

WHAT THE PLAY IS ABOUT

Tom is nervous about his first day of teaching and turns on the television in an attempt to calm his nerves. Suddenly, he is surrounded by three characters that represent parts of himself. They appear to help him to gain the confidence he needs to teach subjects like grammar, science, math, and social studies. Academic subjects will never seem boring again when *Schoolhouse Rock Live!* explodes onto the stage with the songs you loved updated for a whole new generation!

TALK ABOUT IT

Start a conversation before the show:

- ★ The original *Schoolhouse Rock* was a series of short musical cartoons on TV. What else do you know about it? How do you think it will be the same and different onstage?
- ★ Everybody learns differently. When you have to learn or memorize something (like spelling words or multiplication tables), what are the techniques that you use?

Start a conversation after the show:

- ★ What were 3 new facts that you learned today? How will you remember them?
- ★ By the end of the show, the teacher feels confident enough to go into the classroom. What helped him build his confidence? What are things you can do to help yourself or others feel more confident?
- ★ The director of *Schoolhouse Rock Live!* chose to add video to the show. How did the videos help to tell the story?
- ★ The songs in the play were written to help us learn new ideas and facts. What makes learning fun for you?

WRITE ABOUT IT

Journal entry or free-writing prompts for before or after the show:

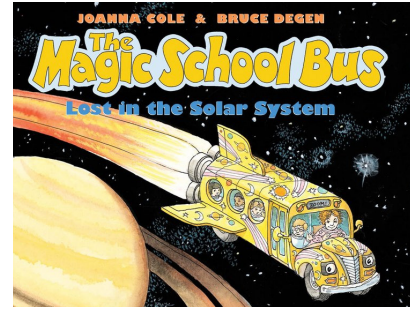
- ★ Why do you think it is important that we remember and talk about a time when women didn't have the right to vote? What is one right people are fighting for now that you support? What would you tell someone to get them to support this right too?
- ★ What does it mean to feel anxious or nervous? What are some situations that might make us feel this way? What do you do to help yourself when you feel anxious or nervous?

Women's Suffrage

- **Lillian's Right To Vote: A Celebration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965** by: Jonah Winter
- **Marching with Aunt Susan: Susan B. Anthony and the Fight for Women's Suffrage** by Claire Rudolf Murphy

Science

- **The Heart: Our Circulatory System** by Seymour Simon
- **The Magic School Bus: Lost in the Solar System** by Joanna Cole

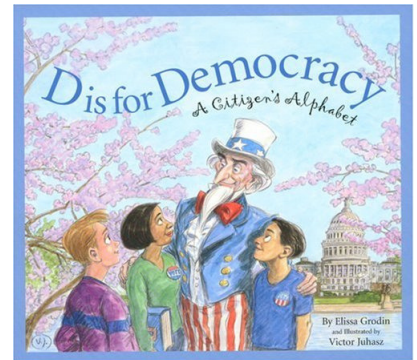


Grammar

- **Eats, Shoots and Leaves: Why Commas Really Do Make a Difference** by Lynne Truss
- **Punctuation Takes a Vacation** by Robin Pulver

Systems of Government

- **D is for Democracy: A Citizen's Alphabet** by Elissa Grodin
- **We The Kids: The Preamble to the Constitution of the United States** by David Catrow



EXPLORE IT

Close Reading Activity: Actors as Close Readers...

Theatre is a collection of choices. A choice is an artistic decision that is made to highlight a component of the character's personality, the story, or the theme. An actor's job is to draw evidence from the text to make choices that bring characters to life on stage.

Activity: Reading for Emotional Context

The next page of this document contains song lyrics from *Schoolhouse Rock Live!* Read, or have the students read, one or more sections. Work together to decide on vocal and physical choices based on the text. Discuss what the lyrics are talking about and put them on their feet to help students grasp the concepts. Play around with different choices to see how the meaning changes. When making choices, think about pacing (fast or slow), pitch (high or low), emotion (what the character is feeling), and subtext (underlying meaning). Share with others!

