



Wichita Children's Theatre
Professional Touring Company

THE THREE LITTLE KITTENS

**STUDY GUIDE
2022-2023**

**Wichita Children's Theatre & Dance Center
201 S. Lulu
Wichita, Ks 67211**

**Kyle Vespestad
Tour Director
316-262-2282
kylevespestad@yahoo.com**

THEATRE ETIQUETTE

When you take your seat in the audience, you accept the responsibility of a special agreement.

Part of that agreement includes believing what happens is real, it is happening live, before your eyes! Listen carefully and quietly, that is an important role as an audience member.

Respond honestly and sincerely, laugh when you think something is funny or applaud for the actors after a song. This special relationship only happens in live theatre.

Just a reminder, avoid anything that might distract the performers. You should avoid speaking to your neighbor, cell phones, flash photography or any random noises during the performance.

When the show is over, show your appreciation with hearty applause. That's the sound that warms the actor's hearts.

Finally, ENJOY the show!!

SYNOPSIS

THE THREE LITTLE KITTENS

The three little kittens have lost their mittens--but they're not just going to sit around and cry about it! These are definitely not your ordinary house cats. Help the kittens find their mittens and save them from their hideous fate--a time out! The kittens all learn many valuable lessons but the most important is to always tell the truth. The Three Little Kittens is a musical comedy adaptation by Kevin M Reese based on the popular children's story.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

MOM CAT

TOM CAT

AL CAT

TABBY CAT

Activities & Discussion

VOCABULARY

Here are some of the words and phrases the children will encounter during the performance:

masculine	predicament	catnap	identify	workmanship	fib
confession	appreciate	labor	union	catnip	kitty litter
sleuth	exceptional	alternate	on the job training	spick-and-span (clean)	

1. **Ligers & Tigons.** Tom Cat tells us about his favorite animals that come from unusual combinations of animals (Lion + Tiger = Tigon) What combinations of animals can your class come up with that have funny/unusual names? (Dog + Cat = Cog or Dat, etc) There are also many jokes out there about this: "What do you get when you cross a dog and a rooster? – A cockadoodle poodle"
2. **Story Quilt.** Tell students they will each get to make a square for the paper patchwork quilt. Hang a piece of dark colored butcher paper (3' X 6') on the wall. Have each student design a square about a part of the story on a piece of art paper (10" X 10 "). Cut the edges of the squares with pinking shears before pasting them onto the quilt.
3. **Class play.** Using the KMR Scripts production as a guide, have the class come up with their own version of THE THREE LITTLE KITTENS (or another fairy tale). Write the script, cast and rehearse the play and perform it for another class.
4. Draw a picture of their favorite character and display it on the wall or bulletin board.
5. Have the students write a review of the play. What were their favorite parts? Their least favorite? Did anything happen that they didn't understand or seemed confusing? Did they like the music or did it "get in the way of the story?" What did they think of the costumes and scenery? Help them understand that their opinions are most certainly valid but will most likely differ from that of others (and that is OK). Being able to objectively discuss their opinions and others' is definitely a skill that will benefit them the rest of their lives.
6. Possible themes for papers or discussion:
 - a. What was your favorite character in the story? Why?
 - b. Why is it important that we always tell the truth?
 - c. If you could live during another time in history, which would it be? Why?
 - d. What would you do if your dog or cat suddenly started talking?
 - e. What would you do if you woke up tomorrow and you were a cat?
7. What lessons did the students learn from the story?
 - a. Don't fib because it's the same as lying.
 - b. Learn to take care of your things.
 - c. Do your chores.
 - d. There are ways to make even the most boring task seem fun.
 - e. Using your imagination and pretending are fun.
8. Draw their house. The cats in our play are "indoor" cats– they don't go outside. Their whole world is their house. Draw a map, floor plan, or picture of the inside of their house. Show the living room, kitchen, bedroom, their mother's room, where the cat litter is– they may even add some that weren't shown in the play, but are seen in their imaginations.
9. **Lies vs fibs.** The Mama Cat tried to teach her kittens that there is no such thing as a harmless lie (AKA: white lite or fib, half-truths, etc.). Help your students understand that they must guard their reputation for always being truthful. The story of the Little Boy Who Cried Wolf is a perfect example, also used in the show. Also discuss how we may lie by not only what we say– but also by what we DON'T say.

