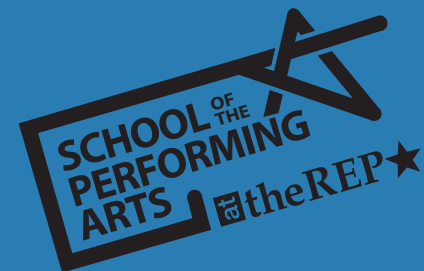




Virtual Story Hour with theREP Activity for Grades 3-5



EllRay Jakes the Recess King! By Sally Warner

LEARNING STANDARD QUESTION:

What are (character)'s personality traits? How does his/her personality affect what happens in the story?

Possible Responses → Alfie has a hard time saying R's; EllRay can be stubborn; Alfie is really sassy; EllRay thinks he knows everything;

ACTIVITY: Act it Out!

Turn and Talk: This is a chapter book of which Ms. Barbara Howard will read the first one. At the end of the chapter, which brings up the idea of 'auditioning a best friend,' Ms. Howard will conduct a short acting exercise (a "Turn and Talk" to a classmate) on what it might be like to audition a best friend.

Turn and Talk: What qualities do you want in a best friend?

Turn and Talk: I should be your best friend because I can _____!

Turn and Talk: I should be your best friend because I am _____!

Turn and Talk: I should be your best friend because I have _____!

Act It Out! A Scene Between EllRay and Alfie: After the turn and talk exercise, hold a classroom discussion on the specific characteristics of each character - EllRay and Alfie – and what it would be like to portray those characters.

Next, hand the script out, and read it over as a class. Teachers should then pair students up and have them rehearse the scene for 5-10 minutes. Students should share their scenes with the class. Finally, hold a classroom discussion of how different – and similar – everyone played the parts of EllRay and Alfie.

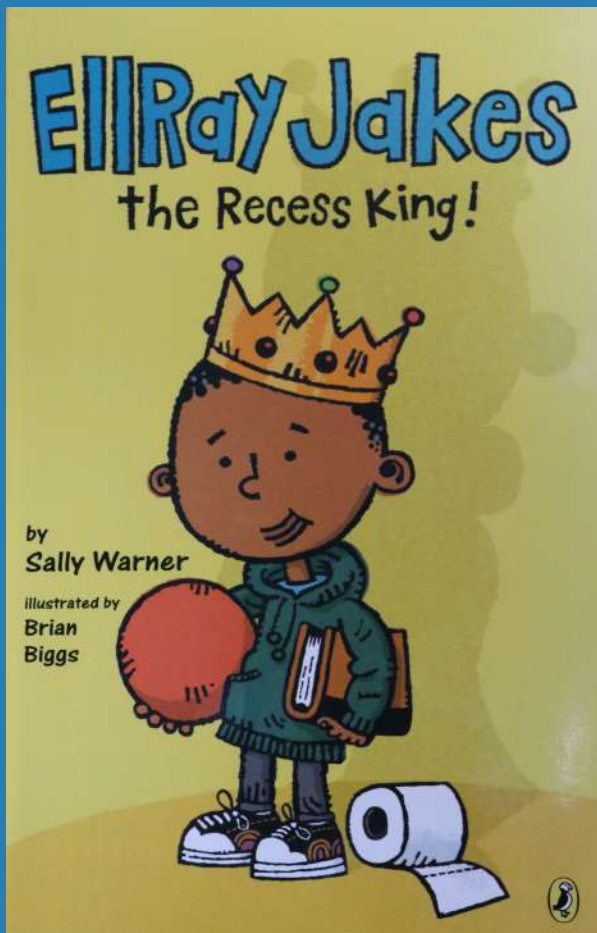
MATERIALS NEEDED: The 3-page script below.

AT HOME LEARNERS:

Students learning at home can pair up with anyone at home to try the scene; or, if they have the ability, could do the scene with a classmate via Zoom, Skype, FaceTime, Google Classroom, etc.

