

May 2023

Chattanooga  
**YOUTH THEATRE**  
Centre

*We're Live*

# A Guide for Teachers

Directed by Rodney  
Van Valkenburg

# MISS NELSON is MISSING!

**MAY 12-21**

Adapted by  
Jeffrey Hatcher  
based on the book by  
Harry Allard  
& James Marshall

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## Rowdy Cast

Miss Nelson.....	Claire James
Principal Humleker.....	Zoey Fesperman
Detective McSmogg.....	Parker Williams
Lavita.....	Phoebe Gilligan
Phoebe.....	Penny James
Elvis.....	Ephraim James
Kimberly.....	Marydee Barnett
Raymond.....	Henry James
Mouse.....	Bea Burbank
Georgia.....	Maddie Jefferson

## Unruly Cast

Miss Nelson.....	Lucy Martin
Principal Humleker.....	Allie Shaw
Detective McSmogg.....	Hillman Withers
Lavita.....	Haley Butler
Phoebe.....	Libby Brown
Elvis.....	Jordan Quigley
Kimberly.....	Evie Sneckenberger
Raymond.....	Keegan White
Mouse.....	Piper Elliott
Georgia.....	Reagan Brown

# About the Director: Rodney Van Valkenburg

Rodney is Executive Director of the Chattanooga Theatre Centre. Rodney started his career at the Little Theatre (now Chattanooga Theatre Centre) in 1983 as the first full-time Youth Theatre Director. He served at the CTC for more than 18 years as Director of Programs and as Director of Education. Rodney returned to the Chattanooga Theatre Centre in August 2020 after serving as Vice President of ArtsBuild. Highlights at the CTC include: the Youth Theatre representing the USA at the International Theatre Camp in Zelenograd, Russia, and serving as Artistic Director of the camp in Narva, Estonia. Rodney has directed over 80 plays at CTC, including several youth theatre productions, *Boeing, Boeing*, *Working*, and *Annie*. Rodney has also been seen onstage in *Newsies*, *Room with a View*, *Les Miserables*, *Producers*, and *Anything Goes*.

Rodney has been a participant in the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Partners in Education program since 2003 and served on the program's Advisory Committee. Rodney served as the coordinator for the Chattanooga-Hamilton County, TN Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child site also through the Kennedy Center.

Rodney has also served as a grant panelist with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Tennessee Arts Commission. He also serves as Tennessee State Captain for the Americans for the Arts' National Arts Action Summit. Rodney is a past President with the Tennessee Theatre Association and served on the Executive Committee of the Southeastern Theatre Conference. Rodney received his MFA in Acting and Directing from the University of North Carolina - Greensboro.



## The Chattanooga Theatre Centre Staff

Executive Director.....Rodney Van Valkenburg	Technical Director.....William Spratt
Director of Marketing.....Rachel Carroll	Scene Shop Manager.....Jason Dupee
Box Office Manager.....Justin Gass	Business Manager.....Jeff Hill
Education Director.....Chuck Tuttle	Costume Shop Manager.....Cris King
Director of productions....Scott Dunlap	

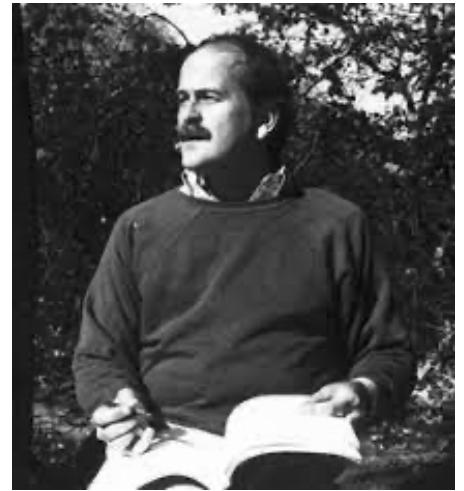


## The Author: Harry G. Allard Jr.

(January 27, 1928 – February 1, 2017) Harry G. Allard Jr. was born in Evanston, Illinois, in 1928. He authored several children's and young adult books including *Starlight Goes to Town*, *Miss Nelson is Missing!*, *Bumps in the Night*, *The Stupids Step Out*, and *There's a Party at Mona's Tonight*. He finished his undergraduate degree at Northwestern University in 1949, and then served in Korea. After returning from Korea, he moved to Paris where he learned French fluently. He went on to earn a master's degree in French at Middlebury College in Vermont and later a doctorate in French at Yale, in 1952. He has taught French at various universities and currently resides in Boston where he met and collaborated with the artist, James Marshall.

