



MUSIC BY WILL ARONSON

BOOK & LYRICS BY SARAH HAMMOND

# PETE THE CAT

BASED ON THE PETE THE CAT SERIES OF BOOKS BY  
KIMBERLY AND JAMES DEAN

PETE THE CAT WAS ORIGINALLY COMMISSIONED, DEVELOPED,  
AND PRODUCED IN NEW YORK CITY BY THEATERWORKSUSA



## SALT LAKE ACTING COMPANY

### Educational Resources for Before & After the Show

#### K-2 Core-Aligned Lesson Plans:

- ELA Reading
- ELA Writing
- Drama

# HELLO, TEACHERS!

We can't wait to welcome you and your students to Salt Lake Acting Company and our upcoming production of PETE THE CAT, a new musical based on the book series by James Dean and Kimberly Dean. We hope this study guide will help prepare your students to engage with the live theatre experience and make connections in their own lives with the ideas presented in the book and in the play.

In this study guide, you will find classroom activities related to the book and play, fun facts about live theatre, and information on the creative team that is bringing PETE THE CAT to life at Salt Lake Acting Company. We've also included information on state and national Common Core Standards that can be satisfied by seeing and engaging with this production. See you soon!



Our beloved SLAC CAT

Study guide created by Rebecca Love Stone, Erika Ahlin, and Topher Rasmussen  
at Salt Lake Acting Company.

Special thanks to Educational Consultant Annie Hays at Montessori Community School.



# PETE THE CAT

Based on the PETE THE CAT series of books by Kimberly and James Dean  
Music by Will Aronson - Book & Lyrics by Sarah Hammond

## A brief synopsis of the story of the play:

When Pete the Cat gets caught jamming after bedtime, the cat-catcher sends him to live with the Biddle family to learn his manners. But the minute he walks in the door, he gets the whole family rocking- except for young Jimmy Biddle, the most organized second grader on planet Earth. When Jimmy draws a blank in art class, Pete turns out to be the perfect pal to help him out. Together, they set out on a mission to help Jimmy conquer second grade art and learn a little something new about inspiration along the way.

## MEET THE DIRECTOR AND CAST!

**Director**



Penelope Caywood

**Pete the Cat**



Jacob Weitlauf

**Jimmy**



Joseph Paul Branca

**Olive**



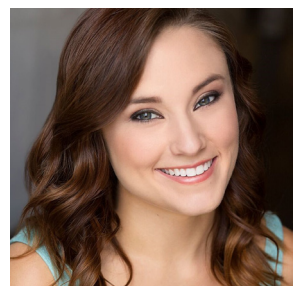
Cameron Aragon

**Dad**



Trayven Call

**Mom**



Shelby Anderson

DESIGN TEAM: Gage Williams (Set Design), Dennis Hassan (Costume Design), Jesse Portillo (Lighting Design), Justin Ivie (Props Design), Jennie Sant (Stage Manager)

PETE THE CAT was originally commissioned, developed, and produced in New York City by TheaterWorksUSA

# PREP FOR THE SHOW

## UT DRAMA STANDARDS: K/1/2: T.R.1

Demonstrate audience skills of observing & responding appropriately.

We're so excited for your visit to **Salt Lake Acting Company** to see **Pete the Cat!**

We know that this play might be **one of the first shows** your students will ever attend.

Prepare your kids so they know what to expect.

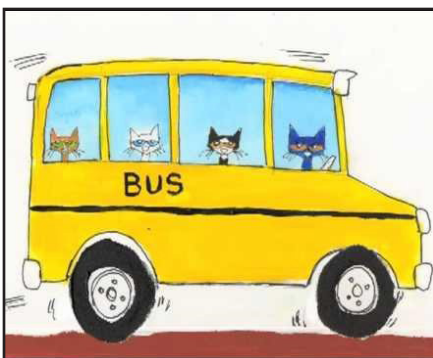


### Meet Pete!

Read a *Pete the Cat* book with your class.

