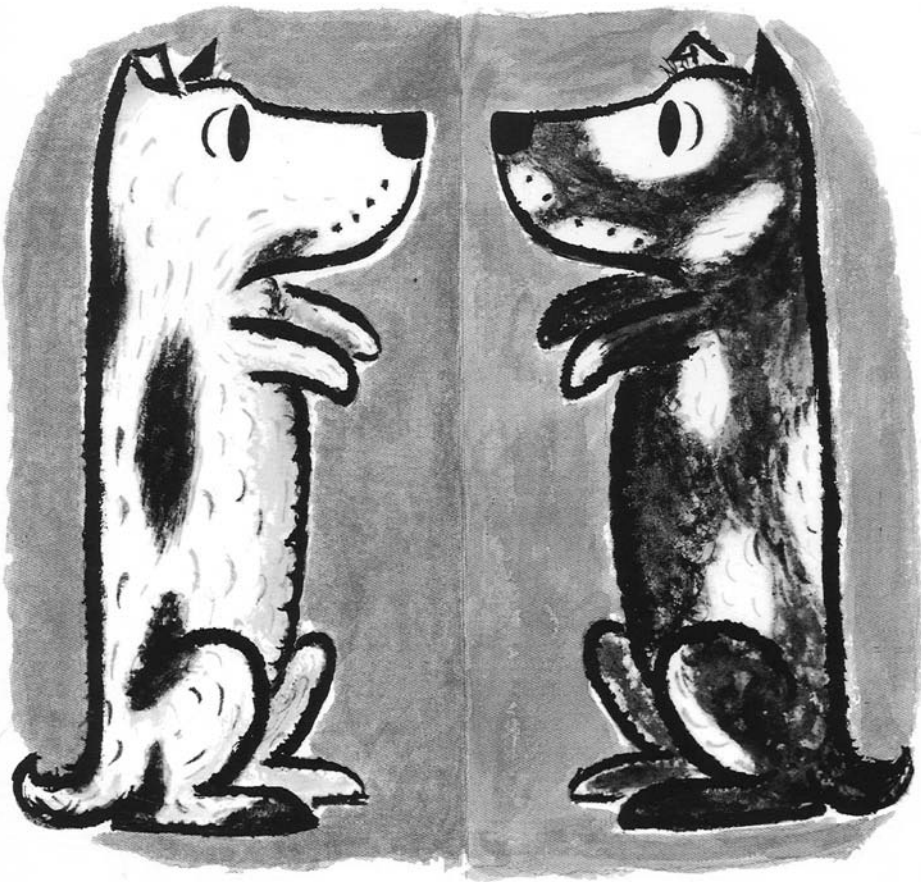


HARRY the Dirty Dog



**A one-act musical
based on the book by Gene Zion,
illustrated by
Margaret Bloy Graham**

Please photocopy any or all of the Reproducible Student Activity Pages.

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ArtsPower National Touring Theatre

Gary W. Blackman • Mark A. Blackman
Executive Producers

Harry the Dirty Dog

Based on the book **HARRY THE
DIRTY DOG** by Gene Zion

Illustrations by Margaret Bloy Graham

Published by Harper Collins, 1956

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Book and Lyrics by Greg Gunning

Music by Richard DeRosa

Costume Design & Construction
by Fred Sorrentino

Set Construction by
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Harry the Dirty Dog

Performance Study Buddy

Written by Dawn Eddy Molloy, Ph.D.

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Teacher Information

This study guide is designed to help you and your students prepare for, enjoy, and discuss ArtsPower's one-act musical play, *Harry the Dirty Dog*. This guide contains background information and cross-curricular activities to complete both before and after the performance.



What Happens in *Harry the Dirty Dog*?

To help students understand the format and action of the play, read this summary to them. The main characters' names appear in boldface type.

Harry the Dirty Dog is a musical—a play in which actors speak and sing to tell a story.

Harry is a little white dog with black spots who has everything he could want. He has his nice, soft pillow in a basket for a bed. He has his nice, big yard surrounded by a little white fence. But most importantly, Harry has his family—**Mom**, **Dad**, and **Little Girl**—whom he loves.

Harry has just one problem: he hates taking baths. He hates them so much, in fact, that one morning he runs away from home. Harry spends a wonderful day playing in the dirt, but, by the end of the day, he misses his family. When Harry returns home, he is filthy. Instead of looking like a little white dog with black spots, Harry looks like a little black dog with white spots. His family does not recognize him!

