

Study Guide * Lesson Plans



*Book and Lyrics by Tina Jo Wallace
Music by Scott Bradley*

Synopsis

This is a world premiere musical about a little snow girl with big dreams! Ella lives with her Grandpa In Snowflake Junction and with the first snowfall of winter, she creates Sarah the Snow Girl. She doesn't have the fanciest hat or buttons, but she is made with love and wants to be the best snowperson she can be. Sarah soon learns all about the upcoming Supreme Snowman contest where Frosty picks the Snowperson with the most magical spirit. She doesn't think she has a chance, as she is definitely the snowperson with the least "bling". But what Sarah lacks in flash, she more than makes up for in heart! In this hilarious musical, Sarah the Snow Girl helps a fellow snowman, motivates the ridiculous reindeer and their exasperated trainer, Harold, and even sacrifices her chances of winning the contest to help Ella and her Grandpa when they are in need. In the end, we all learn about never giving up and what it truly means to give!

Vocabulary



- **accessories** – objects that are not necessary in themselves but add to the beauty, convenience, or effectiveness of something else
- **annual** – occurring or performed once a year: YEARLY
- **anxious** – afraid or nervous about what may happen or desiring earnestly
- **candidate** – one who runs in an election contest or is proposed for an office or honor
- **careless** – not taking proper care
- **competition** – the act or process of competing or a contest between rivals
- **complicated** – consisting of many combined parts or difficult to analyze, understand, or explain
- **creative** – able to create especially new and original things or showing or requiring imagination
- **decoration** – the act or action of decorating or something that decorates or beautifies : ORNAMENT
- **determined** – having reached a decision : firmly resolved
- **disqualified** – to make or declare unfit or not qualified
- **elegant** – having or showing elegance or of excellent quality : SPLENDID
- **embarrassment** – something that causes one to feel self-consciously confused or distressed
- **hope** – to desire something and expect that it will happen or be obtained
- **impossible** – incapable of being or of occurring
- **incredible** – unbelievable, extraordinary
- **insane** – having or showing a very abnormal and very sick state of mind
- **leader** – someone that guides or directs an activity or group
- **motivation** – something that provides a reason for doing something
- **perky** – being lively and cheerful
- **polished** – smoothed or improved in manners, condition, or style
- **responsibility** – the quality of being dependable
- **rowdy** – rough or loud in behavior
- **selection** – the act of choosing from a number or group to include the best or most suitable individuals
- **sensitive** – easily or strongly affected or hurt
- **spa** – a commercial establishment (as a resort) offering programs and equipment devoted especially to health, fitness, weight loss, beauty, or relaxation
- **unique** – being the only one of its kind
- **voilà** – used when something is being presented or shown to someone



Interesting Facts about Snow

- Did you know that light and fluffy snow is often called 'powder'?
- When we get really heavy snowfall, these are called 'snowstorms'
- A blizzard often happens when there are snowstorms with very strong winds. Blizzards can be quite dangerous
- Snow reflects high levels of **ultraviolet radiation** which can cause something called snow blindness. So make sure when you go out in the snow you wear sunglasses, goggles or other eye protection.
- The highest snowfall ever recorded over a year was 1,224 inches (31.1 meters). This was in Mount Rainier in Washington State, United States. That was between 1971 and 1972. Wow, that's a whole heap of snow.
- The world's largest snowflake was apparently 15 inches across and 8 inches thick. It's in the Guinness Book of Records and it was found at Fort Keogh, Montana, United States on 28 January, 1887.
- Snow is not really white, it actually has no color. It looks like its white from reflections from the sun, no matter how little sun there is.

Ultraviolet radiation – **the sun** sends different rays to Earth. You will see some of them as sunlight. Some of them you can't see. The ones you can't see are called "ultraviolet" rays or "UV rays." These rays are the ones that can make your skin burn.

Pre-show Preparation & Discussion

1. Vocabulary

This play, while easy to understand for students as they watch, has a very rich vocabulary. Discuss the vocabulary terms above. Talk about the courtroom vocabulary too. Have they heard some of these words on the news? Help them get a basic understanding of the terms and be ready to discuss them after the play when the meanings may be clearer for the students.