All about Cats: (thanks to catsinfo.com)

- a. Cats were first domesticated about 4000 years ago (cir 2000 BC) in Egypt.
- b. In ancient Egypt, you would be sentenced to death if you killed a cat.
- c. There are 36 recognized breeds of pedigree cats. Siamese cats are the most popular breed.
- d. It has been scientifically proven that owning cats is good for our health and can decrease the occurrence of high blood pressure and other illnesses. Stroking a cat can help to relieve stress, and the feel of a purring cat on your lap conveys a strong sense of security and comfort. But purring does not always indicate that a cat is happy. Cats will also purr loudly when they are distressed or in pain.
- e. A cat has more bones than a human being. We humans have 206 and the cat has 230 bones.
- f. The average litter of kittens is between 2 - 6 kittens.
- g. An adult cat has 30 teeth, 16 on the top and 14 on the bottom. An adult human has 36 teeth.
- h. When a cat rubs up against you, the cat is marking you with it's scent claiming ownership.
- i. On average, a cat will sleep for 16 hours a day.
- j. The average lifespan of an outdoor-only cat is about 3 to 5 years while an indoor-only cat can live 16 years or much longer. The life expectancy of cats has nearly doubled over the last fifty years.
- k. It is believed that after the first 2 years of a cat's life, each feline year is approximately 4 human years.
- l. Cats are adolescents at about 6 months to one year old, middle aged at about 8 years of age, and considered senior citizens at about 12 years of age.

The Three Little Kittens Wordsearch

D I F F H X U N I O N O P M M
U N O I S S E F N O C L R E T
F D A W M Y I I C H O R E S O
T O P P O O A N G N I R T S M
P O P X S R M D U O R P T Y B
I R R N B D K A V P L B I F O
H V E N A U N T S H I R L E Y
S O C D A U D A N C E N Y Y A
N I I Y I D G Q K G U B T K R
A C A V E C O H I C B L T A N
M E T M S L A L T A I I I E C
K Z E I O R L M T Y G P K N D
R S N E T T I M E O U T S S E
O G B A L L M A N N E R S Z O
W A A L S T O Y S E T U O H S

Word bank:

All
Appreciate
Aunt Shirley
Ball
Brain
Catnip
Chores
Confession
Dance
Fib
Pie

kittens
kitty litter
lie
Liger
manners
masculine
messy
mittens
Mom
naughty

predicament
proud
punish
shout
sing
sneaky
spick-and-span
string
Tabby
Tigon
timeouts

Tom
tomboy
tornado
toys
union
work
workmanship
yarn
yell
indoor voice

Kitty Cat Word Search

P P P A W S R E K S I H W L P
T U G O W U S G T V H I F W C
S Y R W U E W A X O A O F T O
W A E R M N B I U P E E L S L
A R N A W B C S E Y E S H C L
L N I O Y P E E S U O M K R A
C S E L E C R E L A X E D A R
G M F T A K I T T E N M Z T U
J V G T Y F F U L F F N Z C F
Y V Z D D R I O Q W Q C W H W

claws	pet
collar	pounce
eyes	purr
fluffy	relaxed
fur	scratch
housecat	siamese
kitten	sleep
meow	tabby
mouse	whiskers
paws	yarn