Learning Activity

PLAYING WITH OPPOSITES

Harry, a white dog with black spots, changes into the opposite: a black dog with white spots.

Ask children to brainstorm other pairs of opposites, such as boy/girl, yes/no, up/down, etc.





From Page to Stage

Turning a Book into a Musical

The musical *Harry the Dirty Dog* is based on a picture book. “Based on” means that the book provides the story for the musical. Some of the story’s characters, settings, and events remain the same. Some change.

Learning Activity

COMPARE IT!

Before the performance, read *Harry the Dirty Dog* by Gene Zion. After the performance, compare and contrast the characters, settings, and events in each version.

Theatre Workers

Many people work together to turn a picture book into a musical. Changes and additions are developed by the theatre company, ArtsPower National Touring Theatre:

- ◆ The **playwright** writes lines that actors speak.
- ◆ The **composer** writes the music.
- ◆ The **lyricist** writes the words to the songs that the actors sing.
- ◆ The **actors** audition for parts, and memorize lines and songs.
- ◆ The **designers** create sets, costumes, and lighting.
- ◆ The **director** rehearses the actors and makes artistic decisions.
- ◆ The **stage manager** oversees all backstage elements of a show.
- ◆ The **producers** manage the money and all the workers.

Learning Activity

TALK ABOUT IT!

Look at the list of theatre workers on this page. Which job would you like? Why?

Design Problems to Solve

Learning Activity

SETS FROM ILLUSTRATIONS

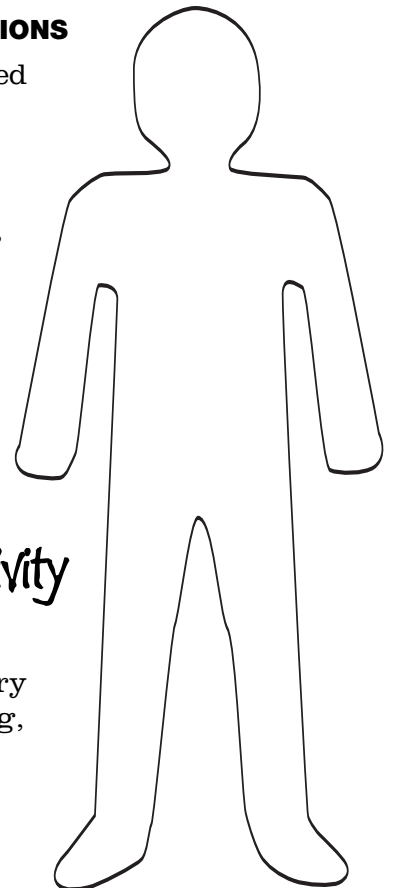
The director has decided that the sets should look like illustrations from the book.

After the performance, compare the book’s illustrations with the sets you saw on the stage. Which illustrations were used in the musical’s design?

Learning Activity

DESIGN IT!

The actor playing Harry needs to look like a dog, but must speak, sing, and move freely. Sketch your ideas for Harry’s costume here:





Actors as Characters

In the theatre, actors who play characters tell the story on stage. In *Harry the Dirty Dog*, four actors play sixteen characters. One actor plays Harry. The other three actors play the remaining fifteen characters.

Doubling

When an actor plays more than one character, it is not simply a matter of changing costumes. They must change their voices and body movements, too. This is called “doubling.” You will know that actors are doubling—have become new characters—when they change the ways they use their voices and bodies.

During rehearsals, the director worked with actors who double to change characters by:

- ◆ seeming younger or older,
- ◆ speaking differently,
- ◆ moving differently.

Learning Activity

DOUBLE TROUBLE?

Imagine that you are an actor who must double as five different characters. Change the way you play a character by changing your body movements and voice.

