

READING!

AND OTHER SUPERPOWERS

LEYENDO! Y OTROS SÚPER PODERES



BY JOHN DIANTONIO
ILLUSTRATED BY CELINE SUTTER

Study Guide

Creede Repertory Theatre's 2015 Young Audience
Outreach Tour presents....

Reading! And Other Superpowers

Leyendo! Y Otros Súper Poderes

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Book Illustrations by Celine Sutter

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Music Director: Alexander Tom

Choreographer: Bethany Talley

Stage Manager: Dylan Nicole Martin

Set Designer: Emmy Weldon

Costume Designer: Tamara M. Carruthers

Music Conductor: Mindy Rohn

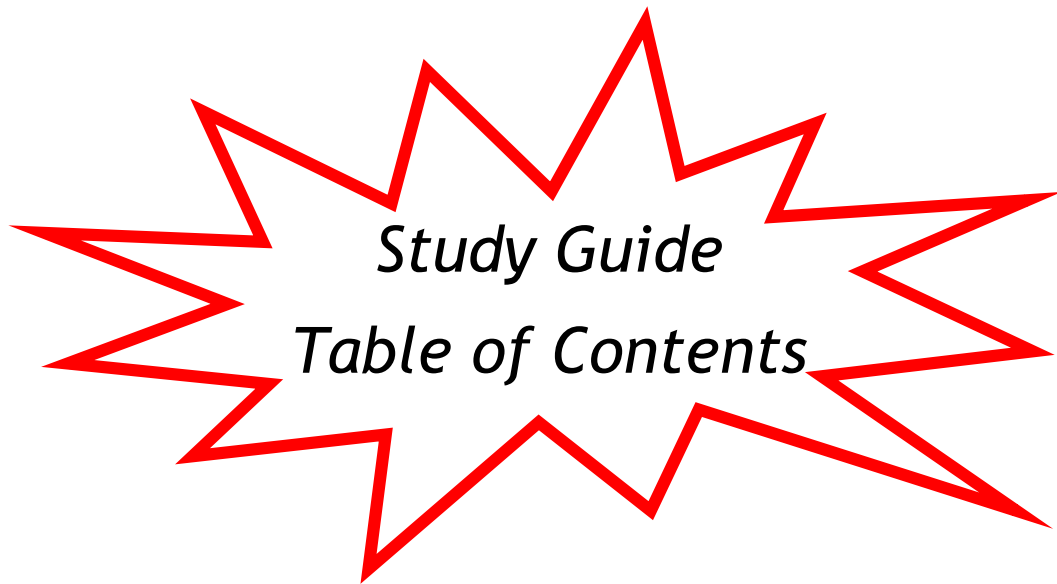
Sound Designer: Becca Pearce

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Starring: Justin Barron and Pancho Villegas

Tour Manager: Johamy Morales



Study Guide
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Theatre Etiquette

Seeing a play isn't like watching television at home or going to a movie. In theatre, the actors are right there in front of you and you are a part of the experience!

Here are a few guidelines to help you know what to do when you see a play:

1. Don't talk during the performance. This can distract the performers and other audience members. You can laugh if you think something is funny and clap your hands if you liked something you saw or heard, but be respectful of the performers and your friends around you. Remember that if you're talking, you might miss something important in the show!
2. No food during the show. The sound of candy wrappers and crunchy snacks are distracting and can get messy. Save it for later!
3. Stay in your seat. If you're standing up or wiggling around, you could block someone's view or distract them. In theatre, it shows respect for the performers and your fellow audience members if you wait until the END of the show to stand up. If there is an emergency, it is okay to leave. Otherwise, stay and enjoy the show!
4. Applaud at the end of the show! This is how you can thank the actors for putting on the show for you and this is when they can thank you for coming to their show and paying attention!
5. Enjoy the show! As you're watching, think about what you like about it. Is it funny? Do you want to sing along to the songs? Is there anything you didn't like or understand? You can talk to your classmates and teachers after the show about what you saw, heard, and felt.



How Does Theatre Happen?