Name _____

Three Kittens' Mittens

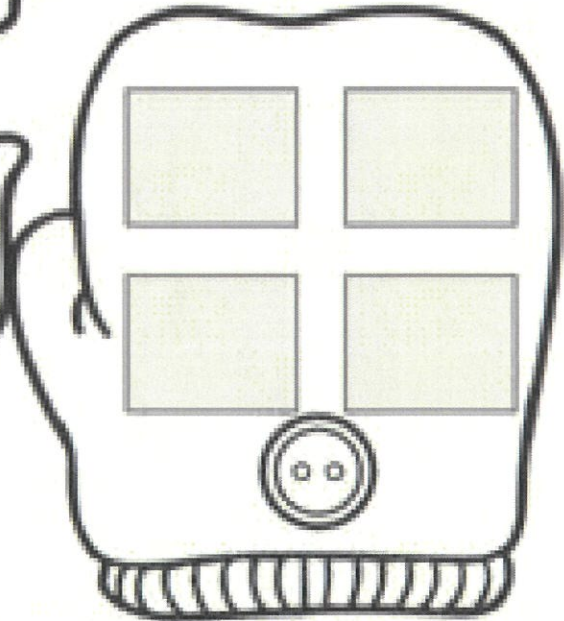
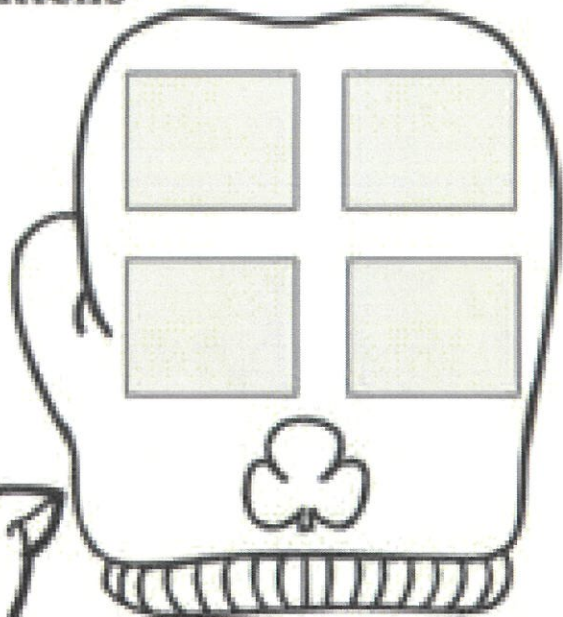
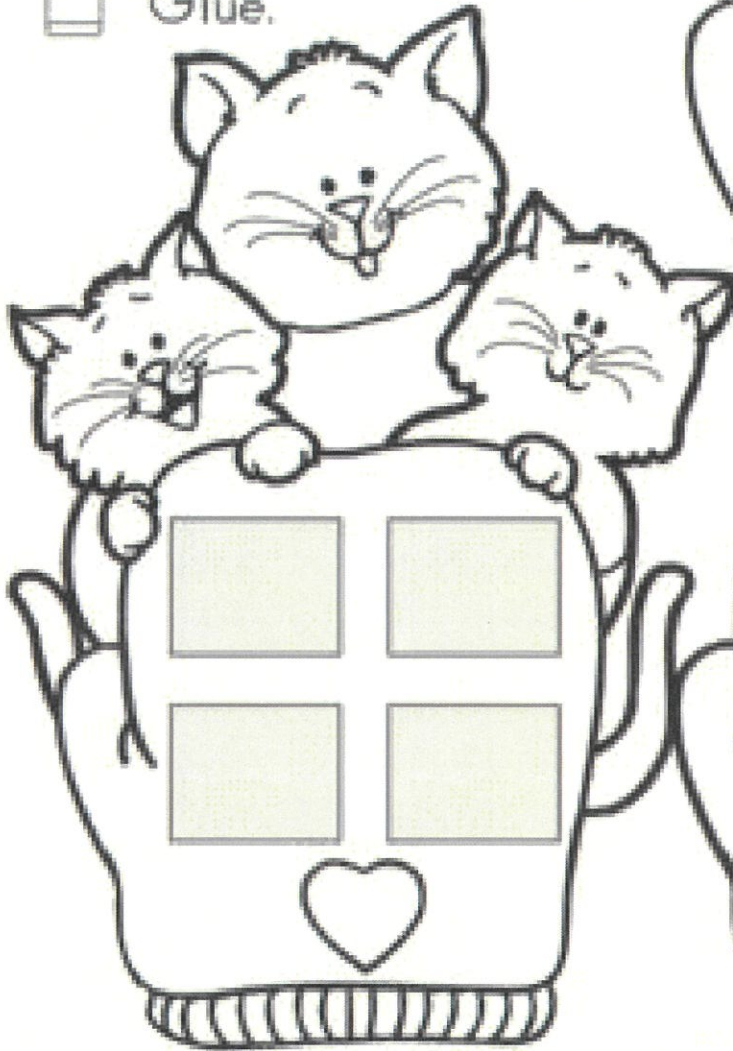


Cut.

