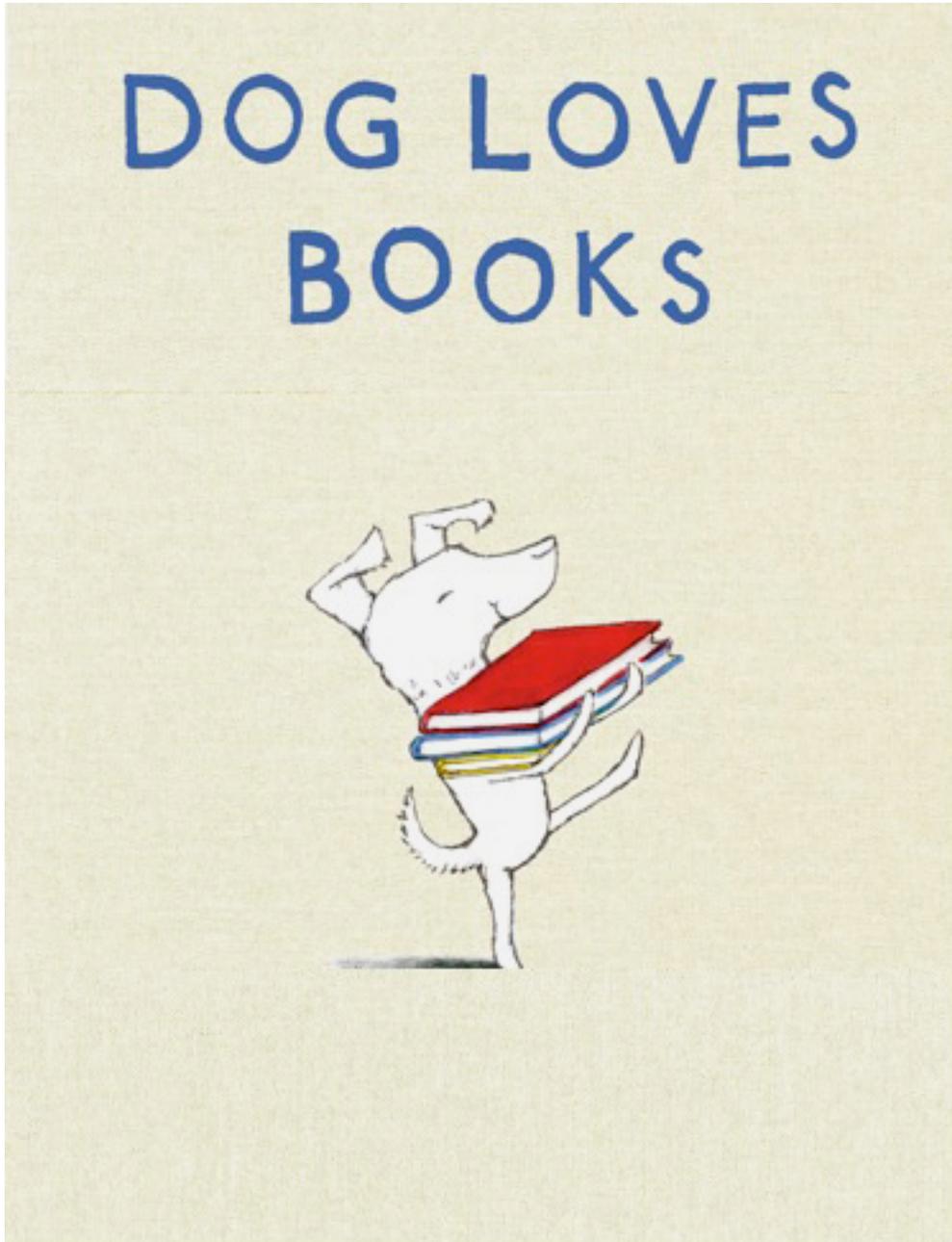




Study Buddy



Based on the book by Louise Yates

Table of Contents

Teacher Information	Page 2
ArtsPower National Touring Theatre	Page 3
Creating Theatre	Page 4
Lines, Lyrics, and Music	Page 5
All About Dogs	Page 6
Some Fun Stuff	Page 7
Let Us Know What You Think!	Page 8

ArtsPower National Touring Theatre

Gary W. Blackman
Mark A. Blackman

Executive Producers

Based on the book
DOG LOVES BOOKS

By Louise Yates
Published 2010 by
Knopf Books for Young Readers

Presented under an agreement
with Louise Yates.
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Script by Greg Gunning
Music by John Forster and Richard DeRosa
Lyrics by John Forster and Greg Gunning

Costume Design and Construction by
Fred Sorrentino

Set Illustrations by
Dan Helzer/Blitz Designs



Teacher Information

This study guide is designed to help you and your students prepare for, enjoy, and discuss ArtsPower's musical play, *Dog Loves Books*, before and after the performance. You may reproduce and distribute this Study Buddy to your students. **Please read this page about ArtsPower's musical to your students before attending the performance.** The main characters appear in boldface type.

