

The Pout-Pout Fish Study Guide



Expectations at the Theater

The performance you will be seeing features live actors who will perform the play for the audience. A **PLAY** is a story told live on stage in front of a live audience. A **MUSICAL** is a story told on stage that includes singing and dancing. The live audience is a very special and important part of the performance. Attending theater is a special experience because it allows performers and audience members to share a live experience in the same space, which is different than watching a TV show!

1. **Participation.** Show the cast and crew your appreciation with applause (clapping). Applaud when you enjoy the comedy in the show and at the end of songs. If you think an action or joke is funny, feel free to laugh!
2. **Listening.** Pay close attention to the story. Don't call out to the actors or talk with your friends. The actors have been practicing their parts (rehearsing) for weeks. We have to be quiet so everyone can hear them.
3. **Technology turned off.** That means no cell phones or iPads. Even if they are silent, we only want to see the lights on stage, not from phones.
4. **Arrive early,** use the restroom before the show starts, and stay seated. The only movement should be from the actors.
5. **No eating or drinking.** The noise from crinkly candy and the chomping and sipping of snacks aren't part of the Sound Designer's plan for the show. Our shows are usually around one hour. Please wait for your snacks until the performance is over.

The Story:

At the beginning of our show, we meet Mr. Pout-Pout Fish, our protagonist. A protagonist is another name for a hero in storytelling. Mr. Pout-Pout Fish seems to spread his dreary wearies all over the reef with his sad and gloomy looks. Everyone tries to cheer him up, but all he can muster is a glub blub. Shimmer, the shimmerfish, is Pout-Pout's best friend, who sees the silver lining in everything and wants to help her friend do the same. Shimmer takes Pout-Pout to the edge of the Big, Big Dark in hopes of inspiring him with the idea of the adventures that could be out there. Pout-Pout looks out and can only see what he fears and the possible dangers. On the way back to their reef homes, the two friends come across Ms. Clam, who is returning home from a trip with a new shiny pearl as a souvenir. Ms. Clam tells the legend of the pearl...If you look deeply into the shiny orb of the pearl's heart, you will see your happiest reflection. Pout-Pout tries to imagine a happier self, but is resigned to be gloomy.

That night, Pout-Pout sneaks in to Ms. Clam's home and tries to take a deep look into the shiny pearl, hoping to capture the legend of the pearl and see his happiest self. Instead, the pearl and Pout are swept out by a strong current into the Big, Big Dark. Pout-Pout musters up courage and plans to get himself and the pearl back to the reef safely. Lost in the Big Big Dark, Pout-Pout faces his fears as he encounters a Bully Bully Shark, a wiggle worm, and the decision to look out for others. Will Pout-Pout and the pearl make it back safely to the reef? Dive into the story and swim alongside Pout Pout fish as he navigates this great and unexpected journey!



Before the Show...

Discuss the 5 Elements of Theater



Lighting: Stage lighting can help communicate the time of day, set mood, tell the audience where to look, and can even be used to indicate weather.



Sound: Listen closely for sound effects that set the mood for scenes. Anything from bubbles to the crashing sounds can help audiences feel the mood of a scene or character.



Costumes: What characters wear can indicate many details about a character such as: personality, job, age, season, and the time period.



Sets/Scenery: The painted backdrops and furniture pieces that tell us where a play is happening.



Props: Objects the actors use to tell parts of the story on stage. These pieces often have important details that tell us about the characters and the time period.



Discover and Discuss the 3 Treasures in the Actor's Treasure Chest

Voice: Speaking on different pitches (high/low), speeds (fast/slow) and textures (growly/squeaky) can help differentiate characters.

Body: Using different body positions and walks help the actors transform into various characters.

Imagination: Imagining how a character feels and where they are helps audience members see what isn't there.

heavy

rough

squishy

slowly

high

squeaky

light

speedy

deeply



The actors in this show are called Storytellers!