SHARE YOUR CREATION!

theREP would love teachers and or students to share photos of them watching story hour and or doing the activity. Photos (letters or drawings) can be emailed to Associate Artistic Director, Margaret E. Hall, at mhall@capitalrep.org



EllRay Jakes The Recess King!
Activity for Grades 3-5

A SHORT SCENE BASED ON CHAPTER 1 FROM THE BOOK

SETTING: The scene takes place in Alfie's bedroom – which is really girly, it includes a fluffy white rug that EllRay and Alfie love to lay down on and make 'snow angels' in. EllRay is currently laying down on the rug, with Alfie nearby. EllRay is playing with a robot insect action figure that can also turn into a deadly-looking tank. Alfie is playing with, grooming/comb, a purple pony with a long blond tail.

TIME/PLACE: January in California

CHARACTERS:

EllRay – 8-years old

Alfie – 4-years old; when she speaks, her R's often come out as W's (ie: Free – Fwee)

SCENE

ELLRAY: (*laying on his sister's white fluffy rug making "snow angles"*) What's so great about going to the grand opening of the park tomorrow, anyway ... so they fixed it up a little. It will be the same old boring place.

ALFIE: Nuh-uh, (*scowling at her brother*) it said NEW on the sign in the post office, didn't it? And signs don't lie. That's against the law. And there's gonna be fwee hot dogs, and Mom said we each get to ask a fwend.

ELLRAY: Who needs free hot dogs from a *not* new park? Just because they planted better grass, changed a few benches so people can't sleep on them, and painted over the graffiti doesn't make it new. And it's January. And it might be raining.

ALFIE: (*ignoring EllRay's negativity*) But there's probably a better play area now.

ELLRAY: (*sitting up*) Ha! It would be hard to make that play area any worse. The "great" old Eustace B. Pennypacker Memorial Park, with one swing set and one tetherball pole. Besides, we already saw the so-called new when mom got lost and drove by it on our way to Trader Joe's the other day. It didn't look much different.

ALFIE: But that day when *we* saw the new park, it didn't have a wibbon in fwont of it for our queen to cut with giant scissors, EllWay.

ELLRAY: This is California, Alfie, the town of Oak Glen doesn't have a queen. The lady you're talking about is our new mayor – she just *acts* like a queen.

ALFIE: *(with all kinds of sassitude)* That lady *is too* the queen! Just because she doesn't wear her queen-hat all the time doesn't mean she's not the queen. You probably think she should wear it to bed, don't you? Or when she goes swimming? But real queens don't do that. I know, I asked Mom and she said no. So, *hah!*

ELLRAY: You're mixing stuff up, Alfie. First of all, it's called a CROWN! Not a 'queen-hat,' and second/

ALFIE: *(interrupting EllRay)* You're just mad cuz you don't have anyone to invite to the park, because you're running out of fwends.

ELLRAY: *(unconvincing, while trying to hid that he is both embarrassed and mad at Alfie)* What? I am not running out of friends.

ALFIE: *(Alfie giving EllRay a look that says "yeah right")* Well, I have Suzette, Arletty and Mona to choose from. And you just have Corey, and he's always busy swimming.

ELLRAY: *(defensive, but knowing Alfie's right)* I have other friends, too, Alfie. Like Kevin.

ALFIE: I thought you said Kevin was *Jared's* fwend now.

ELLRAY: *(reacting to hearing the name of his part-time enemy)* I never told you that! And since when do you keep track of my life? Mind your own business, Alfie.

ALFIE: You know what you need, a spare fwend. Like how Mom's car has a spare tire.

(EllRay flinching at the thought. He doesn't want a friend like that. He's already self-conscious of the fact that he's the smallest kid in his class)

ALFIE: You know, a spare. For emergencies, like this one.

ELLRAY: *(making to leave Alfie's room)* For your information, *Alfie*, going to Pennypacker Park for a free hot dog is not an emergency!

ALFIE: *(not really listening to EllRay)* Oh. You should hold an audition.

ELLRAY: Huh?

ALFIE: That's what we're doing at my school. It was all Miss Nancy's idea.

ELLRAY: You're auditioning friends at daycare?

ALFIE: No EllWay. We auditioned for our spring show last week. The best part of the show is called *Brown Bear, Brown Bear*. And I'm gonna be the *star*. Mom is already started making my costume.

ELLRAY: You're the bear?

ALFIE: I'm the goldfish, I want to be the last animal everybody sees, so I'll get all the clapping. I figured it out.

ELLRAY: (*calling over his shoulder as he leaves Alfie's room*) Yeah. Good luck with that.

ALFIE: (*yelling after EllRay*) At least I have fwends!

End of Scene.