It takes a LOT of people to make theatre happen. Theatre is a collaborative art form. Collaborative means that there are a lot of people who work together toward a common goal. Some of the people who are needed to make theatre happen are:

The Playwright: The playwright is a storyteller who writes stories that can be acted out on stage. These are called plays. The playwright usually only writes down what the characters in the play say.

The Director: Once a play is written, a director is in charge of putting it on stage. The director chooses the actors who will be in the play and tells them where to stand on stage. They also work with designers to create the world of the play.

The Designers: The designers create the physical world of the play

The Set Designer decides what should be onstage during the play to represent the physical world of the play.

The Lighting Designer hangs and focuses lighting instruments to portray the times of day, seasons, and dramatic moments of the play.

The Costume Designer decides what the characters in the play will wear onstage.

The Sound Designer chooses sound effects and music for the play.

The Actors: The actor's job is to act out the play onstage. Actors will play different characters on stage and sometimes these characters are very different from the actor's own personality. This means that an actor has to be very good at using their imagination.

The Stage Manager: The stage manager's job is to make sure that the director, actors, and designers are all communicating and to make sure that rehearsals and performances are running smoothly.

**AN INTERVIEW
WITH THE
ACTORS!**

Justin Barron



Pancho Villegas



When did you start acting?

PANCHO: I've been acting ever since I was pretending to be a Power Ranger in the first grade. My first singing solo was in the fourth grade and my first actual piece of theatre happened in the fifth grade. It was a school production of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. I've been doing theater professionally since I was 19!

JUSTIN: My first play was *Lewis and Clark*. I was in the 6th grade. I played Lewis.

What do you love most about theatre?

PANCHO: It's part of an actors job to tell the story, stay true to the directors vision and be consistent. However, what I love most about theatre is that it's a live event. No show is ever exactly the same.

JUSTIN: I love theatre for the outlet it provides me to tell a story. Storytelling is an essential part of life.

Did you go to school for acting?

PANCHO: I did not go to school for acting. I've learned on the job.

JUSTIN: I did! I went to the University of Central Missouri and graduated with a Bachelors of Fine Arts degree. My emphasis was Musical Theatre.

What was your favorite moment as an actor?

PANCHO: I was applauded on stage as I made my first entrance like I was Kramer from *Seinfeld*.

JUSTIN: I don't think I have one. I love those "happy accident" moments in shows. Something goes wrong and to have to adjust but something great comes out of it. Those make the best memories.

If you could do any job other than be an actor, what would it be?

PANCHO: Maybe a director. Not too sure because this is the only thing I plan on doing.

JUSTIN: I would write comic books or screenplays—just another form of telling stories.

What advice do you have for young people who want to do theatre?

PANCHO: Do it because you love it, not for anything else.

JUSTIN: If you are completely passionate about doing theatre then never let anyone (including yourself) dissuade you. It is also a lot of rejection, but have confidence and humility and you WILL be successful!

Fun Facts from *Reading! And Other Superpowers*

Sometimes when you see a play you may hear words or ideas that you don't recognize or understand. You'll hear the language Spanish, about *lucha libre*, and **comic books** when you see the play. Here are some quick facts for you to know so you can be informed when you see the play!

Luchadores/Lucha Libre

- A *luchador* is a professional Mexican wrestling performer.
- *Lucha libre* is the form of wrestling where the luchador performs. *Lucha libre* first became popular in the 20th century.
- A *luchador's* mask is an important part of the *luchador's* personality and is unique to each performer. It's even illegal in some situations to remove the mask of an opponent in the wrestling ring!
- *Luchadores* use agility and acrobatics in wrestling matches to show their skills.

Comic Books

- A comic book is a series of words and images in a sequential order that presents a story.
- Comic books can be about stories or ideas that are funny, scary, or serious. The stories can be about political and social issues too.
- Comic books first became popular in the United States in the 1800s.
- Comic books started telling stories about superheroes in 1938 when Jerome Siegal and Joseph Shuster created the character Superman.