### Model & Practice Audience Behavior!

Talk about the responsibilities of a good audience member. Consider the jobs of different parts of the body: eyes, ears, voice, hands, and heart.



### Talk Logistics!

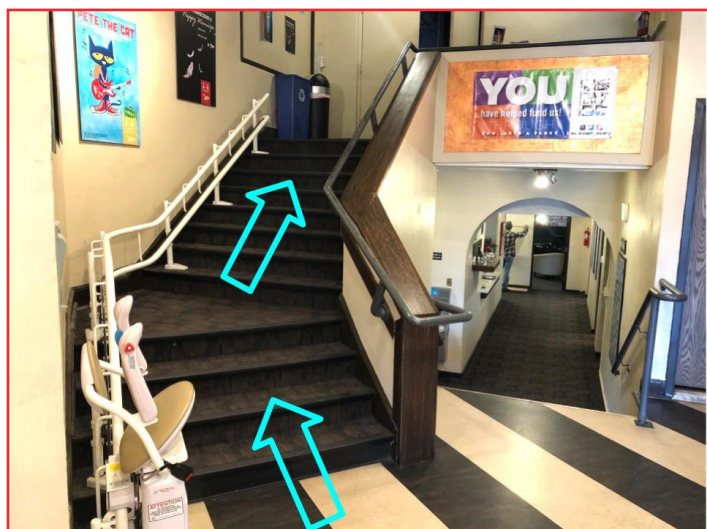
School trips can be exciting and scary.

In this guide you'll find lots of ways to help your students visualize what it will be like to come see a play at SLAC.



Here is a picture of our building! What do you notice about what makes it special?

Look for the blue awning that hangs above the door. That's where you come inside!



PETE THE CAT will take place in in our Upstairs Theatre.

If you're lucky, you just might get to meet a furry friend who loves our audience members: SLAC CAT! This particular cat does not like to be touched, as her bright white fur is her best accessory. If you see her, give her a fancy wave from afar.





# HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO A PLAY?

Plays are special because they are happening live – right before your eyes!

You have a very important job as audience members. Here are some things to keep in mind:

The actors can see and hear you just like you can see and hear them! This means it is very important **not to talk or wiggle** during the performance. BUT! The actors love to hear your response to the play, so if you think something is funny, you can **LAUGH!** When a song or dance ends, it's very nice to **CLAP!** We love to know you're having fun when you come to a play.

The area of a theatre where the audience sits is called the “**house.**” Our house has about 200 seats, which means you get to share this experience with a lot of other people!

- Let others enjoy the show with you by using your listening ears and silent voices.
- If you think of questions during the show, hold on to them because you'll have a chance to ask the actors when the play is over!

## POP QUIZ!

**What is the area of the theatre where the audience sits called?**

- A. The apartment
- B. The cage
- C. The house
- D. The play room

**When is a good time to ask the actors questions about the play?**

- A. Try to find them before the show
- B. While they are performing
- C. During the songs
- D. After the show, when the actors come out to answer questions

**How do you let others enjoy the performance?**

- A. Whisper in your neighbor's ear
- B. Wiggle in your seat
- C. Listening ears and silent voices
- D. Pretend to be Pete the Cat during the show

**Which action is not appropriate to do during the performance?**

- A. Laugh when something is funny
- B. Clap after a song or a dance
- C. Yell hello and wave to the actors until they wave back
- D. Have fun during the play



# HOW TO BE A GREAT AUDIENCE MEMBER

Watching Eyes



Listening Ears

Silent or Laughing Voices

Heart open and ready to have fun!

Resting or clapping Hands

**Have a rehearsal!**

Try being a great audience member in your classroom!

# HOW A PLAY IS MADE!

It takes a lot of hard work to create a play. There are lots of important people who help bring stories to life on stage. (Teachers: it might be fun to assign each student one of these roles as you discuss how a play is made!)

