



Activities for *Wooleycat's Musical Theater**

By Matthew Gollub © 2015-2024. Ideal for gr. K-2nd

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Wooleycat's Musical Theater is a picture book and a read-along songbook with audio to accompany and inspire dramatic play. The familiar Mother Goose rhymes offer a starting point for children to make up additional verses and choruses, or to create stories or songs of their own. The book may be linked to astronomy, geography, cooking, paper gliders, writing a book—even used for staging a classroom musical!

Listen for the rhyme.

Before playing a song from the CD or download, recite some of the rhymes from the text. Then look around the room for others: clock, sock, etc. For young readers, try writing the words on large cards. After listening to the song, have students recall the rhyming words from the story, or write them down to use in storytelling, writing, and dramatic play activities.

Use your senses.

In *Three Blind Mice on Vacation in Africa*, the mice are fooled by what they encounter on safari. Read the story and talk about perception. What if we couldn't use our sight and had only touch, taste, smell, or hearing to move about the world? For this activity, select objects ahead of time and put each one into a paper bag. Choose objects that, based on touch, are not so easily identified—toys, kitchen utensils, tools, dried pods, driftwood, souvenirs, unusual fruits and vegetables. Staple the bags partially closed so that a child can reach, but not see, inside. Have one child at a time feel a mystery object and describe it. Encourage the use of descriptive words. Later, reveal the mystery object. Finally, have students write or tell stories about themselves or characters who temporarily lose one of their senses, and the differences they experience in their daily lives.

Choose a career. Make a story.

Characters in this book are shown working in many professions. Show the illustrations, and name the careers suggested: master of ceremonies, doctor, baker, architect, pizza taster, firefighter, pilot, astronaut, sailor, etc. Arrange props such as hats, tools of the trade, or magazine cutouts, on the floor or table. Have children choose a prop and tell about their career. Students can also work in small groups to create skits based on those careers. Try combining careers in unusual ways such as a pizza taster and astronaut. It's also fun to make additional costumes and props!