



## Junie B. Jones and a Little Monkey Business!

Based on "Junie B. Jones & A Little Monkey Business" by Barbara Park. Illustrated by Denise Brunkus. Adapted by arrangement with Writers House. ©1993 by Barbara Park.

Book, Music and Lyrics by **Joan Cushing**

Directed by **Dwayne Hartford**

Musical Direction by **Alan Ruch**

Choreography by **JoAnn Yeoman**

Scenic Design by **Matthew Smucker**

Costume Design by **Kish Finnegan**

Lighting Design by **Michael J. Eddy**

Sound Design by **Michael Good**

Stage Manager: **Samantha Ries**

### The Cast:

Junie B. Jones. . . . .Jenn Taber  
 That Grace. . . . . Yolanda London  
 Lucille, Mother. . . . .Jodie L. Weiss  
 Mrs., Grandma Miller. . . . .Katie McFadzen  
 Grampa Miller, Meanie Jim. . . . .Jon Gentry  
 Principal, Daddy, Crybaby  
 William. . . . .D. Scott Withers

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 Arizona Commission on the Arts  
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## Preview Guide for Parents and Teachers to Childsplay's Production of Junie B. Jones and a Little Monkey Business!

We hope you find this guide helpful in preparing your children for an enjoyable and educational theatrical experience. Included you'll find things to talk about before and after seeing the performance, classroom activities that deal with curriculum connections and education standards, and resource materials.

### The Story:

Barbara Park's popular book *Junie B. Jones and a Little Monkey Business* comes to life in the form of a musical featuring snappy songs and the precocious Junie B.!

Mrs. Jones is having a baby, and 6 year-old Junie B. isn't sure what to expect when her new little brother arrives. While staying at her grandparent's house (where Grampa lets her eat pie for dinner), she hears her grandma call the new baby "the cutest little monkey." Junie B.'s imagination runs wild - - a monkey for a brother? She no longer has to worry about what to bring for Show and Tell! When she tells her friends about her monkey brother, they all want to be the first one to see him. Junie B. discovers that she can rake in the goods in exchange for a first glimpse. She ends up with high tops, jewelry and even snack tickets. When her teacher, Mrs., finds out, Junie is escorted to the principal's office. The principal figures out that Junie B. took what her Grandma said literally (even though "cutest little monkey" is a figure of speech). He helps to clear up the misunderstanding. When Junie B. finally sees her brother she beams and admits that she is "a lucky duck!"

### Arizona Academic Standards:

Your visit to the theater as well as the preparation and follow up activities can involve many content areas from the Arizona Department of Education K-12 Academic Standards. Many of the suggested discussion topics and activities can be tied to standards in several areas. We have included some standard connections in the Arts that are noted in parenthesis. *If you would like a more detailed list of standard connections for your particular grade we would be happy to assist.* Simply email Katie McFadzen at [kmcfadzen@childsplayaz.org](mailto:kmcfadzen@childsplayaz.org) or call 480-350-8105.

## Things to Talk About and Do Before Seeing the Performance

### Talk About Barbara Park...

Barbara Park is one of today's funniest, most popular authors. Her *Junie B. Jones* series which began with *Junie B.*



*Jones And The Stupid Smelly Bus* is loved by readers of all ages. Her middle-grade novels include *Skinnybones*, *The Kid in the Red Jacket*, *My Mother Got Married (And Other Disasters)*, and *Mick Harte Was Here*. She has won over 40 awards, including 25 Children's Choice awards. Barbara has two grown sons and lives with her husband and dog here in Arizona. **Questions:** How many Barbara Park books have you read? Can you figure out how many books she has written in her career?

**"There are those who believe that the value of a children's book can be measured only in terms of the moral lessons it tries to impose or the perfect role models it offers. Personally, I happen to think that a book is of extraordinary value if it gives the reader nothing more than a smile or two. In fact, I happen to think that's huge."**

**~Barbara Park**

**Read the Book...** The musical *Junie B. Jones and a Little Monkey Business* is based on the book by the same name. It is Book #2 in the *Junie B.* series (24 books to date). Read the book before seeing the play.

**Questions:** How do you think the characters and the story will be brought to life in the play? Do you think the play will be very different than the book? What will the songs be about?

**Talk about the differences between seeing a play and a movie...**(2AT-R2) A play happens live in front of an audience. The performers can hear and see the audience just like the audience can hear and see the performers. The actors need to recreate the same play over and over again giving the audience the illusion that the characters are experiencing the story for the first time. Once a play starts it keeps going until there's an intermission or it's over. You can't put it on "pause" while you run to get a snack! Since theater happens live, each performance is a little bit different than the next. When a production closes, the play is no more than a memory. In movies, a performance is captured on film, can be accessed any time and becomes a part of history.