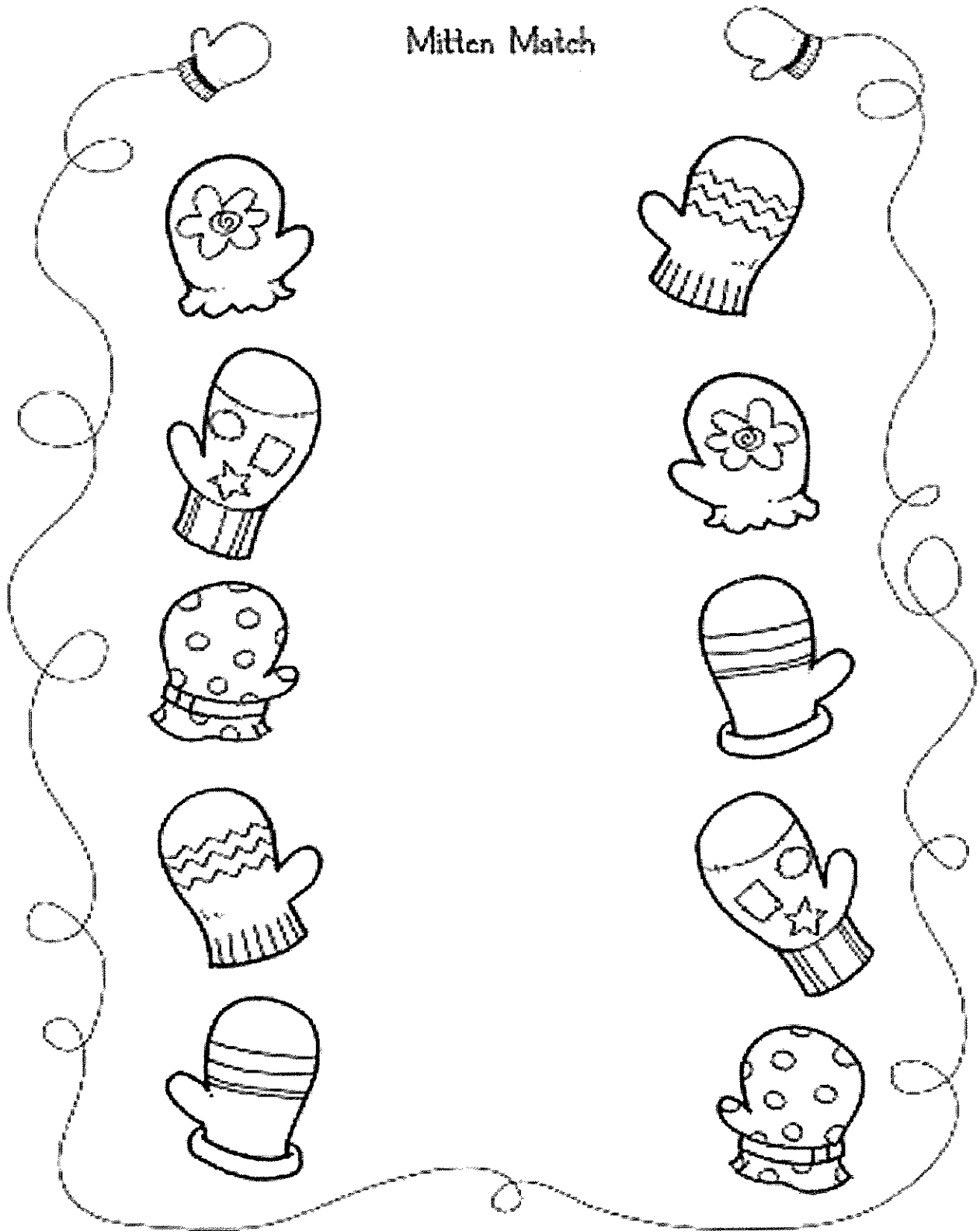
Sort.



Glue.



Mitten Match



DRAW A LINE TO CONNECT THE MATCHING MITTEN
THEN COLOR THE PAIRS TO MATCH



LETTER TO THE ACTORS

On the following page you will find a letter form for your students. Have your students write the actors from the Touring Company. Let the actors know if they liked the show, who was their favorite character, or any information they feel like sharing! Please include what school you are from and an address so the actors can send a letter back!!!

Send to.... WICHITA CHILDREN'S THEATRE
TOURING COMPANY
201 S LULU
WICHITA, KS 67211

