

NEW VICTORY® SCHOOL TOOL®

2017-18 SEASON

RESOURCE GUIDE



THE NEW VICTORY THEATER

The New Victory Theater brings kids to the arts and the arts to kids. Created in 1995 on iconic 42nd Street, this nonprofit theater has become a standard-bearer of quality performing arts for young audiences in the U.S. Reflecting and serving the diverse city it calls home, The New Victory is committed to arts access for all students, teachers, kids, families and communities of New York to experience and engage with the exemplary international programming of theater, dance, circus, puppetry and opera on its stages. A leader in arts education, youth employment and audience engagement, The New Victory Theater has been honored by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities with the 2014 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award, by Americans for the Arts with a national Arts Education Award, and by the Drama Desk for "providing enchanting, sophisticated children's theater that appeals to the child in all of us, and for nurturing a love of theater in young people."

The international productions on NEW VICTORY stages inform and inspire the work of the award-winning NEW VICTORY Education Program through a dynamic combination of school and public programs. Our school programs serve over 40,000 Pre-K through 12th grade students and teachers each season at almost no cost to the kids or their schools. Many of our partners are NYC-area Title I schools, with a high percentage of students who would be unable to experience live theater if it weren't for The New Victory. This nationally-recognized program exemplifies the organization's long-standing commitment to the intrinsic value of cultural participation in the lives of New York City kids.

The NEW VICTORY Education Department is committed to building impactful and long-lasting relationships with schools and after-school programs. We believe that creating strong and meaningful partnerships between schools and arts organizations allows school communities to deeply enrich their arts programs and infuse creativity across the curriculum. By annually enrolling in the unique and award-winning NEW VICTORY Education Partnership Program, schools take advantage of \$2 tickets to NEW VICTORY school-time and after-school performances, free classroom workshops led by highly skilled teaching artists, in-depth resources and professional development that allow teachers to incorporate the arts into their classrooms.

NEW VICTORY® SCHOOL TOOL® Resource Guides

Available to Education Partners for every show in our season, NEW VICTORY SCHOOL TOOL Resource Guides provide educators with comprehensive materials that explore the artistry and key themes of each production. Filled with practical, ready-to-implement activities that allow any teacher to incorporate The New Victory into their classroom, the NEW VICTORY SCHOOL TOOL Resource Guides are designed to enrich the performance experience before, during and after the students' trip to the theater.

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Making Connections to Learning Standards

NEW VICTORY SCHOOL TOOL Resource Guides align with the Common Core State Standards, New York State Learning Standards and New York City Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in the Arts. We believe that these standards support both the high quality instruction and deep engagement that The New Victory Theater strives to achieve in its arts education practice.

The NEW 42ND STREET® Youth Corps

Available for high school and college-age youth, the NEW 42ND STREET Youth Corps offers paid employment, job training, academic support and mentorship through jobs in the arts. At The New Victory you are greeted by the NEW VICTORY Usher Corps, a rigorous three-year program for New Yorkers ages 16-22, and at The Duke on 42nd Street you are greeted by the NEW 42ND STREET College Corps, a program offered to current CUNY students pursuing graduation. Participants of these programs are paid for their time as front of house staff and for participating in professional development workshops. In our administrative offices, the NEW 42ND STREET Apprentice Corps employs college and graduate students who want hands-on experience in the daily operations of a nonprofit performing arts organization. They are joined by members of the NEW 42ND STREET Fellows Corps, which provides career-launching employment and networking opportunities for former NEW VICTORY Ushers who are actively pursuing non-performing theater careers. Together, these four programs of the NEW 42ND STREET Youth Corps expose students to invaluable life skills and the power of live performance.



NEW VICTORY® SCHOOL TOOL® Resource Guides are made possible by a generous gift in memory of Fr. John R. Scarangelo, OFM whose lifelong passion for the theater was a powerful influence on all who were fortunate to know and love him.



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PSSS
PSSS

WHAT GUIDES NEW VICTORY EDUCATION: **OUR GUIDING PILLARS!**

*Want to know what guides the work we do in New Victory Education? We'll tell you!
The Guiding Pillars on this page are the foundation of how we strive to cultivate
collaboration and creativity for everyone!*

PLAY

How is the work sparking imagination,
encouraging joy in learning
and evoking laughter?

DISCOVERY

What methods are we employing and questions
are we asking to encourage opportunities for
meaning-making, deepening understanding, inquiry,
curiosity, risk-taking and learning about oneself,
ones' peers, and the world around us?

