



**DON'T  
LET THE  
PIGEON  
DRIVE THE  
BUS!**

**THE MUSICAL!**

A WORLD PREMIERE KENNEDY CENTER COMMISSION

Based on the book by **MO WILLEMS**

Written by **MO WILLEMS** and **MR. WARBURTON** / Music by **DEBORAH WICKS LA PUMA**

Directed by **JERRY WHIDDON** / Choreography by **JESSICA HARTMAN** / Dramaturgy by **MEGAN ALRUTZ**



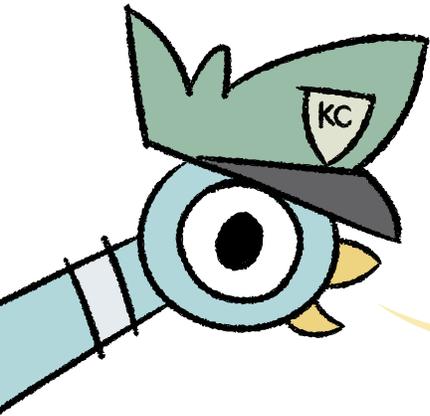
MO WILLEMS AT THE KENNEDY CENTER

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# A DRAMA OF DRIVING DESIRE

THE PIGEON WANTS TO DRIVE THE BUS—DO YOU THINK HE SHOULD?



Welcome to a brand-new musical based on Mo Willems' books about your favorite pigeon . . .

ME!

This *Cuesheet* will help you get ready for The Pigeon's story and for puppets, music, singing—and vroom-vroom- vroomy-vrooming fun!

## PUPPET MANIA

The Pigeon comes to life on stage as a sassy puppet who can do everything—from having a meltdown to saving the day. The Duckling, the Puppy, and the Bus are puppets, too! Now it's your turn. Find fun finger puppets on the detachable page of this *Cuesheet*.

### SIMPLY POP THE PUPPETS OUT. THEN...

#### PLAY IT:

With friends, take turns creating a new story with your puppets. One person starts by using one or more puppets to help tell the story. Then the next person continues the story using puppets until everyone has had a turn.

#### SAY IT:

Give each puppet its own unique voice (such as squeaky, low, or fast-talking) and practice speaking for each one.

Some lines you might try:

**Pigeon:** "Can I drive the bus?"

**Puppy:** "Woof, woof!"

**Duckling:** "Eating hot dogs is MY thing."

**Bus:** "Vroomy vroom vroom...honk honk!"

Congratulations—you're a puppeteer and storyteller!

Psst . . . In the performance, be sure to look for the different ways the actors move the puppets on stage. Also, how many performers move the Puppy puppet?



## TELL A STORY WITH MUSIC!

In the performance, the music helps tell the story through songs like “Let Me Drive the Bus!” Take turns with your Pigeon puppet singing these lines from the show:

**Puppet:**

“Vroomy-vroom-vroom  
Can I drive the bus?”

**You:**

“No, No!”

**Puppet:**

“Why can’t I drive the bus?  
I’m a pigeon you can trust!”

**You:**

“No, No!”



## THE PIGEON HAS SOME BIG FEELINGS!

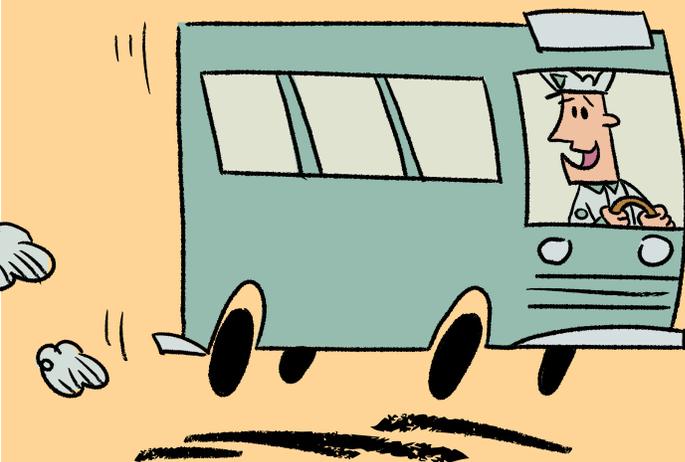
The puppet and puppeteer show them during the performance. Using your own facial expressions and moving your finger puppets in creative ways (such as hiding the puppet if the character is scared), express these feelings to a few friends and ask them to guess which feeling you are showing:

- Love
- Anger
- Fear
- Happiness
- Disappointment



## THE BUS PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE PERFORMANCE—AND ITS SOUNDS DO, TOO!

What are some sounds a bus and its engine might make? Use your voice to try them. During the show, watch and listen for how the actor playing the Bus creates funny and dramatic bus engine sounds.



## LISTEN FOR SOME BIG IDEAS IN THE STORY:

- Saying “no” when appropriate.
- Finding your thing, or your “heart dog.”
- Dealing with disappointment.
- Gaining perspective (a new way to look at things).

How do you feel about saying “no”—and having “no” said to you? Write a letter to The Pigeon with your advice about what to do when hearing “no.”

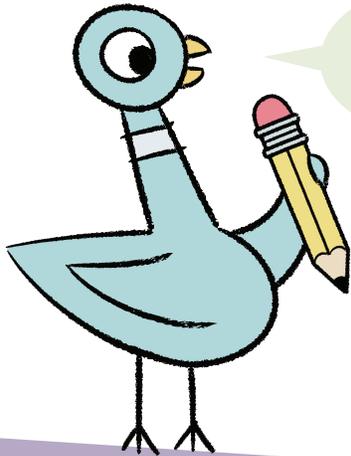


# TOO MUCH AWESOME!

## A FEW LAST THINGS BEFORE YOU FLY OFF FOR THE SHOW:

### WATCH FOR:

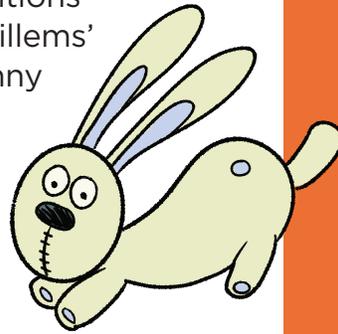
- The different types of puppets.
- The ways the performer brings The Pigeon to life.
- A few characters from other Pigeon books.
- How panicking keeps everyone from getting what they want.
- How The Pigeon finds his “thing”—what he also calls his “heart dog”—and what happens next.



I like to doodle!

### LISTEN FOR:

- All the times people say “no” to The Pigeon and how The Pigeon responds.
- How the words and music from the songs express feelings and what the characters want.
- Playful mentions from Mo Willems’ Knuffle Bunny books.



### THINK ABOUT:

- Who are heroes in the story?
- What helped them succeed?

### DOODLE OUT:

Sketch The Pigeon and friends on a new adventure!

## P.S. Grownups – Hiya!

You want to know and do more, am I right? Follow me to our official online grownup guide!

<http://bit.ly/NoPigeons>

Before your visit, download the *Tour the Kennedy Center* app to discover what rewards you can win in a fun Pigeon-packed guided tour of the Kennedy Center.