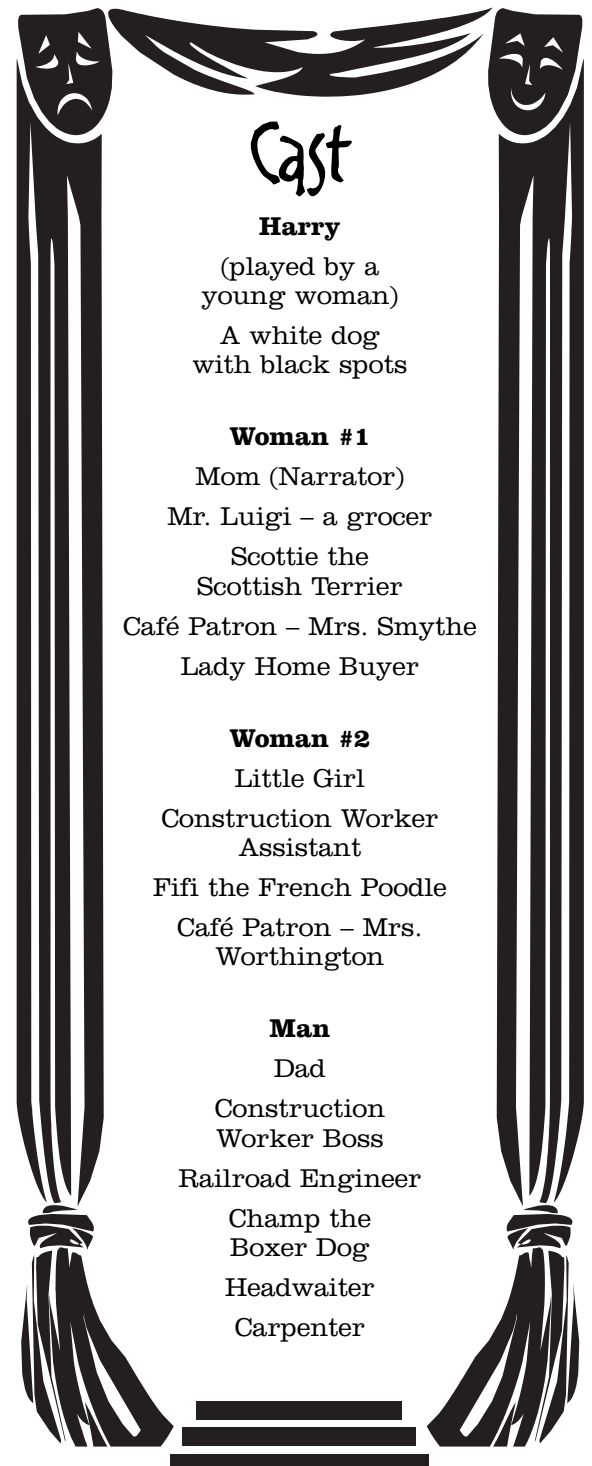
Work in pairs and say this line: “I do not need to take a bath.” as spoken by:

- ◆ a snobby know-it-all
- ◆ a two-year-old throwing a tantrum
- ◆ a cool teenager
- ◆ a sweet grandparent
- ◆ a mean boss

Share the ways you changed your body movements and voice for each character with the whole class.

During the performance, look for the changes the actors make when they double.

Why do you think traveling theatre companies like ArtsPower have actors double in roles?



Cast

Harry
(played by a young woman)
A white dog with black spots

Woman #1
Mom (Narrator)
Mr. Luigi – a grocer
Scottie the Scottish Terrier
Café Patron – Mrs. Smythe
Lady Home Buyer

Woman #2
Little Girl
Construction Worker Assistant
Fifi the French Poodle
Café Patron – Mrs. Worthington

Man
Dad
Construction Worker Boss
Railroad Engineer
Champ the Boxer Dog
Headwaiter
Carpenter



Actors' Lines

Because *Harry the Dirty Dog* is a musical, the story is told through spoken words and songs. Spoken words are called lines. The musical's lines tell the audience about the characters and the story. Actors work with the director to speak or "deliver" their lines with expression.

Learning Activity

DELIVERING LINES

To learn more about Harry, read his lines below. Deliver each line aloud with expression. Try different ways of delivering the same line.

HARRY

- ◆ Take a bath! Take a bath! What do I always have to take a bath for? I'm... I'm... I'm the adventurous, explorer type of dog!... Yeah!... We... We get dirty!
- ◆ I hate rules!
- ◆ Goodbye 'stay!' Goodbye 'family rules!'
- ◆ Getting food is going to be easy. Just "sing for my supper" and I'm in.
- ◆ All right! A construction site!—Things to climb—places to hide. Hey, I know—what a great place to play tag!
- ◆ What's the matter with you guys? Don't you have any gumption? Where's your nerve? Your spirit of adventure?! Didn't you ever want to break free of your leash?—go off on your own! You know—get dirty! I say—we tell our owners: "No more! I make the rules!" Do we always have to do what our owners say?