First, the script is written by a **playwright**. If the play is a musical, there is also a **composer** and a **lyricist** who write the music and words to the songs.

A **director** is the person in charge of choosing the cast and putting the whole show together. If there is music in the play, it is a **music director's** job to teach the songs to the actors. If there is dance in the play, a **choreographer** makes up and teaches all the dances. Each **actor** is assigned a **character** (in some plays, actors play many characters) and their job is to memorize all the lines, songs, and movement and to give every audience the best performance they can.

It also takes a team of talented designers to bring a play to life.

The **set designer's** job is to imagine what the scenery looks like.

The set is built and decorated by a team of **carpenters and painters**.

The **costume designer** is in charge of deciding what each actor will wear and finding or making all of their costumes.

A **lighting designer** is a person who makes sure all the action of the play can be seen. The lights can also help set the season, time of day, and mood of each scene.

A **sound designer** is in charge of all the sounds in the play.

The **prop designer** creates all of the small items used in the play.

The **stage manager** has the very important job of making sure that everyone is doing their job and that everything runs smoothly for each performance.

## POP QUIZ!

**Who makes up the dances and teaches them to the actors?**

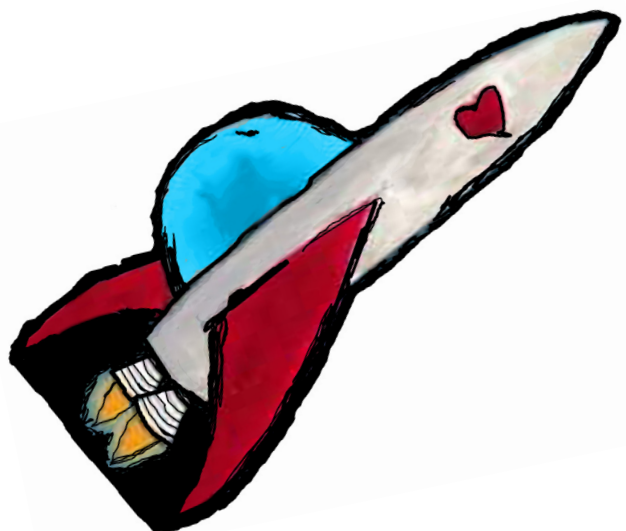
- A. The Dance-Maker-Upper
- B. The Dramaturg
- C. Pete The Cat
- D. The Choreographer

**What are the clothes the actors wear called?**

- A. Dress-Ups
- B. Disguises
- C. Costumes
- D. Uniforms

**Which animal lives at the theater?**

- A. SLAC CAT
- B. Pete the Dog
- C. The Salt Lake Acting Canary
- D. Penelope the Penguin





# DISCUSSION TOPICS

## Before the Play:

1. Have you ever seen a play?
2. What do you like about Pete the Cat?
3. What would happen if Pete cried and got upset or angry every time something happened to his shoes?
4. Have you ever been on a Big Adventure?
5. How many Pete the Cat books can we name together?

## After the play:

1. Which character in the play was your favorite? What did you like about them?
2. Jimmy gets overwhelmed and hides under the couch. What did his friends do to help him feel better?
3. What songs do you remember from the play? Can we sing one together?
4. If you could choose a character from PETE THE CAT to play, which one would you like to be?
5. Jimmy had a hard time deciding what he should paint. What do you do to come up with new ideas?



# YOU ARE THE DESIGNER!

A team of designers helped to make PETE THE CAT come to life. Now it's your turn to be a designer! Use this page to draw your own design of a SET (a place the characters can go), a COSTUME (something for one of the characters to wear), or a PROP (something the characters can use, eat or play with.)

# WRITE A REVIEW OF PETE THE CAT AT SALT LAKE ACTING COMPANY

Send it to us at:  
Salt Lake Acting Company  
Attn: Pete the Cat  
168 W. 500 N.  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103

Or email us at [topher@saltlakeactingcompany.org](mailto:topher@saltlakeactingcompany.org)  
MY REVIEW

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

What was your favorite part of PETE THE CAT?