### Talk about how a musical is different than a play...

The characters sing thoughts and feelings that are too strong for words alone. They reveal information about themselves and others through song. Songs advance the plot and the choreography also helps to tell the story. Lyrics and melodies that make up songs often stay with you long after you've heard them. **Question:** Can you think of a song from a movie, musical or even a commercial that has stayed stuck in your head?

**Talk About Theater Etiquette...** (3AT-R2) It's helpful to review

the rules of theater etiquette before seeing a show especially since this may be the first live theater experience for some of your students. Please take a moment to discuss the following pointers prior to seeing the performance.

- ◆ Stay seated during the performance.
- ◆ Be respectful to the performers and other people in the audience by not talking during the performance.
- ◆ Appropriate responses such as applause or laughter are always welcome.
- ◆ Use of cell phones, cameras and any other recording device is **not allowed in the theater at any time!**

### Talk about literal and figurative language...

The whole basis of the problem in the play is that Junie B. takes a figure of speech literally. A figure of speech is an expressive use of language, such as a metaphor or pun. Words are not used literally, but are instead used to suggest an image or comparison. Some of the figurative phrases used in the play are: ants in my pants, in a pickle, none of your beeswax, busy bee, couch potato, dumb bunny, lucky duck, and knuckle sandwich. Talk about the meanings of these phrases. What if they were taken literally? Do drawings showing the literal translation of one of the phrases (what would a "knuckle sandwich" look like). Hang them around your room!

**"Recess is when you go outside. And you run off your steam. Then when you come in, you can sit still better. And you don't have ants in your pants." ~Junie B. Jones**

## Things to Talk About After Seeing the Performance...

◆ All plays have three P's: *People* in a *Place* with a *Problem*. Where does the play take place? Who are the people? What are the problems? What happens at the beginning of the play? The middle? The end?

◆ How is the musical different than the book?

◆ Do you remember anything (either a character or situation) from the play that is in another *Junie B.* book?

◆ *Junie B.* has two best friends. Do you have best friends? What makes a person a best friend?

◆ When *Junie B.* gets angry she says things like "dumb bunny" and sometimes makes a fist. What would be a better way for her to express her anger?

## Arts and Language Arts Activities to Do After the Performance:

**Page to Stage** (1AT-R3): As a class or in teams, find a scene from one of the *Junie B.* stories that you can bring to life! Talk about people, place and problem, then decide on who will play the characters. Next, play out the scene making sure it has a beginning, middle and end. Run through the scene a few times and then share with the class or another audience.

**Imaginary Show and Tell** (1AT-R5): Choose an object that you can pretend to bring for show and tell. Don't tell anyone what it is. Now, come up with three sentences that describe the object. When it's your turn, stand up pretending to hold the object in your hands (unless, of course, it's too big) and share one sentence at a time until

someone in your class can guess what the object is.

**Musical Emotions** (2AM-R2, 2AM-R3): *Junie* experienced many emotions (feelings) during the play. How many emotions can you remember? Write them down. Here are two examples:

\**Anger* toward Meanie Jim

\**Pride* when she sees her new little brother

Actors communicate emotions using voice, body and imagination. Communicate your list of emotions just using face and body. *Music* can communicate emotions, too. Using classroom instruments, create musical patterns that communicate the various emotions. Listen to different pieces of music and identify the moods/emotions that each piece conveys.

**Bestest Friends Dance** (1AD-F6): *Junie B.*, *Grace* and *Lucille* sing a song about being the best of friends even though they sometimes fight. With one or two other people from class, create a dance that communicates friendship. Come up with 8 moves that you can do in order and then repeat. Choose some music to do your dance to and share with an audience.

**Monkey Morph**: *Junie B.* imagines that her brother looks like a monkey. Draw a picture of a monkey without a face. Or find a picture of a monkey in a magazine or on the internet. Now put a picture of your face where the monkey's face would be. You have now created a monkey brother or sister! Hang your monkeys around the classroom!

**Illustrations** (1AV-R1): *Denise Brunkus* does all of the illustrations for the *Junie B.*

*Jones* series. An illustration is a frozen picture that communicates a moment in a story. Choose one or more characters and a moment in a scene from any of the *Junie B.* stories and create your own illustration of it.

**Book Reports**: Choose one of the 24 *Junie B.* books to read and then write a book report. Here are some tips: Talk about the plot but don't give away the surprises, talk about what you liked and didn't like, and then say if you would recommend or not recommend the book to others. Give an oral book report to the class.