What Happens in *Dog Loves Books*?

Dog Loves Books is a musical based on the book by British author Louise Yates. It was published by Knopf Books for Young Readers in 2010.

Dog loves books and loves to read any and all kinds. He thinks everyone loves books as much as he does. So, he decides to open his own bookstore.

Louise, a young girl who loves to dance, is the first person to visit Dog's bookstore. Much to Dog's surprise, she is not interested in buying a book. To make matters worse, she does not believe that dogs can sell books. So, she challenges Dog: if he can sell three books by the end of the day, she will believe that dogs really can sell books, and she will be Dog's friend.

Dog is then visited by a **Man** who has lost his way and a **Rich Lady** who asks to be served scones and tea. Neither of them is the least bit interested in buying a book. Frustrated, Dog decides that to sell books, he must be familiar with each and every one of them. He believes that if he reads all of the books in his store, he can recommend books to his customers and they would be excited to buy them.

When the Man and the Rich Lady return to the bookstore later that day, Dog is able to make the books he has read come alive on stage. By the end of each story he tells, first to the Man and then to the Rich Lady, he sells each of them a book. Will he be able to convince Louise, the young dancer who challenged Dog to sell at least three books before the end of the day, to buy the book he recommends to her?



How to Be a Good Audience

In order to be a good audience member, remember to:

- ★ Listen quietly.
- ★ Pay attention to the things the actors say and do – some things might make you happy, and some might be funny. Feel free to laugh at things you think are funny!
- ★ Sit quietly and do not talk during the performance, unless you are requested to do so by the actors onstage.
- ★ If you enjoy the play, you can applaud after musical numbers and at the end.

To purchase the book
DOG LOVES BOOKS on Amazon,
click here.

(<http://www.amazon.com/Dog-Loves-Books-Louise-Yates/dp/O375864490>)



ArtsPower National Touring Theatre

Please read this page to your students before attending the performance.

ArtsPower is a theatre company that creates musical and dramatic theatre productions for young and family audiences based on books for young readers.

The four actors and one stage manager:

- present performances all over the United States.
- pack the set, costumes, and sound equipment in their van.
- set up and move the set.
- take care of costumes and props – objects such as the books, the banners, and other things handled by the actors.
- stay in hotels when they travel.
- sometimes present up to 9 performances in a week.



Learning Activity

Before the performance, read *Dog Loves Books*. After the performance, talk about how the production was the same or different than the book. Discuss the characters, settings, and events in each version.

What Is a Musical?

A **musical** is a story told through spoken words and songs by live actors onstage. The spoken words are called **lines**. The words that are sung are called **lyrics**. The music that was composed just for this show has been recorded. This music is called the show's **soundtrack**. For this performance, the soundtrack has been recorded on to a CD which is operated by the stage manager.

The musical *Dog Loves Books* is presented onstage with four actors who play some of the characters found in the book. The actors wear **costumes** and perform in front of their **set**.

Because reading a book is different than seeing a live performance on stage, the **playwright**, or the person who writes the lines that the actors speak, must change parts of the story or bring new qualities to the characters that are not found in the book. In other words, the playwright **adapts** the book into a musical play, or changes parts of it to turn the words on the page into a live performance.



Learning Activity

Why is ArtsPower called a national touring theatre?

If you were an actor, do you think you would like to travel to different places to perform?

Do you think audiences from different parts of the country respond to the performance in the same or in different ways? If so, why?



Creating Theatre

Please read this section to your students before attending the performance.

Creating a musical theatre production like *Dog Loves Books* takes a lot of time and creative energy from a group of people.

Many people work together to turn a book into a musical. Changes and additions are developed by the theatre company, ArtsPower National Touring Theatre, that help transform the book into an hour-long musical.

