

Cue Sheet

Guides for
Teachers

The Wind in the Willows

Friday • October 17, 2025

Questions to ask students **BEFORE** the performance

- What is an adventure, and have you ever gone on one with a friend? What did you do?
- What would you expect to find on a riverbank? Think about the animals and plants that might live there.

Questions to ask students **AFTER** the performance

- Can you use your voice to pretend you're a different person? Try reading part of a story aloud using a different voice for each character.
- In what ways other than voice can a storyteller differentiate between characters?



About the Show

In this imaginative stage adaptation of Kenneth Grahame's classic tale, *The Wind in the Willows*, award-winning actor Noel Gaulin takes students on a captivating multimedia journey. Produced by the team behind *Call of the Wild: Illustrated Edition*, the production features illustrations in a 180-degree projection surrounding Gaulin and minimal props. His energetic storytelling is enhanced by music and soundscapes that craft an immersive scenic environment throughout the show.

Wind in the Willows takes place in a countryside setting, where audiences joining Mole and Rat on an all-night race to find the lost young Otter. Each character is brought to life by the sole storyteller, as the performance showcases themes of courage, respect for nature, and the friendship between Mole and Rat.



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Vocabulary

adventurous (*uhd-ven-chuh-ruhs*) – being eager to try new things and step outside their comfort zone

consequences (*kon-suh-kwens-iz*) – something that happens because of an action someone does

creature (*kree-chur*) – a living thing, like an animal, insect, or even a mythical being

disguise (*dis-guyz*) – pretending to be someone else by changing your appearance so people don't recognize you

ecosystem (*ee-koh-sis-tuhm*) – a community of living organisms that interact with each other and their non-living environment

environment (*en-vy-ron-ment*) – everything that surrounds us, including living things and non-living things

impulsive (*im-pul-siv*) – doing things without thinking first

mysterious (*mi-steer-ree-us*) – difficult or impossible to understand, explain, or identify

resilience (*ri-zil-ee-uhns*) – having the strength to bounce back from difficult situations

riverbank (*riv-er-bangk*) – the land along the edge of a river

willow (*wih-loh*) – a type of tree or shrub with long, narrow leaves and flexible branches, that often grows near water

Beyond the Show

These short activities can be used before or after the performance to extend themes and concepts of the production to the classroom

Mindful Listening

This production of *Wind in the Willows* employs sound as part of the storytelling experience. Ask students to close their eyes for one minute and notice the sounds around them. Younger students can share what they hear, while older students can discuss how focus and attention can change their experience.

One-Minute Nature Break

Extend this listening inwards to imagine the soundscape of a natural environment. Ask students to close their eyes and pretend they are standing near a river. Ask them – what do you hear? What would be making those sounds? Direct them to share one observation with a partner to create a picture of the riverbank together.

Group Storytelling

Begin a story with a single sentence. Each student adds another sentence until the group completes the story. Younger students may enjoy silly adventures, while older students can focus on descriptive detail and character development.

Click here!

For more educational resources, including curriculum connections and a sample study guide with additional questions and activity ideas, visit Holden Arts' web page.

Facts about Popejoy Hall

- Popejoy Hall officially opened on October 1, 1966.
- The hall can seat up to 1985 people.
- Most walls inside the hall are not parallel or perpendicular to the stage. Curves, angles, and soft or textured surfaces scatter the sound throughout the hall so that audiences can hear performances better.
- Popejoy Hall has an orchestra pit which raises and lowers. It is the largest elevator in the building.
- The ceiling over the stage is three times the height of the curtain opening. Sets can be lowered into place by pulleys and raised high enough to be stored completely out of sight when not in use.

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