**Generations**: *Junie* and her *Grampa* have a special relationship. They do fun things like eating pie for dinner and fixing toilets. Think of an adult who you have a special relationship with. Write a story about something fun that you have done together.

**Follow the Rules**: Sometimes *Junie B.* has a hard time following the rules at home and in school. Come up with a list of all of the rules that *Junie B.* is supposed to follow. If *Junie B.* had her way, what would *her* rules be? Come up with a list of *Junie B.*'s Top Ten Rules. Decorate and post around the classroom.

**New Baby**: As a child, *Barbara Park* use to dream about having a little sister who she could teach everything to and one day they would get big and together they would overthrow her older brother and rule. What is your idea of a perfect sibling? Write a description (real or imagined) of the perfect brother or sister.

*Junie B. Jones and  
A Little Monkey  
Business*  
Book List:



Below you'll find recommended reading divided according to topics covered in the play:

**friendship**

*Junie B., First Grader at Last* by Barbara Park  
*Junie B. Jones Loves Handsome Warren* by Barbara Park  
*Charlotte's Web* by E. B. White  
*Frog and Toad are Friends* by Arnold Lobel  
*Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson  
*Amber Brown Goes Fourth* by Paula Danziger

**rules**

*Junie B. Jones Smells Something Fishy* by Barbara Park  
*Second Grade Rules, Amber Brown* by Paula Danziger

**family**

*Ramona and her Father* by Beverly Cleary  
*Ramona and her Mother* by Beverly Cleary  
*Beezus and Ramona* by Beverly Cleary  
*Little House in the Big Woods* by Laura Ingalls Wilder  
*Little House on the Prairie* by Laura Ingalls Wilder  
*Forever Amber Brown* by Paula Danziger

**new siblings**

*Julius the Baby of the World* by Kevin Henkes  
*Pinky and Rex and the New Baby* by James Howe

**show-and-tell**

*Henry's 100 Days of Kindergarten* by Nancy L. Carlson  
*Rex and Lilly Schooltime* by Laurene Krasny Brown  
*The King of Show and Tell* by Abby Klein  
*Show and Tell* by Stephanie Greene  
*Gus and Grandpa and Show and Tell* by Claudia Mills

**defining your world**

*Junie B. Jones and the Stupid Smelly Bus* by Barbara Park

**generations**

*My Great Aunt Arizona* by Gloria Houston  
*Going Through the Gate* by Janet Anderson  
*The Keeping Quilt* by Patricia Polacco  
*Henry and Mudge and the Family Trees* by Cynthia Rylant  
*The Relatives Came* by Cynthia Rylant

All materials are available through your local library.  
Check 'em out!

Prepared with help from Tim Wadham,  
Youth Services Coordinator for the  
Maricopa County Library District



## The Best Internet Sites Ever!!!



[www.randomhouse.com/kids/junieb](http://www.randomhouse.com/kids/junieb)

~the *official* Junie B. Jones website with an interview with Barbara Park, activities, a teacher corner and more!

[www.bordersstores.com/features/feature.jsp?file=barbarapark](http://www.bordersstores.com/features/feature.jsp?file=barbarapark)

~a good interview with Barbara Park

[www.kidsreads.com/series/series-junie-titles.asp](http://www.kidsreads.com/series/series-junie-titles.asp)

~a list and description of all 24 *Junie B.* Books!

[www.ade.state.az.us/standards/contentstandards.asp](http://www.ade.state.az.us/standards/contentstandards.asp)

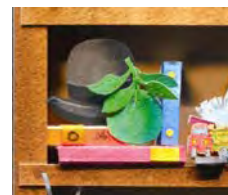
~Arizona Department of Education K-12 Academic Standards

## Next from Childsplay...

### *This Is Not A Pipe Dream*

A look at the life and work of the surrealist painter René Magritte and the very nature of art itself.

Tempe Performing Arts Center, Oct. 20-Nov. 5  
Appropriate for ages 5 and up



This happy, high-stepping Broadway musical is based on beloved books by Dr. Seuss (including *Horton Hears a Who*) and adapted especially for young people by the show's creators.

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, December 6 to 20  
Appropriate for grades preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Call Beth Olson at 480-350-8107 to make your booking!

## About Childsplay:

Childsplay is a non-profit professional theatre company of adult actors, performing for young audiences and families.

Our Mission is to create theatre so strikingly original in form, content or both, that it instills in young people an enduring awe, love and respect for the medium, thus preserving imagination and wonder, the hallmarks of childhood, which are the keys to the future.

We love to hear from our audience members!

Send letters, drawings or reviews to:



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1-800-583-7831 (in-state)

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