to just drink her tea; it's much more exquisite to raise her pinky in the process! Have your students play a round of 'Madame Says.' As each student takes a turn as Madame (or Monsieur), they name an action that the rest of the class tries to do in the fanciest way possible. Challenge your students to come up with silly actions (like patting their head while rubbing their stomach) that they then must do with great elegance.

KAS: TH: CR1.1.1a; TH: Pr4.1.1b



How to grow - after the show!

Rap Attack!

Name: _____

Animal: _____

I'm a(n) _____, _____
(Adjective) (Adjective) (Your Animal)

And I'm here to say,

When I _____,
(Something your animal does)

You should get out the way.

Doesn't matter where I go,

_____ or _____,
(Noun) (Noun)

I make everyone I meet

_____ and _____.
(Verb) (Verb)

'Cause I'm a(n) _____.
(Your Animal)

I'm not afraid of the _____.
(Noun)

And they say my _____
(Noun)

Is worse than my _____.
(Noun)

When you're a(n) _____,
(Your Animal)

You're a(n) _____, don't deny it.
(Your Animal)

Everyone make some/a _____
(Physical Feature of Your Animal)

Like this, and let's try it!

Go " _____!"
(Sound/ action your animal makes/does)

Your turn!

" _____!"
(Sound/ action your animal makes/does)

Make it _____ now!
(Adjective)

" _____!"
(Sound/ action your animal makes/does)

Everybody!

" _____!"
(Sound/ action your animal makes/does)

_____ out
(Your animal)

In the play, Lionel has a fun and informative rap about his character the shark. Have your students choose an animal of their own to research. Encourage them to think of key characteristics of their animal such as how the animal behaves, what they eat, or where they live. Then have your students fill in the mad-lib below with words about their chosen animal to complete their song!

Example:

I'm a big, bad shark
And I'm here to say,
When I get really hungry,
You should get out the way.

Doesn't matter where I go,
Pacific or Atlantic,
I make everyone I meet
Run and panic.

'Cause I'm a shark.
I'm not afraid of the dark.
And they say my bite
Is worse than my bark.

When you're a shark,
You're a shark, don't deny it.
Go on, make some jaws
Like this, and let's try it!

Go "chomp, chomp, chomp!"
Your turn!
"Chomp, chomp, chomp!"
Make it scary now!
"Chomp, chomp, chomp!"
Everybody!
"Chomp, chomp, chomp!"

Shark out

How to grow - after the show!

What to Read Next

Fancy Nancy and the Mermaid Ballet **by Jane O'Connor**

Fancy Nancy is ready for the spotlight! Nancy and her best friend, Bree, couldn't be more excited about their upcoming dance show. After all, it's all about mermaids, and who knows how to be a fancy, glamorous mermaid better than Fancy Nancy herself? But when another ballerina wins the coveted role of the mermaid, Nancy is stuck playing a dreary, dull tree. Can Nancy bring fancy flair to her role, even though it isn't the one she wanted? When disaster strikes right before the big ballet, who will step in to steal the spotlight?

The Perfect Puppy by Jane O'Connor

Our hero is desperate for a dog of his own. He has dog T-shirts, posters, books, and even a barking clock! But he has to wait until next year when he's ten before he can have a real dog. That gives him lots of time to meet all kinds of dogs and puppies.

Pinkalicious by Victoria Kann

A little girl who is obsessed with the color pink eats so many pink cupcakes that she herself turns pink.

Petunia Goes Wild by Paul Schmid

Petunia decides to stop being a human child and start living the life of a wild animal, much to her parents' displeasure.

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 x233 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/