COMMUNITY

How are we encouraging ensemble and
collaboration within the communities
we work with?

ART FORM

How are we honoring and exploring
the technique of the art forms
presented on our stage?

CREATE

How can we activate art-making and creativity
to explore the art form in each production?

ARTS FOR ALL

How is the work accessible
to and inclusive of everyone?

INSIDE

A behind-the-curtain look at the artists, the company and the art form of this production

COMMON CORE STANDARDS

Reading: 1; 2; 3; 9

Speaking and Listening: 1; 2; 3

Language: 1

NEW YORK STATE STANDARDS

Arts: 1; 2; 3

English Language Arts: 1; 2; 3; 4

BLUEPRINT FOR THE ARTS

Theater: Theater Making

Developing Theater Literacy

Making Connections

Visual Art: Art Making

Literacy in Visual Arts

Making Connections

Summary

PSS PSS, the secret is out: there's not much this dynamic duo can't do! Inspired by the silent film era, this clowning couple fumbles through merry mishaps, absurd antics and priceless pas de deux. They snicker and stumble, squabble and make peace, all without a word (but with a little help from the audience!). Slapstick at its sweetest, this timeless performance celebrates the clumsy connection we make when we meet our match.



PSS
PSS



Where in the world is
PSS PSS from?

LOCARNO, SWITZERLAND



FUN FACTS

Locarno, Switzerland is home to the famous Moon and Stars pop music festival, which has been hosted in the 200-year-old Piazza Grande since 1946.

.....

This historic town's most ancient castle, Castello Visconteo, dates back to circa 998 AD. Once the seat of the Visconti Dukes of Milan (1513 - 1798), it's now an archaeological museum, housing Locarnese artifacts from the Bronze Age to the Middle Ages!

.....

The predominant language spoken in Locarno, by approximately 75% of its inhabitants, is Italian.

STUPEFACENTE!

DID YOU KNOW?

.....

Something's a bit fishy about Compagnia Baccalà... Baccalà literally translates to "codfish" in Italian, a reference to an Italian expression describing a bumbling person with big eyes.

.....

Compagnia Baccalà has won 13 international awards, including IPAY's 2018 Victor Award, and has performed over 600 times in over 50 countries on five continents.

.....

The Teatro Dimitri School was founded by Switzerland's renowned mime artist, Clown Dimitri. Not only did the duo train with him, but he also performed at The New Victory Theater with *La Famiglia Dimitri* in 2009.

CLOWNING + FRIENDSHIP
× SLAPSTICK =



A Closer look:

Six years after meeting in Switzerland's Teatro Dimitri School in 1998, Simone Fassari reached out to his former classmate, Camilla Pessi, to see if she would be his acrobatic partner creating Compagnia Baccalà. The moment the pair began creating together, Simone and Camilla knew their inventive partnership was a match made in heaven. Together they perfected the performance techniques used to develop their clown characters and perfected their own nuanced repertoire. Now, joined by theater artist Valerio Fassari and director Louis Spagna, the dynamic duo travel the world bringing surprise and delight to audiences across the globe with their first full-length work, PSS PSS!



CLOWNING

Clowning is an ancient form of theater that is rooted in physical comedy. This art form embraces and highlights the absurdity of everyday situations and has the power to transcend verbal language and cultural barriers through visual spectacle.

SLAPSTICK COMEDY

Originally, a slapstick was simply a paddle made of two pieces of wood that, when slapped together, created a “thwack” sound. According to numerous sources, the slapstick was first utilized in the 16th century by the Italian Commedia Dell’arte character, Harlequin. When he used it to tap the hinds of his prey it emphasized a comedic triumph! Slapstick, as an art form, is a type of physical comedy that is often characterized by broad humor and physical movement. It employs acrobatics, physical stunts and impeccable timing. Slapstick was prominently featured in ancient Greek and Roman theater, and was popular in the 16th century. The art form reached another apex in the form of vaudeville entertainment. Movies and television sitcoms featuring Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, the Marx Brothers and The Three Stooges brought visual slapstick stunts to greater prominence with audiences.

