

# Cue Sheet

Guides for  
Teachers

## Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! The Musical!

Thursday, January 29, 2026  
10:15am & 12:15pm

### Questions to ask students **BEFORE** the performance

- What is the job of a bus driver?  
What responsibilities are part of their job?
- What responsibilities do you have as a student?
- What rules do you know about riding a bus or being safe near roads?

### Questions to ask students **AFTER** the performance

- How would you describe the Pigeon after seeing the show?
- What other jobs do you think the Pigeon might want to try?
- If you could write another musical about the Pigeon, what adventure would you put him in next?



Photo by Jeremy Daniel

## About the Performance

Inspired by the Caldecott Honor-winning *Pigeon* picture books, *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! The Musical!* Brings the energetic, strong-willed Pigeon to life onstage. In this musical produced by TheaterWorks USA, an unexpected incident on the route puts the Bus Driver under pressure and may cause the passengers to be late! With the schedule at risk, Pigeon sees an opportunity to step in, whether he's truly ready or not, and attempts to "help" and take charge in driving the bus.

The stage production features costumed characters, an engaging mix of original songs, and a script written by creator Mo Willems. Students will recognize the familiar humor, expressive reactions, and spirited personality that define Pigeon, all presented through lively staging. The show highlights themes of responsibility, problem-solving, and exploration through the experience of trying new things.

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## Vocabulary

**destination** (*deh-stuh-nay-shn*) – the place where you are going or where something is being sent

**determined** (*dee-tur-muhnd*) – having a strong feeling that you will do something and not let anything stop you

**impulsive** (*im-puhl-siv*) – doing something quickly without thinking it through first

**passenger** (*pa-suhn-jr*) – a person who rides in a vehicle but does not drive it

**permission** (*pr-mi-shn*) – when you receive approval from someone to do something

**persistent** (*pr-si-stnt*) – to keep trying something even when you feel like giving up

**public transportation** (*puh-bluhk tran-spr-tay-shn*) – a shared vehicle for many people to travel on that runs on a set schedule and route

**punctual** (*puhngk-choo-uhl*) – showing up on time

**road** (*rowd*) – a long-paved path built so vehicles can travel easily from one place to another

**route** (*root*) – a way to get from one place to another

**safety** (*sayf-tee*) – being protected from harm

**schedule** (*skeh-jool*) – a plan of what to do and when to do it

## 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.

### Pigeon Says (Simon Says)

Play a few rounds of Pigeon Says to get students moving and listening. Using bus-themed actions like driving, tapping the gas pedal, or checking mirrors. Remind students they only move when you say “Pigeon says...” After the game, explain that one aspect of taking responsibility means listening carefully and following directions.

### If I Were the Bus Driver...

Invite students to imagine being the Bus Driver by completing the sentence, “If I were the Bus Driver, I would make sure to...,” encouraging answers about safety and good choices. Then ask what makes someone responsible enough to drive a bus and whether the Pigeon shows those qualities.

### Maybe When I’m Older

Have students finish the sentence, “I want to \_\_\_\_, but I know I’m not ready yet because...,” using examples such as riding a roller coaster, staying home alone, or driving. Discuss why rules exist and what could happen if someone tried driving a bus without training.

## Click here!

For more educational resources, including activity ideas and a study guide, visit TheaterWorks USA’s webpage.

## 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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