Learning Activity

WHO IS HARRY? PART 1

Based on these lines, circle the words or phrases below that describe Harry:

INDEPENDENT

LOYAL TO FAMILY

NAUGHTY

OBEDIENT

ANGRY

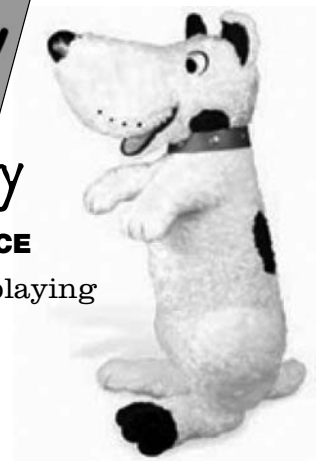
HAPPY



Learning Activity

DURING THE PERFORMANCE

Listen for how the actor playing Harry says the lines.





Words and Music

Lyrics

Lyrics are the words to the songs. Playwright Greg Gunning wrote the lyrics to all the songs in **Harry the Dirty Dog**. What do these lyrics that Harry sings tell you about his character?

**A dog's life is great!
Yes, the world is all mine.
This yard's like my kingdom—
I like it just fine.
It's good to be master
of all that I see.
Ah yes, it's a dog's life for me.**



**My family's the best that a dog ever had.
I've trained them quite well—
like the one they call dad.
The one they call mom runs things
all in a whirl.
But the one I like best they call:
'Our Little Girl'.**



**A dog's life is great
when you've got a good home.
It's all I could want here
so why should I roam?**



Musicals Need Music!

There is no musical without music! The music for **Harry the Dirty Dog** was composed and arranged by Richard DeRosa. Mr. DeRosa used synthesized music—sounds in a computer—to record the music. During the performance, the actors sing live to the prerecorded soundtrack—a CD with the synthesized music.

Learning Activity

WHO IS HARRY? PART 2

Based on these lyrics, circle the words below that describe Harry:

INDEPENDENT	LOYAL TO FAMILY
NAUGHTY	OBEDIENT
ANGRY	HAPPY

Learning Activity

THINK ABOUT IT!

Did you notice that the traits circled above may be the opposite of traits you circled on Page 5?

Like Harry, have you ever felt two opposite feelings—like wanting adventure but wanting to be home—at the same time?





From the Author to ArtsPower to YOU!

The Author

If it weren't for author Gene Zion, there would be no performance. He wrote the book that became the musical. You may wish to read all of the Harry books, written by Gene Zion and illustrated by Margaret Bloy Graham:

- ◆ ***Harry the Dirty Dog***
- ◆ ***No Roses for Harry***
- ◆ ***Harry by the Sea***
- ◆ ***Harry and the Lady Next Door***

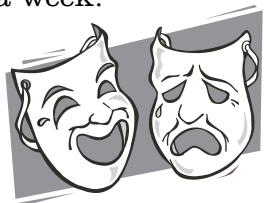
All of the Harry books are published by Harper Collins, New York.

ArtsPower

Harry the Dirty Dog is brought to you by ArtsPower National Touring Theatre. Why is ArtsPower called a national touring theatre?

The actors and a stage manager:

- ◆ present performances all over the United States.
- ◆ pack the set, costumes, lights, and recording equipment in their van.
- ◆ set up, change, and pack the set.
- ◆ take care of costumes and props—objects such as a ball, dog food bowl, and bath towels handled by actors.
- ◆ stay in hotels when they travel.
- ◆ sometimes present 12 performances in 12 different places in a week.



YOU: The Audience

No play is complete without the audience—you! Here are directions for playing your part:

- ◆ Watch closely.
- ◆ Think about how actors change their voices, body movements, and costumes when they double—change characters.
- ◆ Listen carefully to the lines, lyrics, and music.
- ◆ Pay attention. During the play, the mom will ask for your help to bring Harry home!
- ◆ Laugh or applaud if you enjoy the play.
- ◆ Remember that you and the actors are in the same room.
- ◆ Talking, whispering, or making noise during the performance makes it hard for actors to do their best.
- ◆ Help other audience members with your quiet attention.

After the Performance

Learning Activity

How well did you play your role as an audience member? Finish this sentence.

During the performance, I (check all that apply):

- Watched closely
- Listened carefully
- Helped call Harry home
- Other _____