ACROBATICS

In PSS PSS, elements of acrobatics and physical comedy are combined and used as a means of storytelling. Acrobatic performance entails feats of brute strength, agility, coordination and balance. A few examples of acrobatics are performers climbing on top of one another, flipping over each other and using each other as human counterweights. This type of performance dates all the way back to the Minoan civilization, around 2000 B.C.E., when everyday citizens would perform acrobatic feats on top of bulls. While you won’t see any bulls in PSS PSS, you’ll definitely recognize elements of acrobatics!

WHAT DO YOUR STUDENTS KNOW NOW?

Prior to exploring PSS PSS with your students, find out how much they already know about **COMEDY**. In addition, allow them to explore the theme: **FRIENDSHIP**.

What makes something funny?

How does comedy help tell a story?

What does “friendship” mean to you?

*Do your friends treat you different when you’re sad, happy or mad?
How so?*



SO YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT TALENT (THEATER)

PSS PSS is about two friends, both of whom have their own unique talents which they showcase through clowning and slapstick comedy. Have your class work together to flip the concept of traditional talent shows on its head by putting on a NO TALENT SHOW! That's right! Start with having each student bring into the classroom an object that represents their talent, which could be singing, dancing, drawing, painting, a magic trick or even tongue twisters—and have a show and tell. For example, tongue twister might be represented by a braided pretzel! Then, once everyone has shown their object, tell students that they are going to make their talents funny by practicing and showing off their skills as if they'd never done them before. For instance, if one of your students is skilled in the basics of tap, they would be tasked with acting as if they'd never seen a tap shoe before! Once everyone has found their “no talent,” put on a funny showcase for another class! To support this unit, use the **Creativity Page: I Love to Laugh!** in the **Before** section.

SLAPSTICK? WHAT'S THAT?! (THEATER, HISTORY, VISUAL ARTS)

Elements of slapstick comedy are present throughout PSS PSS, but students might wonder: *What exactly is slapstick? When and how did it originate? How did it get its name?* Guide your students through a series of lessons focusing on the storied history of this hilarious style of physical comedy by showing them artistic renderings, photos, clips from movies and television sitcoms that feature famous slapstick performances like *Punch and Judy*, *The Little Rascals* (1932), *The Three Stooges* (1934-46) and Jim Carrey in *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. After you and your students have learned all there is to know about slapstick, have students draw their very own slapstick comedy team mid-routine. Then, create a “Gallery of Comedy” in your classroom to show off their hilarious creations! To support this unit, use the **Creativity Page: Friendship! What A Perfect Blendship!** in the **After** section

MAKING LEMONADE (THEATER, SOCIAL STUDIES)

The comedic team of performers in PSS PSS work together to overcome obstacles and to learn more about the world around them. They make each other laugh and they support each other—literally and figuratively! After seeing PSS PSS, place your students in pairs and tell them they are now going to be clowning duos, just like the hilarious team in the show! Give each team a classroom problem to solve and tell them that they must solve their problems in a funny way (i.e., Partner A hurt Partner B's feelings and must win Partner B's friendship back?!), but they must do this without using words! Then, have each pair show the rest of the class their hilarious, wordless problem-solving scene! Afterward, have a discussion about the importance of finding the “funny” in a negative situation. Ask students questions like: *How do we work together to help each other? What did we learn from PSS PSS? What did we learn from each other?* To support this unit, use the **Creativity Page: How Do You Solve A Problem, Like, With Puppets?** in the **En Route** section.



BEFORE

Ready-to-implement classroom activities that explore the themes and artistry of the show

COMMON CORE STANDARDS

Speaking and Listening: 1; 3

Language: 1

NEW YORK STATE STANDARDS

Arts: 1; 2

English Language Arts: 1; 2; 3; 4

BLUEPRINT FOR THE ARTS

Theater: Theater Making

Developing Theater Literacy

Making Connections

Visual Arts: Art Making

Literacy in Visual Arts

Making Connections





SHARING OUR FEELINGS

PSS PSS is a completely wordless show that features an immense amount of physical comedy. It also focuses on the performers' emotions, which are accentuated by exaggerated facial expressions. Now it's time to play with emotions in your own classroom!

