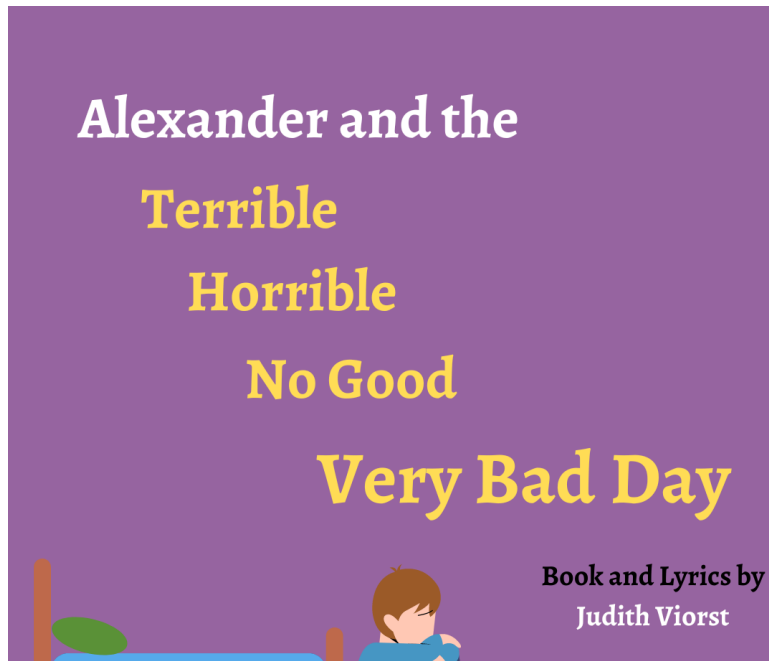


# Study Guide \* Lesson Plans



**This musical is about a boy named Alexander who wakes up to a day where everything that can go wrong, will go wrong! Alexander lives with his mother, father, and two brothers Nick and Anthony in a typical house in the suburbs. On top of his bad luck, Alexander's brothers love to push his buttons! As the day progresses, Alexander's family members all seem to have perfect days. This makes Alexander feel even more frustrated and alone on his bad day. Throughout the musical, Alexander learns valuable lessons about resilience, perspective, and the power of family support. The story highlights that everyone has bad days, but it's how we deal with them and the love of those around us that can turn things around.**

## Vocabulary

**Scrunched** - To become crushed or squeezed into a compact mass.

**Duet** - A performance by two people, especially singers, instrumentalists, or dancers.

**Tuneful** - Having a pleasing tune; melodious.

**Wallaby** - An Australasian animal that is similar to, but smaller than, a kangaroo.

**Eucalyptus** - A fast-growing evergreen Australian and Asian tree.

**Cavity** - A decayed part of a tooth.

**Wade** - To walk with effort through water or another liquid.

**Lima Beans** - An edible flat whitish bean.

**Nourish** - To promote the growth, to support.

**Cherish** - To hold dear : feel or show affection for

**Haze** - A cloudy appearance.

**Snug** - To cause to fit closely.

## Interesting Facts about Australia

### **The Great Barrier Reef is half the size of Texas**

Okay, so you knew the Great Barrier Reef was big, but you probably didn't know it was roughly half the size of Texas. The world's largest coral reef system spanning over 1,400 miles can even be seen from space! If this reef is on your natural wonders bucket list, you'd better go soon - climate change is the biggest threat to the reef.

### **There are more kangaroo and sheep than people**

Australia is the most sparsely populated continent in the world with approximately 24 million residents. But that's not it: there are twice the amount of kangaroo, and *three times* the amount of sheep! To help curb the kangaroo population, eating kangaroo meat has become commonplace, while sheep are used for meat as well as their wool.

### **Australia has more than 10,000 beaches**

You could visit a different Australian beach every day for over 27 years and *still* not see them all - that's a lot of beaches!

### **The Sydney Opera House was inspired by an orange**

Add this to your Australia bucket list. It all started with an orange. Before the Sydney Opera House became one of the most recognizable structures of the 20th century, it was a dream of architect Jørn Utzon. While many believe he was inspired by sailing yachts, Utzon was actually inspired to design the opera house by peeling an orange and being left with the segments, all in similar shapes. Utzon's genius design allows for all the roof sails to create a perfect sphere, just like an orange.

