



A sneak peek at Childsplay's production of:



# Lyle the Crocodile

By Kevin Kling

Music by Rich Gray

Based on *Lyle, Lyle Crocodile* and *The House on East 88th St.* by Bernard Waber

November 19– December 24, 2011

Tempe Center for the Arts

Recommended for ages 4 and older

[www.childsplayaz.org](http://www.childsplayaz.org)

### Books to Check Out

*The House on East 88<sup>th</sup> Street* by Bernard Waber

*Lyle, Lyle Crocodile* by Bernard Waber

*Spork* by Kyo Maclear

*Poodle and Hound* by Kathryn Lasky

*If I Ran the Zoo* by Dr. Seuss

*Kermit the Hermit* by Bill Peet

*Nice New Neighbors* by Franz Brandenburg

*The Lion and the Mouse* by Jerry Pinkney

### Interesting Internet Links:

[www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/authors/waber/funwithlyle.shtml](http://www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/authors/waber/funwithlyle.shtml)

-great links to games and puzzle

[www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/authors/waber/index.shtml](http://www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/authors/waber/index.shtml)

-about author Bernard Waber

[www.kishfinnegan.com](http://www.kishfinnegan.com)

-click on *Lyle the Crocodile* to see costume renderings

### The Story:

It's the holiday season in New York City and the Primms are moving into a new apartment. Imagine their surprise when they find a crocodile asleep in the bathtub! Although things are a bit crazy at first, Lyle soon wins them over with his saxophone-playing, juggling, dancing ways. Lyle brings joy to everyone he meets and even the neighbors, Ms. Nitpicker and Mr. Grumps, can't resist his charms. A music-filled, tap-dancing treat for the whole family.

### Themes/Curricular Ties:

New York City \* Page to Stage \* 1960s \* Unlikely Friendships \* Crocodiles \* Zoos \* Neighbors \* Music \* Courage \* Kindness \* Tolerance \* Embracing Differences

### Questions to ask before seeing the production:

- 1) Lyle is an unusual pet. What are some other examples of unusual pets that people have?
- 2) Cities are exciting places. Have you ever been to a different city than the one you live in? What kinds of things did you see there? How was that city different from your city?
- 3) Zoos are wonderful places to see animals. What are some animals that live in the zoo? How is zoo life different than living in the wild?
- 4) What does it mean to be a hero? Can you give some examples of people you think are heroes?

### Questions to ask after seeing the production:

- 1) How was the play similar to the books? How was it different? Do you remember images from the books that appeared in the play? What do you remember from the play that was not in one of the books?
- 2) What are some examples of kindness, heroism and good citizenship in the play?
- 3) Lyle is left in a new place and tries to belong. What is it like going to a new place? What makes you feel like you belong?
- 4) How does Lyle help the Primm family? In what ways are you helpful to your family?

### Sample Classroom Activities Connected to Arizona Education Standards:

**5**

**Minute Activity**

Create a list of the many skills that Lyle has (doing chores, juggling, tap dancing, tumbling, roller skating, etc.) Working in your own space, pantomime (communication by means of gesture and facial expression) Lyle's many skills. The challenge is to use just your body and imagination and no voice. **Theatre: S1: C1: PO101: Imagine and describe characters through movement and gesture.**

**15**

**Minute Activity**

In the play, Lyle becomes part of a family. All families are different. Some people have more than one family. Using paper and crayons or colored pencils, create a family portrait by drawing all of the members of your family (or families if you have more than one) including pets. Make sure you write the names of your family members and how they are related to you. Hang them in your classroom. **Visual Art: S1: C4: PO101: Select and use subject matter and/or symbols in his or her own artwork.**

**30**

**Minute Activity**

Write a story about discovering a strange creature in your house. Where is the creature when you find it? What is it doing? What kind of creature or animal (real or not) is it? How do you feel when you see it for the first time? Do you end up keeping it? If not, how do you get it out of the house? Make sure your story has a beginning, middle and end as well as conflict and resolution. **Writing: Grade 2: S2: C1: PO2: Incorporate relevant details that give the piece interest.**