1. To begin, have students come to a seated circle in the room. Then, tell them that you're going to be exploring different emotions. With your class offering suggestions, create a written or visual list of emotions. **Note:** Refer to this list during the activity.
2. Next, introduce an emotion to the circle using only your face and ask them: *What emotion(s) do you see?*
3. Then, tell students that they are going to take the emotion that you share with them and pass that emotion around the circle using only facial expressions. Tell students to carefully examine the expression of the person sharing their emotion with them, decide what the emotion is, create the same facial expression and pass it along to the next student in the circle. **Note:** Students should always pass the same emotion that was passed to them.
4. Have students pass emotions slowly to the right or counter clockwise. After a few revolutions, changing the emotions with each round, have students speed up, travelling to the left or clockwise, etc.
5. Next, depending on your group, give students permission to change the direction in which the emotions are being passed. For instance, they can pass back the emotion to the person they received the emotion from, in order to reverse the direction.
6. To add a final layer, have students choose one direction, but encourage them to change the emotion at any time, as it travels around the circle.
7. Finally, bring the whole class back into one big seated circle to talk about the emotions you explored during this activity!



REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

What does it feel like to convey different emotions using only your face?

What happened for you as you morphed from one emotion to another?

What was your favorite part of this activity?





I LOVE TO LAUGH!



Laughing is contagious and everyone loves doing it. Why do YOU love to laugh? How does it make you feel? Think of someone you know that could really use a good laugh—maybe it's a friend, a teacher or a family member—and send them a CLOWN-O-GRAM! Go ahead and make 'em laugh!



CLOWN-O-GRAM

EN ROUTE

Trip logistics and a brief student activity to be completed shortly before seeing the show

Provide this section to all teachers and chaperones attending the show!

COMMON CORE STANDARDS

Reading: 1; 2; 3; 9

Speaking & Listening: 1; 2; 3

Language: 1

NEW YORK STATE STANDARDS

Arts: 1; 2; 3

BLUEPRINT FOR THE ARTS

Visual Arts: Art Making

Literacy in Visual Arts

Making Connections

Heads up!

PSS PSS is a two-person, nonverbal show that explores the relationship between two friends through clowning, including slapstick comedy and partner acrobatics! Prepare your students to watch closely and see how the performers in PSS PSS use a range of emotions to explore the world around them and their relationship to one another.



PSS
PSS



TRIP GUIDE

Provide this resource to the School Trip Leader and all teachers/chaperones attending the performance.

Before you leave school

We advise you to LEAVE ALL BAGS AND LUNCHES at school, if possible. If not, bags will be collected by NEW VICTORY staff and stored during the performance.

Plan to arrive at the NEW VICTORY venue at least 30–45 minutes before curtain time. The building opens one hour prior to curtain (i.e. 10am for an 11am performance). If you realize that your group is running late, please contact the theater DIRECTLY at **646.223.3020**. If you will be arriving by bus, please ensure that your driver drops your group off on the **north side** of 42nd Street between 7th and 8th Avenues.

Arrival

When you reach 42nd Street, a member of the NEW VICTORY Front of House staff wearing a green vest will check in with the school trip leader.

If you arrive by bus, they will direct your bus to a location on the street where it is safest to unload the students.

It is important to wait until our staff checks in the School Trip Leader and Bus Driver before unloading the students.

They will record the bus number and give the School Trip Leader and the Bus Driver correlating tags.

Please remember to have the School Trip Leader and the Bus Driver exchange cell numbers.

The Front of House staff will give a time for the bus to return to pick up your school group.

The question of lunch

NEW VICTORY venues are not equipped to host lunch/snacks. In the early autumn and spring months, nearby Bryant Park (42nd Street at 6th Avenue) offers a pleasant place for lunching, and there are also public restroom facilities.

Seating

In order to make your experience at the theater as efficient and safe as possible, you will not be issued tickets. Your group will be assigned seats in advance by the Education Department. Your seating assignment will not be available prior to the performance. If you have any questions, please contact the Education Department at: Education_Tickets@NewVictory.org.

Accessibility

Wheelchair accessibility: Wheelchair seating must be requested in advance, at the time of the ticket request, and is subject to availability. Assisted listening devices are available for patrons who have hearing impairments.



