

Teacher Guide

Cue Sheet

Clifford The Big Red Dog: The Musical

Tuesday, March 9, 2027
10:15am & 12:15pm

Questions to ask students **BEFORE** the performance

- Emily Elizabeth loves her dog a LOT. Do you have a pet you love, or do you know people who do? Tell everyone about those pets.
- Could Clifford fit in your home? In the classroom? In the cafeteria?
- Clifford is a very big dog. Is Clifford bigger than a giraffe? A rabbit? A gorilla? An elephant? A lion? A whale?

Questions to ask students **AFTER** the performance

- What was your reaction the first time you saw Clifford when he was full grown?
- How did Clifford's size help him rescue Emily Elizabeth?
- If you were as big as Clifford, how could you help people? Do you have to be as big as Clifford to help people?



About the Performance

Clifford The Big Red Dog stars in a brand-new musical comedy adventure that celebrates friendship, imagination, and the magic of unconditional love! Emily Elizabeth adores her new puppy, the tiny red runt of the litter. But when her giant-sized love makes Clifford grow into a giant, the family must trade their cramped city apartment for a home on Birdwell Island, where folks aren't so sure about a playful pup the size of a house. Worried his colossal clumsiness is keeping Emily Elizabeth from making friends, Clifford wishes he never grew so big — and it works! He enjoys a fur-tastic small-dog-sized day ... until his adventurous BFF and her new island friends get stuck in a place from which only a BIG red dog can save them. **Clifford The Big Red Dog: The Musical** is full of extra-large laughs, joy, and love. Clifford The Big Red Dog: The Musical adds melodies to Clifford's messages about harmony, respect, and more. The story of the musical shows Clifford at his best, showing his humongous heart, humor and imagination. The musical helps children and adults alike to see what the Big Red Dog already knows: love makes us grow.



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Vocabulary

adventure (*add-VEN-chyur*) - a fun trip or event, even though those involved probably have to be very brave

assistance (*uh-SIS-tuhns*) - help, especially for someone who really needs it

bound (*bownd*) - to leap; to move by jumping or bouncing

canine (*CAY-nine*) - dog, or like a dog

colossal (*cuh-LAH-suhl*) - extremely large; extraordinary; epic in size

clumsy (*KLUHM-zee*) - dropping things or tripping over objects

cramped (*krampd*) - a very tight, small space

gigantic (*jy-GAN-tik*) - very large, huge, like a giant in size

kindness (*KYND-nehss*) - gentle, mild, or helpful actions or behaviors toward others

Labrador retriever (*LAB-ruh-door ree-TREE-vur*) - a kind of large dog. Clifford may be a very large Labrador retriever.

litter (*LIT-tur*) - a group of brother and sister animals, such as dogs or cats, born together from one mother

musical (*MEW-sih-cul*) - A kind of play where characters sing songs as part of the show

opportunity (*ahp-pohr-TOO-nuh-tee*) - a good time to take a chance on something

puppet (*PUH-peht*) - a character in a play whose movements are controlled by a human on or off the stage. The puppet can be a suit that looks like the character that a human wears. Wearing the suit allows the human inside it to move as the character.

rescue (*REHS-kyoo*) - save from danger

runt (*ruhnt*) - the smallest animal in a litter

unconditional (*uhn-cuhn-DISH-yuhn-uhll*) - no matter what



Additional Resources

Click here for additional educational resources with Clifford the Big Red Dog from PBS.

Interactive PDF
Click here to visit link.

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Beyond the Show

Use these activities before or after the performance to extend the production's themes and concepts into the classroom.

Use It!

The creator of Clifford made him red because he happened to have red paint at his desk when he started painting the character. Sometimes you can make amazing things just from what you find nearby. Have your students take four crayons from the box or container and start creating a picture. Tell them to take the first four crayons they touch. Encourage them to use colors in unusual ways. Purple apples or blue bananas with white stripes? Wonderful! Remember: there were no bright red dogs before Clifford.

Growing Stories

The author of the Clifford books started with an absurd idea: Emily Elizabeth's pet is a 25-foot-tall red dog. That proves that, if you can imagine it, you can make a story. But the author's wife also contributed ideas from her life. Split everyone into small groups of about five students. Start them an idea, like "Duck was paddling in the river. He fell asleep. When he woke up, _____." Tell them that one person adds the next part of the story. A second person accepts what the first person added and contributes more. Each student contributes in the same way until each has a story to tell the class.

Kindness Opportunity Jars

Clifford is always doing nice things for people. How can your students show kindness to others? Have students contribute ideas. Write their ideas on pieces of paper. Help students think of ideas by asking them what nice things they could do for a parent, a sibling, another student, or a teacher. Sort ideas into jars labeled At School and Away from School. Each day, draw a slip of paper from the At School jar. Read it. Then have students watch for opportunities to show that kindness. Ideas might be "Share your crayons," or "Smile at someone." Before everyone leaves for home, draw a kindness from the Away from School jar. Read the suggestion and tell students to watch for opportunities to do it. The next day, ask if the students had the chance to fulfill that kindness.