## 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.

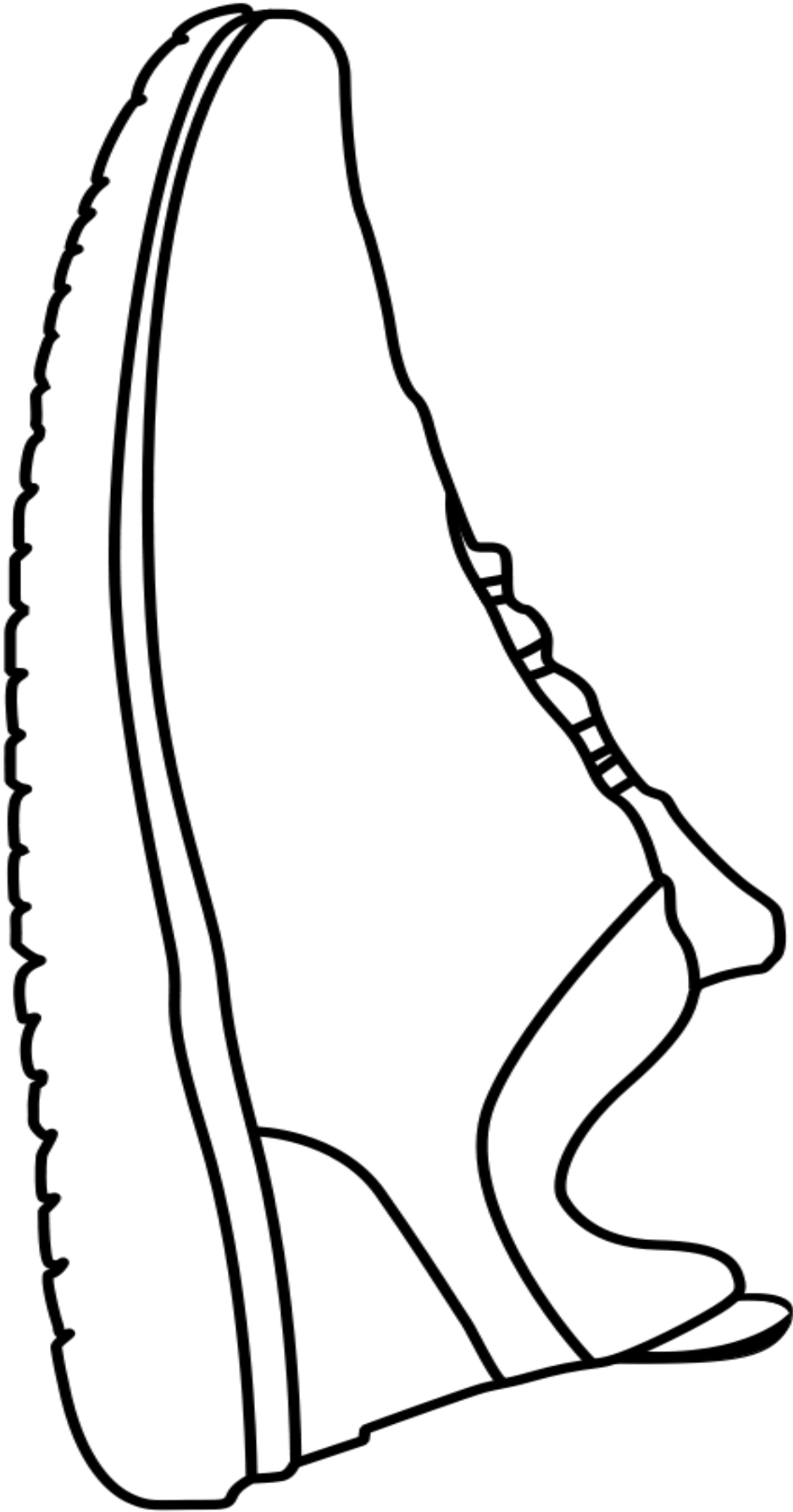
**Theme** - The main idea of the story that connects the characters, setting, and plot.