TRIP GUIDE

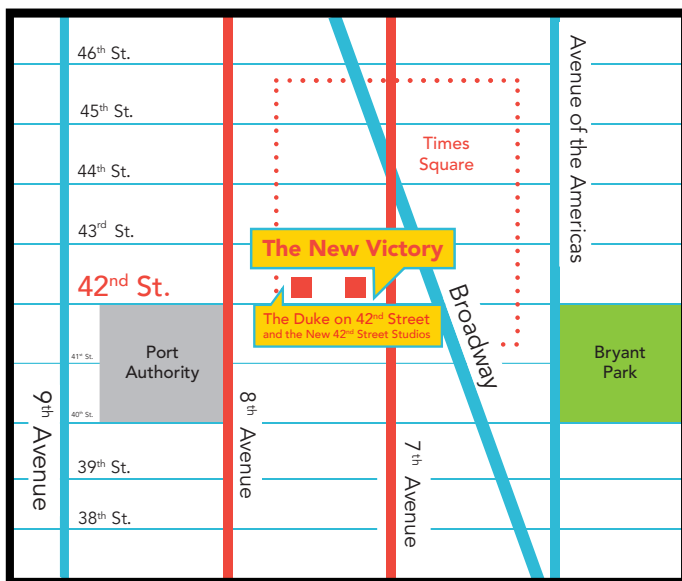
If you are traveling by bus, please also share this important information with the bus driver.

Directions to

THE NEW VICTORY THEATER OR THE DUKE ON 42ND STREET/
NEW 42ND STREET STUDIOS
209 West 42nd Street
229 West 42nd Street

BY SCHOOL BUS

It is safest to drop off and pick up your school group on **the north side of the street** in front of the venue. Turn onto 42nd Street from 7th Avenue so students can unload in front of the theater.



During the show

42nd Street is extremely congested and has a high volume of traffic. According to the New York City Department of Transportation, vehicles are not allowed to sit idle or park on the street without special permission. Once your bus is empty, it is important that the bus driver find parking at a nearby location—see possible parking locations below.

If a driver chooses to park on 42nd Street, they do so at their own risk of being ticketed by the police. The New Victory Theater is not responsible for bus drivers who receive parking tickets.

Possible parking locations

8th Avenue (both sides) between 38th and 39th Streets
11th Avenue (both sides) between 39th and 40th Streets

Pick up

Taking Midtown traffic into consideration, bus drivers should leave their waiting location approximately 10 minutes prior to the return time given by the Front of House staff. Front of House staff will also help find a spot on 42nd Street to safely load your student group after the show has ended.

BY MTA, SUBWAY OR BUS

1/2/3, N/R/Q/W/7

Exit the station at 42nd Street/7th Avenue. When you come out of the turnstile, take the stairs to your right. All NEW VICTORY venues are directly to the west of the subway station.

A/C/E to Port Authority

Exit at 42nd Street/8th Avenue. Walk to 42nd Street, turn east, and continue walking until you arrive at NEW VICTORY venues.

B/D/F/M

Exit at 42nd Street/6th Avenue. Walk west on 42nd Street until you come to 7th Avenue. The venues are on the north side of the street at 7th Avenue, next to the subway station.

The M10, M16, M27, M42, M104 buses all stop within one block of the venues.



Be a part of your kid's field trip to PSS PSS

WATCH

Check out the video trailer and a message from PSS PSS

www.NewVictory.org/PSS PSS

While you're there, do the suggested Family Activities to learn more about the show.



ASK

After your kid visits the New Vic, talk with them about their theater-going experience! Use the prompts below to engage in a conversation with them about what they saw and how the show made them feel!

BEFORE the show:

How do you think the performers learned to do physical comedy?

What are you most excited about for your trip to The New Victory Theater?

AFTER the show:

What was your favorite part of the show?

In what ways did the performers explore friendship?

Did anything about the show surprise you?

VISIT

The New Victory is New York City's only performing arts theater exclusively devoted to kids, their families and classmates, bringing exhilarating stories, innovative art forms and unparalleled performers from around the world to its historic stage in Times Square. For a full list of shows in the New Vic 2017-18 season, visit www.NewVictory.org.



HOW DO YOU SOLVE A PROBLEM, LIKE, WITH PUPPETS?

In PSS PSS, the performers explore obstacles through acrobatics and clowning.

What is a problem that you need to solve? How can you solve it through comedy?

Cut out the pictures below and paste each one to a popsicle stick. Then, with a partner, use comedy to solve a problem in the most peculiar way imaginable! Take a video of your stories and have your teacher share them with your school community. Be sure to share them with the New Vic, so the performers can see what you've created!