Reading: It's a Superpower!

VOCABULARY

Being a good reader includes knowing what different words mean and how they relate to other words. Work through the following exercises to practice your vocabulary and grammar skills!

Synonyms are two words that mean the same or almost the same thing.

Antonyms are two words that have opposite meanings.

Mark the following word pairs: **S for Synonyms** and **A for Antonyms**

Fast and Quick ___

Light and Dark ___

Tidy and Sloppy ___

Eliminate and Remove ___

Determined and Resolute ___

A **homograph** is a word that looks the same as another, but has a different meaning and sound. Using the following words: **record, live, lead, wind** and fill in the blanks below by saying the word out loud.

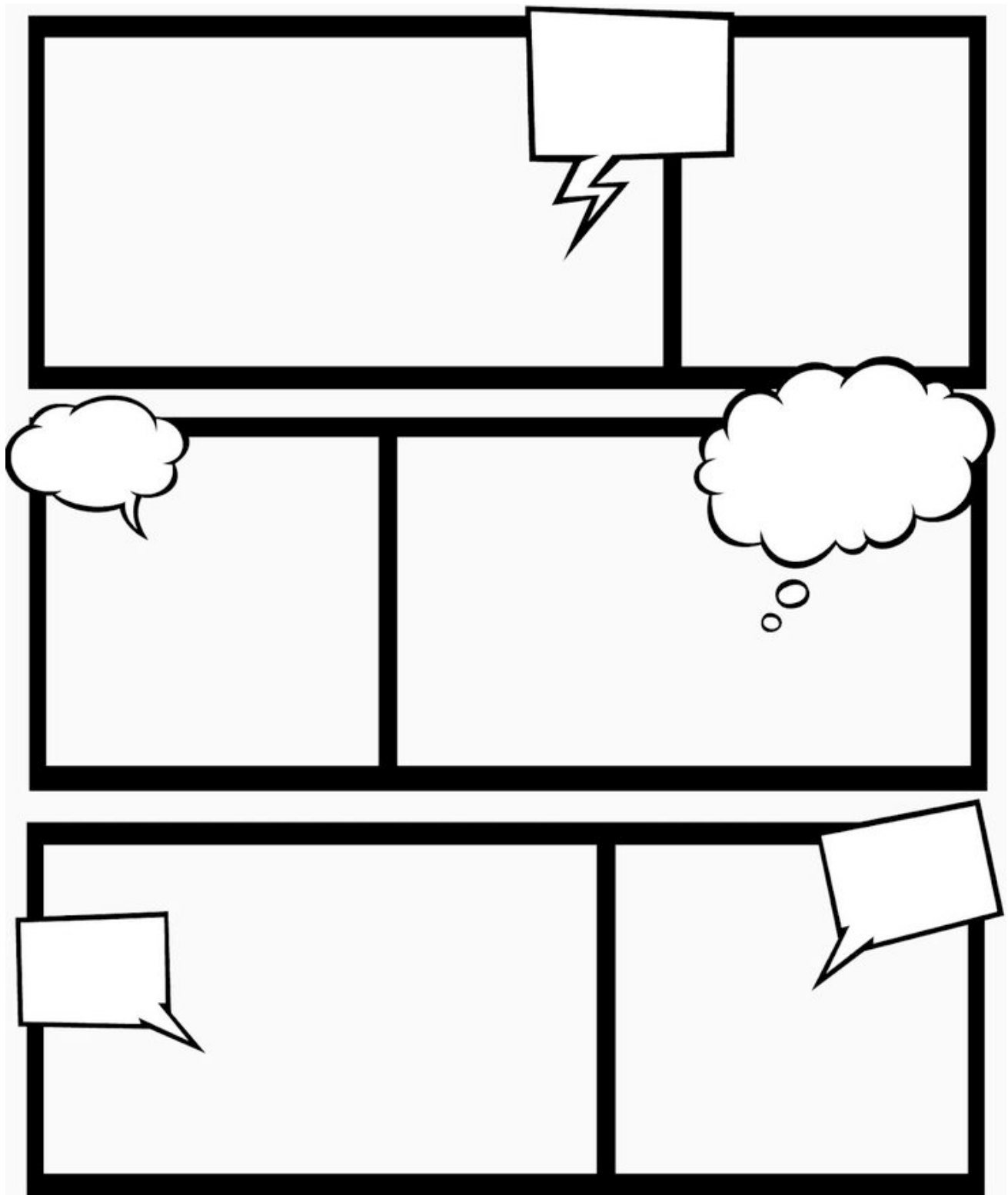
- Your house is where you _____.
- Sarah ran a mile under five minutes, setting a new _____.
- To be captain of the soccer team you must know how to _____.
- A type of heavy metals is _____.
- Let's _____ you playing the trumpet.
- The _____ howled during the storm.
- Be sure to _____ back the clock for day light savings.
- My grandpa has a _____ player in his house.
- The best thing about theatre is that it's _____.

