PETE THE CAT

A Groovy Musical Adventure About Friendship, Creativity & Confidence

COLORFUL STUDY GUIDE

Recommended for Pre-K–Grade 3

Music • Literacy • Visual Arts • Social-Emotional Learning

About the Performance

For Pete, life is an adventure wherever he goes! When the groovy blue cat meets the Biddle family, he gets everyone rocking - except Jimmy, a very organized second grader who likes everything to go according to plan.

When Jimmy cannot find an idea for his art project, Pete helps him discover inspiration in unexpected places. Their colorful journey takes them all the way to Paris and back in a groovy VW Bus. Along the way, Jimmy learns to try new things, welcome surprises, and believe in his own creativity.

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Identify characters, setting, problem, and solution.
- Describe how Jimmy changes during the story.
- Explore creativity, imagination, and artistic inspiration.
- Recognize friendship, cooperation, and flexible thinking.
- Notice how music, movement, costumes, and scenery tell a story.

Curriculum Connections

English Language Arts • Visual Arts • Music and Rhythm • Creative Thinking • Friendship • Problem-Solving • Flexibility • Perseverance

Before the Show

Start a Groovy Conversation

1. What does it mean to be creative? 2. Where do artists find inspiration? 3. How do you feel when you cannot think of an idea?	4. How can a friend help you see something in a new way? 5. What can you do when a plan changes? 6. How is a live performance different from reading a book?

Groovy Vocabulary

Adventure	an exciting or unusual experience
Creativity	using imagination to make or think of something new
Inspiration	something that gives you an idea
Flexible	willing to adjust when plans change
Perseverance	continuing to try when something is difficult
Self-expression	sharing ideas and feelings through art, music, words, or movement
Character	a person or animal in a story
Setting	where and when a story takes place

Watch, Listen & Wonder

During the Show

Watch for the problem Jimmy faces, ways Pete helps him, places they visit, moments when Jimmy tries something new, examples of teamwork, and how music, movement, costumes, props, and scenery help tell the story.

After-the-Show Questions

1. Who are the main characters? 2. Why is Jimmy having difficulty in art class? 3. How are Pete and Jimmy different? 4. How does Pete help Jimmy?	5. Where do they travel? 6. How does Jimmy change? 7. What does the story teach about creativity? 8. Which stage element helped tell the story best?

Activity 1: My Groovy Masterpiece

Create a picture inspired by the performance. Experiment with bright colors, unusual shapes, and imaginative details. There is no single “right” way to be creative!

My artwork was inspired by: _____

Activity 2: Design a Groovy Travel Bus

Decorate the bus with colors, patterns, and symbols showing places you would like to visit. Then finish the sentence below.

	MY GROOVY BUS		

If I traveled with Pete, I would go to _____

because _____

Friendship, Flexibility & Feelings

When Plans Change

Take a deep breath • Ask for help • Try a different idea • Learn from the experience • Keep going

Pete and Jimmy are different, but their differences help them learn from one another. What qualities make someone a good friend? How can you encourage a friend who feels frustrated?

Beginning • Middle • End

Draw or write one important event from each part of the story.

BEGINNING	MIDDLE	END

Quick Review

1. Jimmy needs inspiration for:

A. a science experiment B. an art project C. a soccer game

2. Pete helps Jimmy become more:

A. creative and confident B. worried and serious C. sleepy and quiet

3. Pete and Jimmy travel in:

A. a VW Bus B. a train C. a boat

4. One important lesson is:

A. Everything must be perfect. B. Never change plans. C. New experiences can inspire creativity.

Answer Key

1-B • 2-A • 3-A • 4-C

Be a Great Audience Member

- ✓ Use the restroom before the show.
- ✓ Walk quietly into the theater.
- ✓ Listen carefully and remain seated.
- ✓ Keep electronic devices turned off.
- ✓ Participate when invited.
- ✓ Applaud to thank the performers.

Teacher Extension: Our Groovy Gallery

Display students' artwork, travel-bus designs, and writing responses. Celebrate the many different ways students find inspiration and express their ideas!