

TALKING POINTS FOR CLASSROOM DISCUSSION: PETE THE CAT

Show & Theater Company:

- *Pete the Cat* by TheatreWorksUSA

Art Form:

- Musical Theater (a play with songs)

Context & Main Characters:

- Based on *Pete the Cat*, the popular book series from James and Kimberly Dean.
- The first *Pete the Cat* book was published in 2006.
- There are over 30 *Pete the Cat* books. Some of the best sellers are:
 - *Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes*
 - *Pete the Cat: Rocking in My School Shoes*
 - *Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons*
 - *Pete the Cat and the Missing Cupcakes*
 - *Pete the Cat and the Bedtime Blues*
 - *Pete the Cat and His Magic Sunglasses*
- ? Who has read any of *Pete the Cat* books?
- In the play, a few human characters who aren't in the books are introduced.
- Main characters:
 - Pete the Cat – a groovy cat who loves rock and roll; doesn't like to follow the rules
 - Jimmy Biddle – a very organized second grader; a total rule follower
 - The Biddle Family – Jimmy, Olive, Mom & Dad
 - Gus the Platypus – Pete's friend; quiet, gentle, and an awesome drummer
 - Grumpy Toad – Pete's friend; mostly grumpy but a really nice friend; plays the bass
- Pete and his friends are having fun and rocking out when Pete is caught by a cat-catcher! Pete is sent to live as a house cat with the Biddle family. Pete and Jimmy couldn't be more different, but when Jimmy has an issue at school, he and Pete embark on an awesome adventure, which helps Jimmy solve his problem!
- ? Why is it important to get along with people who are different than you?

Main Concepts:

- Main concepts (big ideas):
 - Accepting differences
 - Friendship
 - Teamwork
 - Problem Solving
 - Creativity

Special Things to Look For:

- ? There is a special name for the clothing actors wear on stage—who knows what that is? (costume)
- Some of the actors are playing animals or multiple characters.
 - ? What "tools" will the actors use, besides their costumes, to make us believe they are the animals or different people? (They will use their bodies and their voices.)

Theater Etiquette:

- Respect the theater, limit bathroom breaks, one person to a seat, do not kick the seats, no food or drink in the theater (bottled water okay), no audio, video recording or photography and remember to turn off cell phones/no texting (students and adults).
- ? How is watching live theater different than watching a movie or TV?
 - Can't pause, rewind, or fast forward with live theater. Every sound students make and moving around can affect the performers and other members of the audience.

Pete^{the} Cat

I Love My
White Shoes



Story by Eric Litwin
(aka Mr. Eric)

Art by James Dean