2. Elements of Drama

There are different elements that go into theatrical performances such as:

- **Plot** - the pattern of events or main story in a narrative or drama.
- **Scenery** - painted screens, backdrops, hangings used on the stage to represent surrounding places in a play.
- **Setting** - The time and place the story takes place.
- **Theme** - The main idea of the story that connects the characters, setting, and plot.
- **Props** - The objects on the stage used to create the setting of the play.

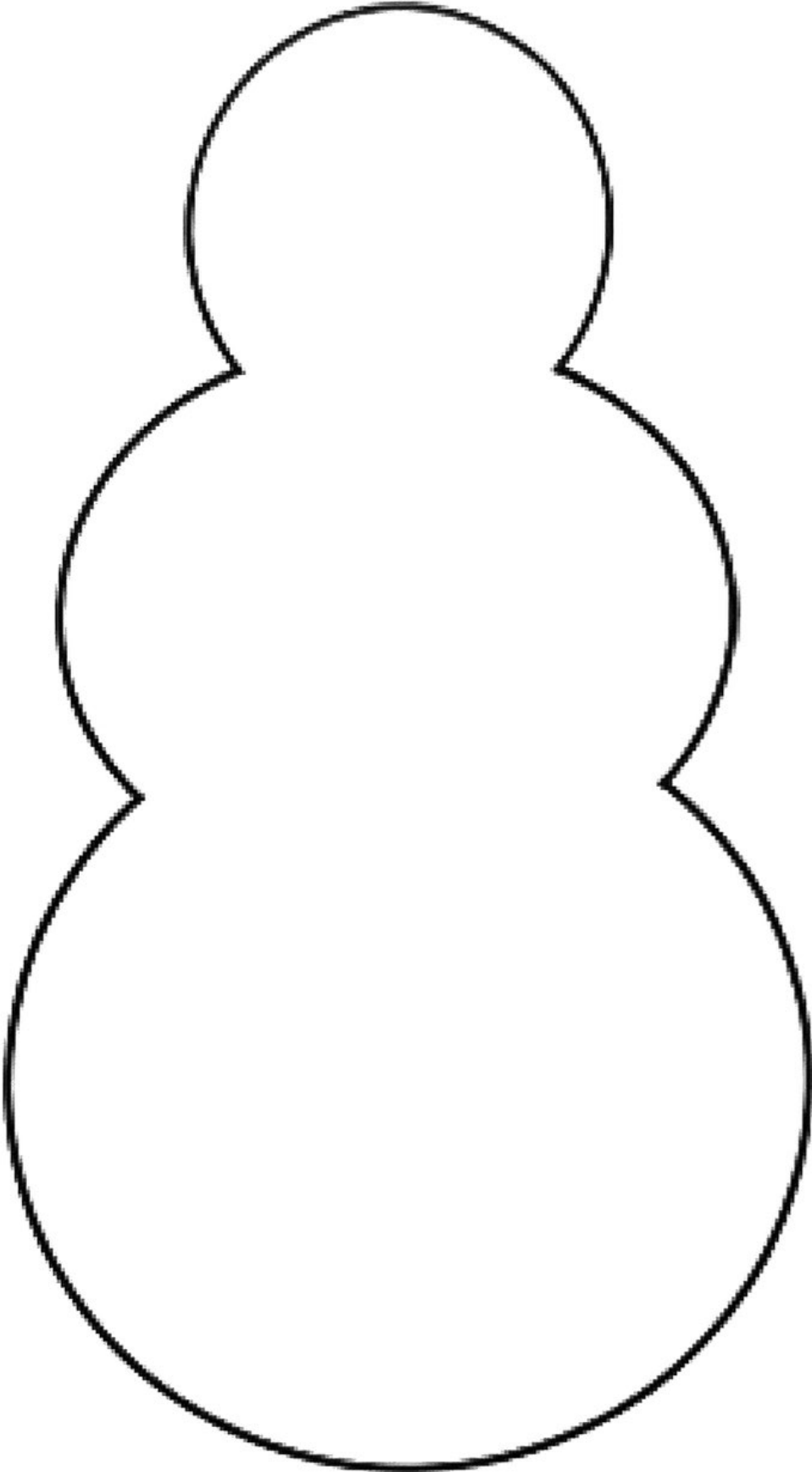
Before the show, discuss the meaning of each of these theatrical terms. After the show, have students openly discuss the plot of the show, the setting, etc.