Art © Mo Willems



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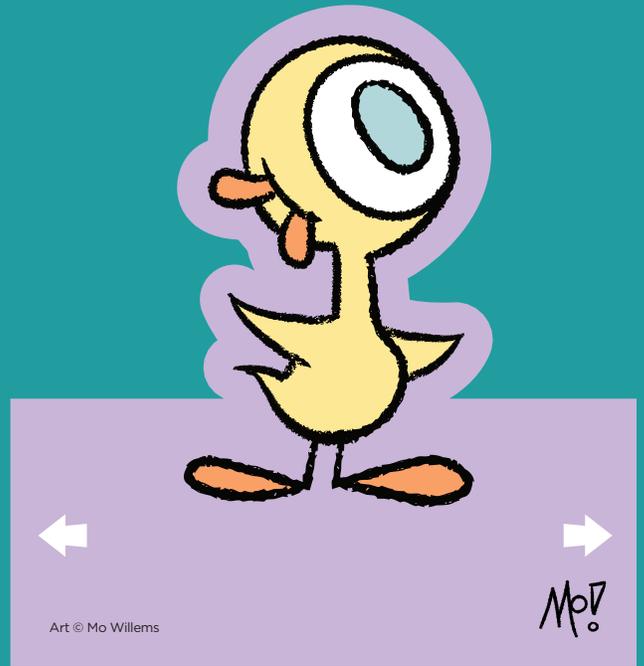
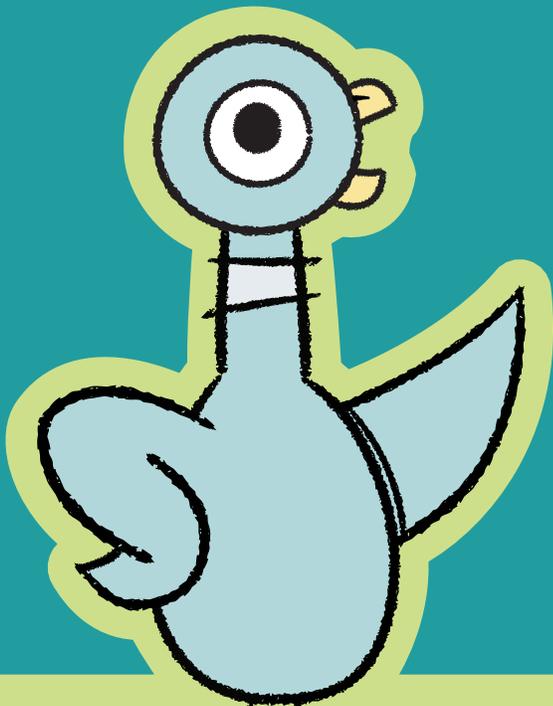
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REMOVE PAGE AT PERFORATION

TURN THIS PAGE OVER TO FIND INSTRUCTIONS FOR THESE  
**FINGER PUPPETS!**



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Let's make some finger puppets!

Just follow these 3 simple steps.



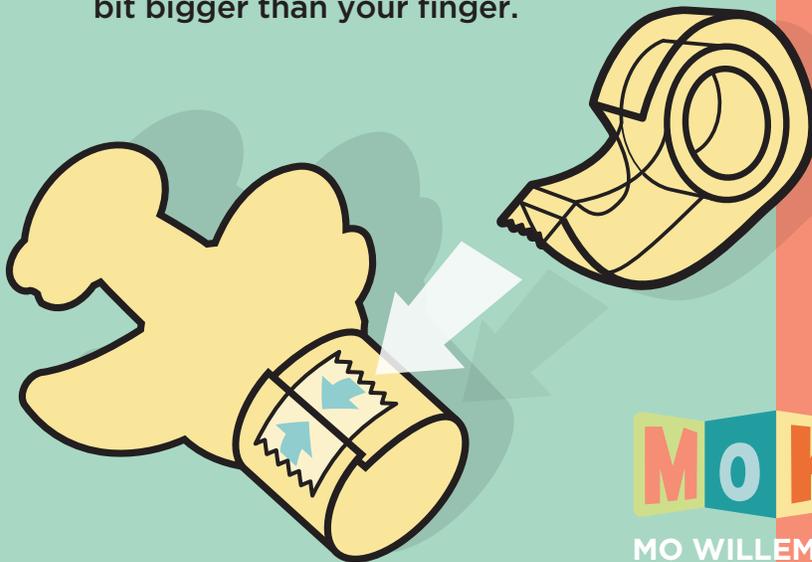
**1**

Remove this page where indicated, and pop out each puppet.

**2**



Roll the bottom of each puppet into a tube so that the arrows touch; then tape it together. The opening should be a little bit bigger than your finger.



**3**

Yay! You just made a finger puppet! Now make three more!



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