Who was your favorite character? Why?

If you could change anything about the play, what would it be?





# READERS THEATRE

## CCSS ELA LITERACY.RF.K/1/2.3

Read grade-level text orally with accuracy, appropriate rate, and expression on successive readings.

Consider turning a Pete the Cat book into a Readers Theatre.

Here is an example of Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes by Eric Litwin  
Divide the text into three to four parts: Storytellers 1, 2, and Pete the Cat

**Storyteller 1:** Pete the Cat was walking down the street in his new white shoes.  
He loved his shoes so much that he sang a song.

**Pete the Cat:** I love my white shoes.  
I love my white shoes.  
I love my white shoes.

**Storyteller 1:** Oh no! Pete stepped in a pile of strawberries!  
It turned his shoes red.

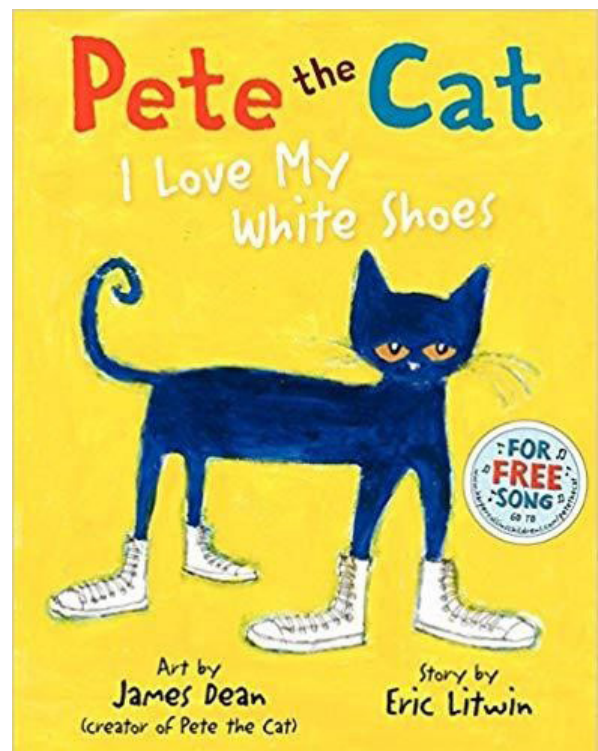
**Storyteller 2:** Did he cry?  
Goodness, no! He kept walking along and singing his song.

### Tips for success:

Organize students into groups of 2-4 readers per character to read in unison.

Encourage expression: loud and soft, fast and slow, emphasis, punctuation, onomatopoeia.  
Add movement & gesture.

Rehearse, revise, then perform. Have half the class perform for the other half!

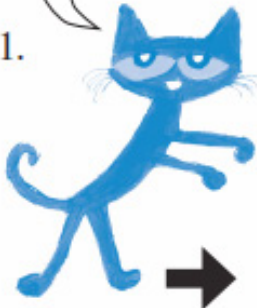


# LEARN THE COOL CAT BOOGIE!

Follow the steps below to learn the Cool Cat Boogie with Pete the Cat!

I want to boogie with you.  
Grab your boogie shoes!

1.



slide right...shake  
your tail

2.



slide left...shake  
your tail

3.



now clap, clap, clap  
real smooth,  
you've got the groove

4.



jump front

5.



rock and roll

6.



jump back

7.



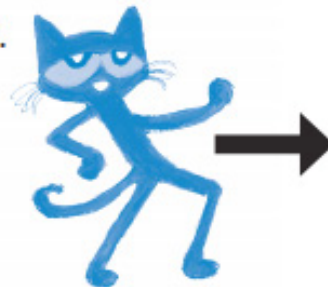
rock and roll

8.



that's neat you got the beat

9.



grab your air guitar  
and rock it out like Pete

HARPER

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