A **homophone** is a word that sounds like another word but has a different meaning and spelling. Circle which word is the correct word in these sentences.

- A bus driver drove [**through or threw**] many towns.
- An [**aunt or ant**] is a tiny insect.
- The driver put his food on the [**break or brake**].
- My sandwich was stuffed with [**meat or meet**].
- To make bread you need yeast, water, and [**flour or flower**].

Create Your Own Comic: Draw what happens when you discover your own superpower!

Be sure to sign your work when you're done!



Bullies: Who are they? What can you do?

- A bully is someone who uses their **words** and **actions** to **make fun of**, **scare**, or **hurt someone else**.
- Bullies sometimes do what they do because they are **scared**, **jealous**, or have **low self-esteem**.
- Bullying is **never** okay. Everyone should feel **safe** and **comfortable** at home, at school, when with their friends, and at recess.
- **What can you do** if you see someone being bullied or you're being bullied?
 - Say, "Stop. I feel bad when you say those things. I don't like it when you do that/call me names."
 - Tell a teacher or family member. Let an adult know what is happening.
 - Walk away. If a friend or classmate doesn't make you feel good about yourself, you don't need to be around them.
 - Be kind to everyone. If you aren't sure if something you want to say or do is nice, don't say or do it.

Bullies aren't good friends. You can practice being a superhero friend by using kind words. Below are some words and phrases in both Spanish and English.

Practice complimenting your classmates in both languages!

Thank you for your help. *Gracias por tu ayuda.*

Happy *Feliz*

You are really good at that. *Tu eres muy bueno en eso.*

Nice *Bien*

You're a good friend. *Tu eres un buen amigo.*

Please *Por favor*

Do you want to play with us? *¿Quieres jugar con nosotros?*

Very good *Muy bien*

I like your... *Me gusta tu...*

Friend *Amigo/ Amiga*

You make me feel... *Tu me haces sentir...*

Excited *Emocionado/ Emocionada*

Nice job! *¡Buen trabajo!*

Thank you *Gracias*

You are special to me! *¡Para mi, tu eres especial!*

I am special! *¡Yo soy especial!*

Do you want to be my friend? *¿Quieres ser mi amigo?*



Read through the following questions and write a few sentences about each one.

- If you wrote a book, what would it be about?
- If you could be any character in a book, who/what would you be? Why?
- Have you ever had to work really hard at something that you didn't think you were good at? What happened?
- What's something you love to do that you'd like to help someone else learn to do? How would you teach them?
- Who is someone who taught you to do something you love to do? What did they teach you?
- What would your superhero name be? Why? Draw what your superhero suit would look like here!

After the Show...



Write to the actors!

The actors (and writer and director!) would love to hear from you. You can send mail to: Creede Repertory Theatre

Outreach Tour

P.O. Box 269

Creede, CO 81130

Feel free to draw something, ask questions, and tell them what you liked about the play!



Learn the Songs in the Play and Act It Out



Paint or Draw It Out

What emotions did the play make you feel? Did you have a favorite scene? What costumes would you have designed? Draw out these thoughts and designs and share them with your classmates.