**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 Sneaker!

In the show you are going to see Alexander trying to choose a new pair of sneakers with his brothers at the store. Using the template below, allow your students to design their own sneaker featuring their favorite colors!



## **Post-Show Activities:**

### **1. Crossword Puzzle!**

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### **2. True or False?**

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 ALEXANDER AND THE TERRIBLE HORRIBLE NO GOOD VERY BAD DAY.

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

**Step 3:** Print out the worksheet below the crossword puzzle 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.

### **3. After the Bad Day**

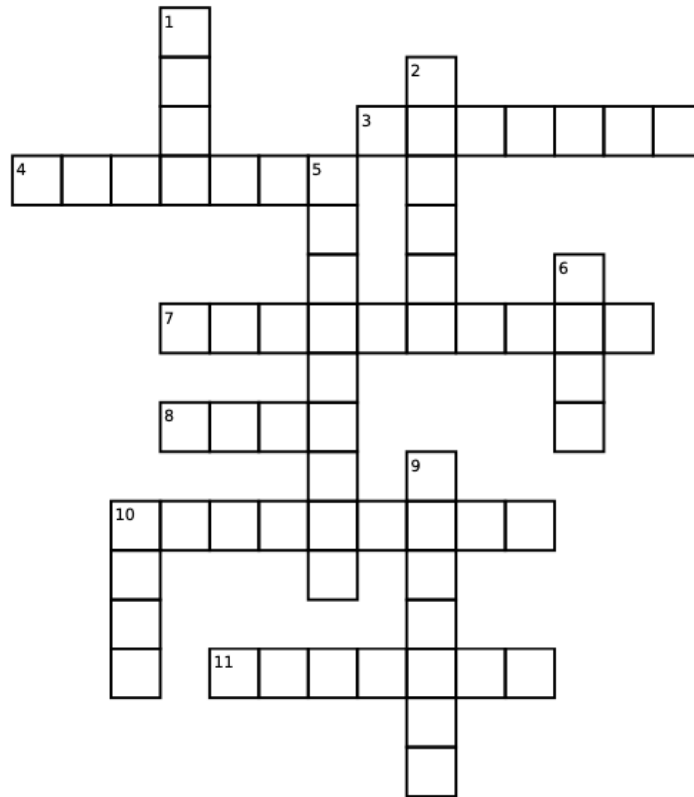
At the end of the play Alexander goes to sleep accepting that everyone has bad days, and is looking forward to a better day tomorrow! Use this as a jumping off point to get your students to use their imaginations and write!

**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.

**Step 3:** Have each student draw an illustration to show what a much better day could look like for Alexander. Allow them to share their stories and drawings with the class.

# Alexander & the Terrible Horrible No Good Very Bad Crossword



## Down:

1. To walk with effort through water or another liquid.
2. A decayed part of a tooth.
5. An edible flat whitish bean.
6. A performance by two people, especially singers, instrumentalists, or dancers.
9. To hold dear : feel or show affection for
10. To cause to fit closely.

## Across:

3. An Australasian animal that is similar to, but smaller than, a kangaroo.
4. Having a pleasing tune; melodious.
7. A fast-growing evergreen Australian and Asian tree.
8. A cloudy appearance.
10. To become crushed or squeezed into a compact mass.
11. To promote the growth, to support.

## TRUE OR FALSE?

Alexander has 3 brothers who love to push his buttons!

TRUE

FALSE

Alexander's school teacher is named Mrs. Dickens.

TRUE

FALSE

Alexander is an excellent singer!

TRUE

FALSE

Alexander wins the soccer game with his friends.

TRUE

FALSE

Alexander goes to the dentist and finds out he has a cavity.

TRUE

FALSE

Alexander thinks life in Australia is better!

TRUE

FALSE

Anthony and Nick get boring white sneakers at the store.

TRUE

FALSE

Alexander's favorite part of the day is bed time.

TRUE

FALSE

Mother helps Alexander realize that not every day will be bad.

TRUE

FALSE