SONG: DO THE CIRCULATION

ALL

THERE'S A GREAT NEW CRAZE
THAT'S SWEEPIN THE NATION
COME ON-
DO THE CIRCULATION

DINA

IT STARTS WITH YOUR HEART
WHAT A GREAT SENSATION

GIRLS & GEORGE

COME ON
DO THE CIRCULATION

SHULIE

OUT THROUGH YOUR ARTERIES
IN THROUGH YOUR VEINS
YOUR HEART PUMPS THE BLOOD
THEN IT DOES IT AGAIN

SONG: UNPACK YOUR ADJECTIVES

SHULIE

GOT HOME FROM CAMPING LAST SPRING
SAW PEOPLE, PLACES, AND THINGS.
WE BARELY HAD ARRIVED

FRIENDS ASKED US TO DESCRIBE
THE PEOPLE, PLACES, AND EVERY LAST THING.
SO WE UNPACKED OUR ADJECTIVES

WE HIKED ALONG WITHOUT CARE
THEN WE RAN INTO A BEAR

HE WAS A HAIRY BEAR
HE WAS A SCARY BEAR
WE MADE A HASTY RETREAT
FROM HIS LAIR
AND DESCRIBED HIM WITH ADJECTIVES

TOM

Gee, that was one big ugly bear!

SONG: INTERJECTIONS

ALL

INTERJECTIONS
SHOW EXCITEMENT OR EMOTION
THEY'RE GENERALLY SET APART FROM A SENTENCE
BY AN EXCLAMATION POINT
OR BY A COMMA
WHEN THE FEELING'S NOT AS STRONG

DINA

SO WHEN YOU'RE HAPPY
OR SAD
OR FRIGHTENED
OR MAD
OR EXCITED
OR GLAD

ENSEMBLE

HOORAY!
AW!
EEEEK!
RATS!
WOW!
HEY!



LEARN ABOUT IT

Science!



- **Circulation:** The continuous movement of blood through the heart and blood vessels.
- **Galaxy:** A large-scale collections of stars, gas, and dust that make up a visible universe.
- **Planet:** A large celestial body smaller than a star, illuminated by the star it revolves around. There are eight known planets in our solar system, which all revolve around the Sun.

- **Adjective:** Describes a noun or pronoun.
- **Noun:** Refers to a person, place, or thing.
- **Pronoun:** Takes the place of a noun or noun phrase.
- **Verb:** Represents an action or state of being.
- **Conjunction:** Joins words or groups of words together. These include 'and', 'but', and 'or'.

Grammar!



- **U.S. Constitution:** The fundamental law of the U.S.
- **Preamble:** The introductory statement of the U.S. Constitution.
- **Suffrage:** The right to vote in a political election.
- **19th Amendment:** Constitutional Amendment that gave women the right to vote in 1920.
- **Bill:** Draft of a new law that is being suggested. The lawmakers must vote on it before it becomes a law.
- **Congress:** The Legislative body of the United States, consisting of the Senate and House of Representatives. They are responsible for making the laws of our country.

Social Studies!



- **Count:** Add up, to determine the total number.
- **Pattern:** Arrangement of repeated parts, following a rule or rules.
- **Multiply:** Adding a number to itself a certain number of times. Multiplication is performed on a pair of numbers to derive a third number, called the product.

Math!



ENGAGE WITH IT

Different things engage different people.
Explore what is exciting to you!

More About Schoolhouse Rock!

- ★ Lyrics to Schoolhouse Rock songs: www.lyricsmania.com/schoolhouse_rock_lyrics.html
- ★ Interview with Bob Dorough, who wrote, composed and sang many of the SHR songs: <http://www.npr.org/templates/transcript/transcript.php?storyId=168699556>
- ★ Watch Schoolhouse Rock Cartoons: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKPmobWNJaU>

Explore Topics Covered in the Show!

- ★ Grammar Games: www.funenglishgames.com/grammargames.html
- ★ Astronomy Information and Games: www.kidsastronomy.com/index.html
- ★ Online MadLibs for Parts of Speech: <http://itsamadlibsworld.com>

CONNECTION TO STANDARDS

English: NL-ENG.K-12.6 Applying Knowledge, NL-ENG.K-12.12 Applying Language Skills

Civics: NSS-C.K-4.2 Values & Principles of Democracy, NSS-C.K-4.1 What is Government?

Science: NS.K-4.4 Earth & Space Science, NPH-H.K-4.1 Health Promotion & Disease Prevention

Mathematics: CCSS.M.5 Analyze Patterns, CCSS.M.1 Understand and Apply Properties of Operations

21st Century Skills: Communication and Critical Thinking

#SHAREWITHUS

Follow us on social media and share your
comments and photos!

#ChildsplayAZ

#SchoolhouseRockLive!



ABOUT CHILDSPLAY

Childsplay is a nonprofit professional theatre company of adult actors who perform 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, those hallmarks of childhood that are the keys to the future.

For more information:
www.childsplayaz.org