AFTER

Ready-to-implement classroom activities that offer the opportunity to reflect on and extend the experience of attending the performance

COMMON CORE STANDARDS

Speaking and Listening: 1; 2; 3

Language: 1

NEW YORK STATE STANDARDS

Arts: 1; 2; 3

English Language Arts: 1; 2; 3; 4

BLUEPRINT FOR THE ARTS

Visual Art: Art Making

Literacy in Visual Arts

Making Connections



AFTER / PERFORMANCE REFLECTION

Following your trip to The New Victory, you may find that your students want to discuss the performance and their own opinions. Reflecting on the show and voicing an aesthetic response is an important part of the theater-going experience. Allowing your students the opportunity to articulate their own thoughts and hear the ideas of their classmates will increase the impact of the theater experience. **You might want to take a page from the performers' notebook and ask students to answer not with words, but through facial expressions and physicality!** Lead students in a discussion using the following questions:

Engage in a conversation with your students to help them process their thoughts and feelings about the show. On a large piece of chart paper, draw an outline of a bowler hat and use the prompts below to guide students through an active reflection. On the outside of the outline, have students write or draw their favorite moments from the show. On the inside of the outline, have students write or draw their own feelings about the show and what the imagery evoked. Then, lead students in a discussion:

What was your favorite part of the show?

What is slapstick comedy? Where did you see it present in the show?

What did you think about the performers' use of physical comedy?

What different production elements (music, lighting, etc.) did you notice in the show? Did those elements enhance the physical comedy? How so?

How did the show make you feel?

TEACHER TIP

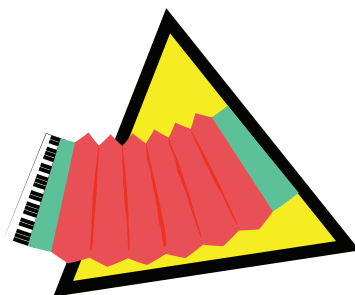
Engaging in dialogue, asking questions and recalling observations are skills that we believe should be fostered and encouraged. When leading a performance reflection discussion, try the following model of critical response:

Describe (*I saw...*)

Analyze (*I wonder...*)

Interpret (*I think/feel...*)

Evaluate (*I believe...*)



IT'S BACKWARDS DAY!

In PSS PSS, the performers take turns playing the “expert” as they navigate different situations and obstacles. Now it’s time for you to be the student and let your students become the experts. Think of it as “Opposite Day,” with real-life consequences. Ready for some classroom shenanigans? Let’s go!

Materials Needed: Magic Backwards Day hats, music, a bell to signify the end of Backwards Day

Note: The structure of the activity below should have a feeling of chaos. You know your students and their abilities best. Feel free to accommodate your students as needed.

1. Prepare for this role switch by telling your students, for example: *Next Monday, we’re going to trade places. We’re going to have our very own Backwards Day during which:*
 - a. You’re going to come to class wearing your clothes inside out!
 - b. Write your name backwards all day!
 - c. Walk backwards whenever you’re in this classroom!
 - d. “Hello” means “goodbye” and “goodbye” means “hello!”

Note: These are just examples. Feel free to create other directives that work best for you and your students!

2. When Backwards Day begins, have special “Backwards Day” hats ready for every student. As they enter the room, they’ll find that their desks are facing the opposite way, centers are out of place, only some of the lights are on, dance music is playing, and you are dressed like a young kid! Tell the students: *I am now the student and you are all my teachers. I found these magical hats. They came with a note which reads, “Whoever wears this hat carries the knowledge of all that came before them! You now have the power to teach, but just for one day—Backwards Day! Remember this: When the bell tolls, Backwards Day will be no more.”*

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

How did this activity make you behave differently in our classroom?

Where in PSS PSS did you see the performers switch roles like we did?

What did you learn most from this activity?

What was your favorite part about Backwards Day?

3. Next, have your students teach you the alphabet, but they must teach it to you backwards. **Note:** This can be done in written worksheet form, or you can choose to recite the alphabet backwards while attaching a word to each letter (i.e., Z = Zebra, Y = Yellow and so on).

4. Then, have students teach you how to count to 20, but backwards, by telling them: “I want to learn how to count from 20! Can you teach me?”

5. Finally, ring a bell that signifies the end of Backwards Day. Have everyone join you in a circle to talk about what Backwards Day was like and how it was like, or unlike some of the things they saw in PSS PSS!



FRIENDSHIP!

WHAT A PERFECT BLENDSHIP!



PSS PSS explores friendship in silly ways. Who in your life would you choose to be your clown partner and why?

What would your clowning and acrobatics routine be? What would your costume look like?

Use the space above to draw a picture of you and your clown friend performing a hilarious routine!

Then, seal your drawing in an envelope and share it with your real-life clown partner!

Sources

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