

A Musical Celebration of Reading

Created and Performed by Darlene Graham and the Shades of Green Band

It is our pleasure to have created this new program which uses the Performing Arts to celebrate Literature. We have carefully selected books which most children have the opportunity to read and are included in the New York State's Department of Education recommended reading lists. In using these works of literature in performance every attempt has been made to stay true to the author's words and the illustrator's drawings. The music is original and written by Darlene Graham and performed by her and the Shades of Green Band. It is a celebration!

As with any celebration you need activities to make it special, so much time has been put into creating Pre Show, Performance and Post Show activities. When all are combined the preparation for the performance, the performance and the recall after the performance provides the greatest impact. It is greatest if as many of the activities are incorporated into the student's activities. We know teachers and administrators can be whirlwinds of creativity and energy so please accept the activities we provide in this packet as a way to begin the process of celebrating reading for your students.

The activities are broken down by books with suggested grades. However please apply these activities to your situation. We are attempting to give all students the opportunity to be part of the performances. There are Pre Show Activities which may be used to build excitement the week preceding the performance. Many of these activities will be included as part of the performance if you choose to do them. The activities used in the performance will enhance the use of literature in the core curriculum and we will be adding new books and items as we see what works best for the students, teachers and the performances. It is our great delight to share the performing arts as a way to look, hear, act, dance, and participate in making the literature a celebration!

Activities

All activities worksheets are located on our web site at www.packardcreative.com/dg/schools.html and can be downloaded or viewed or heard on line through your computer's web browser. There are only two file types PDF files for documents, and MP3 files for audio files. If you have any questions or suggestions please contact us at 631-983-9797 or concerts@darlenegrahammusic.com

Kindergarten/First Grade Classes

Text: Eric Carle's *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*

Caterpillar Craft Project - It is described in the [Caterpillar Project Directions](#) sheet and [leg template](#). The project is to have individual classes each work together to create their own child scale caterpillar to be used as part of the performance. Each Caterpillar will consist of 9 students each holding a piece of the body. Have the students color the caterpillar to their design choice. You may work from the book if you desire. 8 students will hold the body parts and 1 student will receive the head of the Caterpillar from Darlene during the

presentation. The students should have practiced walking as a group before the presentation day. **Note:** Teachers should hold all Caterpillar parts until “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” is performed. Please have a lead teacher ready to organize the Caterpillar line up as they practiced earlier and head to the stage area.

[Very Hungry Caterpillar Writing Worksheet](#) and [Very Hungry Caterpillar Reading Worksheet](#) maybe used either as a pre or post performance activities. Last we have a sheet for teachers and/or parents to use as a post performance activity titled, [Kindergarten Post Show Questions](#) these are most helpful within 24 hours of the actual performance, and there are also web links to the authors of all the books used in the performances.

1st / 2nd Grade Classes

Text: Esphyr Slobodkina’s *Caps for Sale*

Caps for Sale Craft Project – There are two elements to this project, the Craft project and a song and while they are intended to be combined if only one element is possible it will still enhance the student’s experience. Using the [Caps for Sale Project Directions](#) and the [Copy Master for Caps Project](#) students will be able to make their own caps which will be used in the performance. There are 4 specific cap colors needed: Grey, Brown, Blue, and Red. Our suggestion is if you have an even 4 classes of 1st grade then each class should take one color and make enough caps in that color for each child.

For Example: Mrs. Graham’s class will have all red caps, Mr. Packard’s class will have all Grey Caps, Miss Faska’s class will have all the blue caps, etc.

If you have more or less than 4 classes of 1st grade then evenly distribute the cap colors across the grade level keeping in mind that each color should be sitting next to each other during the presentation.

The Caps for Sale Song is sung by the 1st graders and Darlene. Each time the word Cap is sung the students raise their caps in the air and lower them quickly. Each time they hear their specific color in the song they also raise their caps in the air and lower them quickly. (Lowering caps quickly allows the other colors to be seen)

Caps for Sale Song Project – There are two elements to this project, the Song project and a craft and while they are intended to be combined if only one element is possible it will still enhance the student’s experience. Using [Caps for Sale Lyrics](#) sheet and the MP3 audio file titled [Caps for Sale Music](#) students can learn a chorus to the performance music of **Caps for Sale** and will sing it along with Darlene and the Band. It is a very short clip but it will save much time in the final performance. The lyric sheet is the actual slide the students will see during the performance so this should help them recognize it when it happens in the performance. As noted above there are actions which are combined with cap craft project.

[Caps for Sale Writing Worksheet](#) and [Caps for Sale Reading Worksheet](#) maybe used either as a pre or post performance activities. Last we have a sheet for teachers and/or parents to use as a post performance activity titled, [1st Grade Post Show Questions](#) these are most helpful within 24 hours of the actual performance, and there are also web links to the authors of all the books used in the performances.

2nd / 3rd Grade Classes

Text: Jim Aylesworth's *The Gingerbread Man*

Gingerbread Man Song Project – The chorus to the song **The Gingerbread Man** is heard several times throughout the presentation. Print out all 5 song sheets:

[Gingerbread Man Part 1 Lyrics](#)

[Gingerbread Man Part 2 Lyrics](#)

[Gingerbread Man Part 3 Lyrics](#)

[Gingerbread Man Part 4 Lyrics](#)

[Gingerbread Man Part 5 Lyrics](#)

The lyric sheet are the actual slides the students will see during the performance so this should help them recognize it when it happens in the performance.

Each lyric sheet corresponds to MP3 audio files. There are five parts to this song that the second grade classes will be able to read and sing along with Darlene during the show. All 2nd graders will be featured on this song. The students can learn a chorus to the performance music. They are very short clips but it will save much time in the final performance. The MP3 can be burned to a CD or played right off the internet if you have speakers on your computer. The MP3 files are titled:

[Gingerbread Man Part 1.mp3](#)

[Gingerbread Man Part 2.mp3](#)

[Gingerbread Man Part 3.mp3](#)

[Gingerbread Man Part 4.mp3](#)

[Gingerbread Man Part 5.mp3](#)

Gingerbread Man Self Portraits - It is described in the [Gingerbread Man Project Directions](#) sheet. Depending on the amount of children in this grade level you can have each child make their own Gingerbread Man or work in pairs, trios etc...

Note: Teachers are to choose one Gingerbread Man that will be reinforced with cardboard or something sturdy behind it so that this child can present it at the assembly. The rest will stay on the walls around the performance area. In addition, Six 2nd grade students will be asked to come to the stage and become one of the characters in the book.

[Gingerbread Man Writing Worksheet](#) and [Gingerbread Man Recipe](#) may be used either as a pre or post performance activities. Last we have a sheet for teachers and/or parents to use as a post performance activity titled, [2nd Grade Post Show Questions](#) these are most helpful within 24 hours of the actual performance, and there are also web links to the authors of all the books used in the performances.

Bibliography

Aylesworth, Jim. *The Gingerbread Man*. Illustrated by McClintock Barbara. New York, NY: Scholastic Press, 1998

Carle, Eric. *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. New York, NY: Putnam, 1969

Silverstein, Shel. *Falling Up*. Danny O'Dare. New York, NY: Harper Collins Publishers, 1996

Slobodkina, Esphyr. *Caps for Sale*. New York, NY: Scholastic Press, 1968