- The **playwright** writes lines that the actors speak.
- The **composer** writes the music.
- The **lyricist** writes the words to the songs that the actors sing.
- The **actors** audition for parts and memorize lines and songs.
- The **designers** create sets, costumes, and lighting.
- The **director** rehearses the actors and makes artistic decisions.
- The **stage manager** oversees all backstage elements of a show.
- The **producers** raise the money to create the show and manage all aspects of the production and its tour throughout the U.S.

The Creative Team for *Dog Loves Books*



GREG GUNNING (Playwright, Co-Lyricist, and Director) is ArtsPower's Artistic Director and has written or co-written the scripts to all of ArtsPower's theatre productions. Greg's script for *Lily's Crossing*, based on the Newbery Honor book by Patricia Reilly Giff, is included in Penguin Books' "The Signet Book of Short Plays."



JOHN FORSTER (Co-Composer, Co-Lyricist, and Co-Orchestrator) is an award-winning songwriter who has been nominated for four Grammy Awards. John composed the music and wrote the lyrics to ArtsPower's very first musical, *Four Score and Seven Years Ago*, in 1989. He is also the composer of the Broadway musical, *Into the Light*. www.Johnforster.com



RICHARD DEROSA (Co-Composer and Co-Orchestrator) is presently an associate professor and director of jazz composition and arranging studies at the University of North Texas. Richard has composed and orchestrated the scores to all but three ArtsPower productions. jazz.unt.edu/derosa



LOUISE YATES (Author) wrote and illustrated *Dog Loves Books*, which debuted as a New York Times Bestseller and won the Parents' Choice Award in the United States in 2010. In the United Kingdom, *Dog Loves Books* won the 2010 Roald Dahl Funny Prize and was nominated for the Kate Greenaway Medal. Louise lives and works in London. www.louise-yates.com



Lines, Lyrics, and Music

Please read this page to your students before attending the performance.

Because *Dog Loves Books* is a musical, the story is told through spoken lines and lyrics that are sung. The lines tell the audience about the characters and the story. The lyrics often tell the audience what the characters are thinking to themselves. Actors work with the director on how to deliver their lines and lyrics with expression.

Actors' Lines

The words spoken or “delivered” by the actors are written by the playwright. Each actor must memorize the script or “lines” for his or her own character. They must also be familiar with the lines of the other characters.

Lyrics

Lyrics are the words to the songs. John Forster and Greg Gunning wrote the lyrics to all the songs in *Dog Loves Books*. What do these lyrics that Dog sings tell you about his character?

**Let them say Dog can't sell books.
They say “No Way!” ‘cause how he looks.
But they'll see they're wrong,
When they soon discover:
You can't judge a book by its cover!**

Music

John Forster and Richard DeRosa are the composers who wrote and arranged the music for *Dog Loves Books*. John and Richard used electronic keyboards and synthesized music – sounds generated by a special computer – to record the soundtrack. During the performance, the actors sing live to the prerecorded soundtrack on CD that the stage manager operates from off stage.



Learning Activity

To learn more about Dog, read his lines below. Imagine you are playing the part of Dog and deliver each line aloud with expression.

Hey, that's it! Everybody loves books, so I'll ... I'll open a bookstore! ... My very own bookstore! ... Yeah!

The next person who comes through that door will buy a book. I know it!

I can do this... can't I? ... There's no way I can't sell three books – piece of cake ... right??

I don't get it! How could she not know this was a bookstore?





All About Dogs

Please read this section to your students before attending the performance.

Ready for some fun facts about dogs? (After you read this to your students, ask them to think about what you read. Ask them about some of the special things their pets can do. Remind them to treat their dogs and all animals with care and respect.)

Do dogs sweat when they are overheated?

Dogs are covered in fur and do not sweat like people do. A dog cools down by panting with his mouth open. Also, dogs sweat through glands that are located around their foot pads. That is why, when a dog is overheated, you will sometimes see a trail of wet footprints that he has left behind as he walked across the floor.

Can dogs really read?

No, dogs cannot read. But they can understand words they are taught by their owners. Many dogs understand commands like Sit, Stay, and Roll Over. Some have a large vocabulary of words they understand and respond to. Some dogs are trained to be guide dogs for people without sight. These remarkable dogs learn how to lead their owners from place to place.

Can dogs see colors?