They are a group of 4 actors who make up multiple characters, so they have to change their voice, body and imagination so that the audience can differentiate. Choose 2 of the adjectives from the bubbles above and apply them to your voice and body. Switch it up and play with what kind of characters you can create!

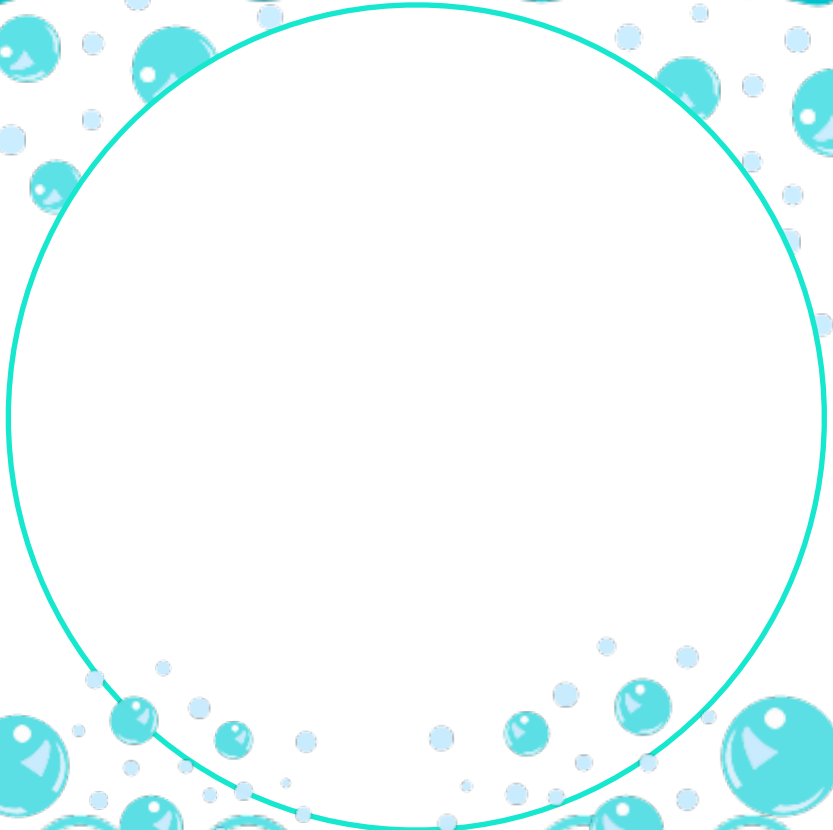
Puppetry

Under Sea and On Stage!

Puppets are a movable model of a person or animal, operated by a hand inside or strings attached. There are finger puppets, hand puppets, marionettes, rod puppets and stick puppets.



Why are puppets used for "The Pout-Pout Fish: The Musical"? The puppets in this show do not replace the actors but instead act as an extension of their song and acting. The feelings portrayed by the actor are amplified by the magical sights of the large scale puppets. The large puppets create a world, where the feelings can be as big as the ocean. Puppets can help us find and express emotions, just like Pout-Pout!



Sketch a puppet version of a character from your favorite picture book in the bubble above. Share what kind of puppet you have chosen and why.

Creative Team

You can be a creator! The creative team for "The Pout-Pout Fish" is comprised of a bunch of people who dream up how to bring Pout Pout Fish from the page to the stage. Imagine yourself in the shoes of one of these creators. What job could you see yourself doing in the future?



Book Writer: A book writer writes the lines of dialogue (speaking) that the actors say on stage. When translating a picture book into a musical, they have to look for deeper stories and imagine how the experience could be heightened.

Composer: This person writes the music for the show. Imagine what style of music they could have used to best reflect the ocean. What style of music do you like? Pop? Rock? Country? Rap?

Lyricist: Are you a poet? If you love to make up songs and write poetry, this might be the job for you. The Lyricist writes the words that are sung by the actors.

Director: Are you a daydreamer? Imagine a big picture and filling in details and action. The Director tells the actors where to go on stage and helps them to create visual action that keeps the audiences paying attention.