3. Design Your Own Snowman!

In the show you are going to see, a little girl named Ella, who makes a "snow girl" with things from her house: a scrap of fabric and old hat, etc. Using the template below, allow your students to design their own snow people! They can think of items they may have in their homes, or imagine new items they don't have. They can color, paint, glue scraps on to it or draw patterns.

Follow up exercise: After seeing the show, have each student assign points to their snow person based on the song, FROSTY'S SNOWMAN SUPREME. Then practice math by adding up their points!

Design Your Own Snowman!



Post-show Activities:

1. The New Kid in Town

In the play, Sarah the Snow Girl is the new kid in town. She is different, and therefore, according to Suzi, should be treated differently. Lead a discussion about the feelings of a new kid. Have any of your students ever felt on the outside? What did they do? How was the situation resolved? Or are they still in the situation? If they are, what do they wish would happen to make the situation better? What are steps that they can take to change their situation? Have they ever witnessed or been a part of being the one to exclude another? If students need prompting offer playground examples of being picked last for a team, being left out of a game, or being new to a class. Have your students create an art piece inspired by those feelings.

2. Fact Vs Fiction

Use the play as a jumping off point to remind students about the difference between fact and fiction.

Step 1: As a class, review the plot of ONCE UPON A SNOWFLAKE.

Step 2: Discuss the meanings of the words "fact" and "fiction".

Step 3: Print out the worksheet below and allow your students to complete it. Go over the results together as a group.

Step 4: Discuss with your students the importance of telling the truth instead of fiction/lies. Talk about how gossip often turns out to be fiction even though kids think it is fact. Discuss how fictional gossip can hurt feelings and friendships.

Fact Vs Fiction

Name _____

Date _____

Which are fact and which are fiction? Put a check in the correct box after each statement.

	Fact	Fiction
Ella lives with her mom and dad.		
Suzi the Snow Girl can be mean sometimes.		
All the reindeer showed up for rehearsal on time.		
Sarah the Snow Girl didn't get any points in the contest.		
Spike the Snow Boy is nice to Sarah the Snow Girl.		
Sarah the Snow Girl broke a rule.		
Ella's Grandpa is very rich.		
Having fancy, expensive things makes you better than everyone else.		
Harold worked hard to help the reindeer.		
This play is about a very hot day at the beach.		

3. Who's who?

Matching! Draw a line connecting the name on the left with its description on the right!

Sarah

A mean Snow Girl who brags a lot

Ella

A caring man who loves Ella

Grandpa

This person assigns points in the contest

Frosty

A sweet snow Girl who is kind to everyone

Suzi

A nice Snow Boy

Spike

A little girl who builds a Snow Girl



4. Weather Forecaster

Our musical starts on the first snowfall of the year. Use this show to encourage students to learn about forecasting resources.

Step 1: Break the students into groups of 4.

Step 2: Tell the students that they are going to become the weather forecasters for the class! Assign a different upcoming date to each group of students. Each group will be expected to come to class on their assigned date and tell the class what the next day's weather is supposed to be. Each of the four students must find their prediction from a different source as listed below. Have the students record their predictions

1. In a newspaper
2. On an app on a phone
3. From the TV or the radio
4. From a site online.

Step 3: On the day after their predictions, have the students record if the weather was as they predicted.

Step 4: After all groups have had a chance to be forecasters, compare the predictions and results. Which media type was more accurate consistently?



5. After the Contest...

At the end of the play, Sarah has won the contest! Use this as a jumping off point to get your students to use their imaginations and write!

Step 1: As a class, review the end of the show.

Step 2: Ask your students to write a paragraph or a short story about what happens next. They can focus on Sarah or Ella or Frosty. Let them choose!

Step 3: Have each student draw an illustration to accompany his or her new story. Allow them to share their stories and drawings with the class.