Yes they can. The color range they see, however, is not as broad compared to what people can see. In addition to black, white, and grey, the colors dogs see contain mostly yellows, blues, and violets.

Learning Activity



Follow the directions below to create your own cartoon dog!



Draw a heart.



Rotate your paper so the heart is upside down.



Draw a loop (tongue) in the base of the heart.



Draw two ears.



Add two eyes and an upside down triangle for a nose.



Shading and color as you like.



Some Fun Stuff

J T S V E D U L W B
 W K U E L I H Y O C
 E E O V N N O O M P
 D C Q P R O K D O G
 W N V C D S C G L M
 I A B L T A M S G Q
 K D I O U U F E V T
 Y U R L V R M Q B Z
 B E X O W S C A D J
 Y D A L H C I R N J

Words to find: DOG, MAN, RICH LADY, DINOSAURS, BOOKSTORE, DANCE, SCONES, BUILD.

Learning Activity

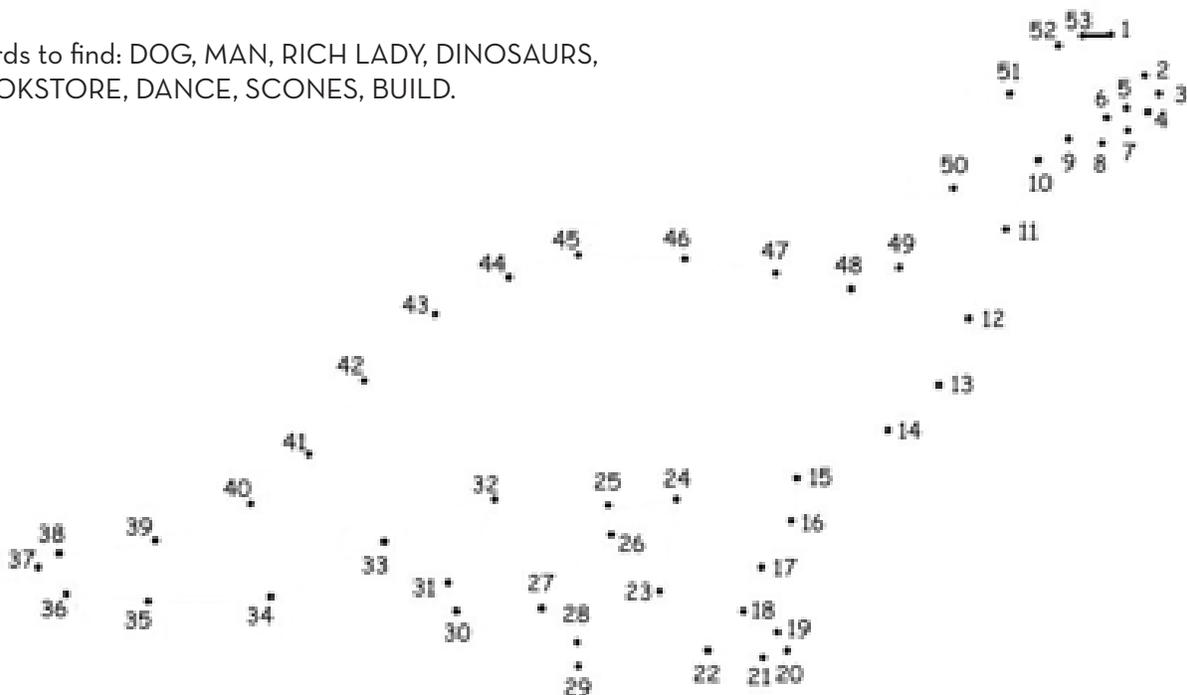


What did you enjoy most about the musical?

Explain why Dog was so excited about starting a bookstore.

Did you think Dog would be able to sell three books before the end of the day?

Do you have family members or friends who work in a store? Explain.





Let Us Know What You Think!

After you see *Dog Loves Books*, use the space below to write to us OR send us a picture showing your favorite part of the performance. Please send them to **ArtsPower, 9 Sand Park Road, Suite 6, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009**. You may also visit us online at <http://www.artspower.org> and click on "Contact Us." Thanks!

Your School _____

School's city and state _____

Date _____

Dear ArtsPower,

I saw ***Dog Loves Books*** at: _____

Here's what I enjoyed about the performance: _____

Here's why: _____

Here's what I would change about the performance: _____

Here's why: _____

From,

Your Name _____