## The Illustrator: James Marshall

(October 10, 1942 – October 13, 1992) James Marshall was an author, and a prolific illustrator of children's books. He was born in San Antonio, Texas, but eventually moved to Boston where he was awarded a scholarship at the New England Conservatory for Music. Mr. Marshall unfortunately sustained a hand injury, ruining his musical career as a violist. At Southern Connecticut State University, he graduated with degrees in French and history. He was inspired by the film *Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf* whose main characters, George and Martha, became characters in his picture books of the George and Marsha series, as hippopotami.



For the next twenty years Marshall worked feverishly, authoring and illustrating over ninety books with original characters. His repertoire includes *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *The Owl and the Pussycat*, *The Night Before Christmas*, *The Stupids Die*, and *Miss Nelson is Missing!* The U.S. professional librarians posthumously awarded him the biennial Laura Ingalls Wilder Medal for "substantial and lasting contribution" to American children's literature, in 2007.

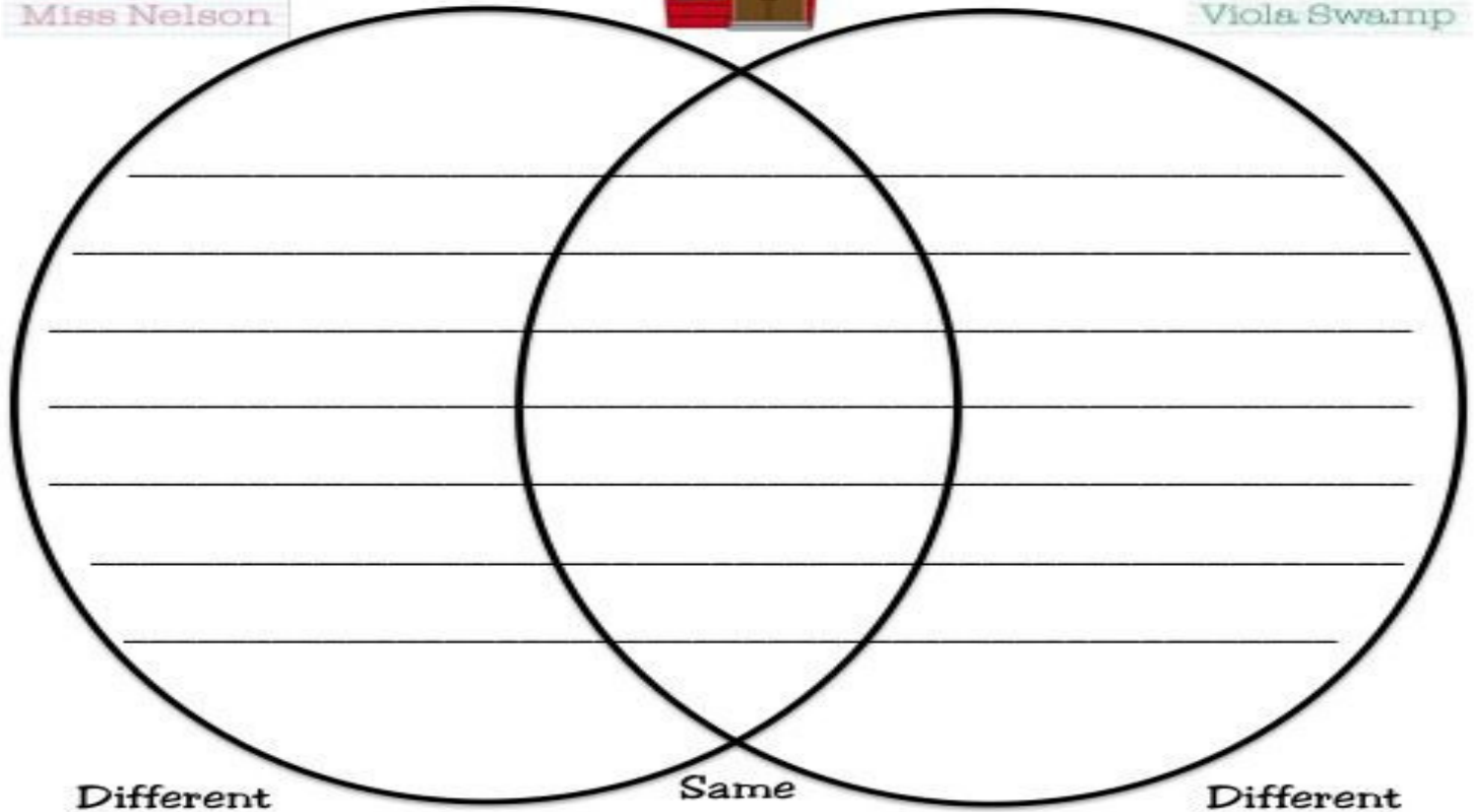
## The Playwright: Jeffery Hatcher

Jeffery Hatcher is an award-winning playwright and screenwriter, and has produced several original Broadway and Off-Broadway plays. He adapted five short stories for stage by Edgar Allan Poe, called *Murder by Poe* in 2003. He also adapted Robert Louis Steven's *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* for stage in 2008, and *Tuesdays with Morrie*, by Mitch Albom. He wrote the screenplay for the films *Stage Beauty* (2004) and *The Duchess* (2008). He co-wrote the films *Casanova* in (2005) and *Mr. Holmes*, which will be released this year. Mr. Hatcher was nominated for the Edgar Award for Best Play, with his *Murder by Poe*. He is a member of The Playwrights' Center, The Dramatists Guild of America, Writers Guild of America and New Dramatists.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Venn Diagram: Miss Nelson Is Missing**  
**Compare and contrast Miss Nelson and Miss Swamp. How are they the same? How are they different?**



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## Compare and Contrast

\*How are the kids in Class Room 207 different than the kids in your own classroom? How are the the same? How does the classroom of 207 differ from your own classroom?

\*Have your students put the correct descriptive word with the correct character:

MISS NELSON

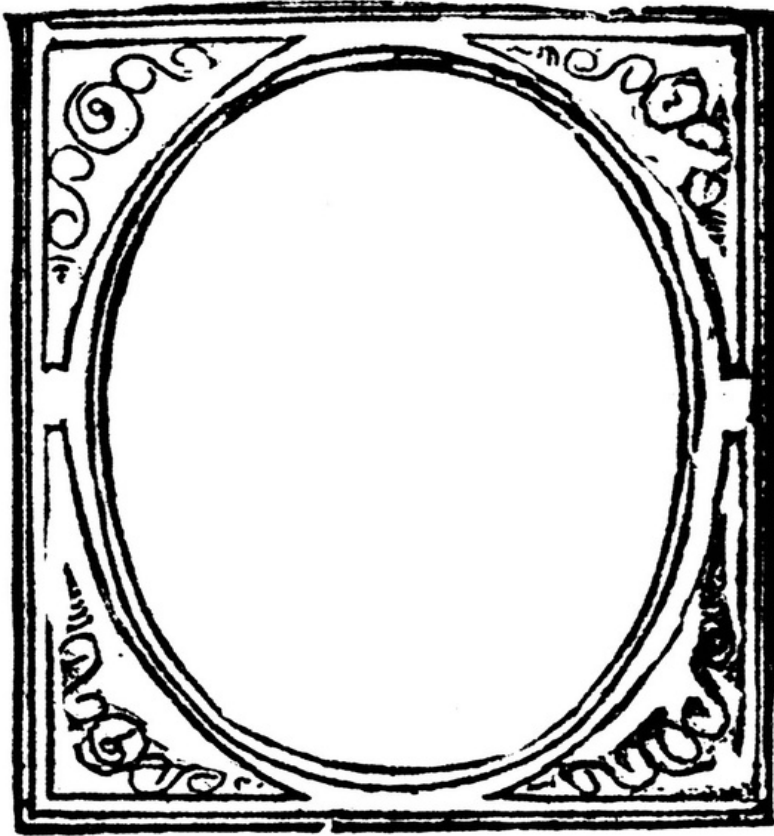
OR

VIOLA SWAMP

SOFT   SWEET   ROUGH   HAPPY   ANGRY   PINK.   UGLY   MEAN   SAD  
PRAISES.   BLACK   SNAPS   PRETTY.   QUIET   LOUD

# Miss Nelson is Missing...

Have your students create a missing poster for Miss Nelson: Draw a picture of the missing person and fill out the form to the best of your ability.



Description

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What was she wearing?

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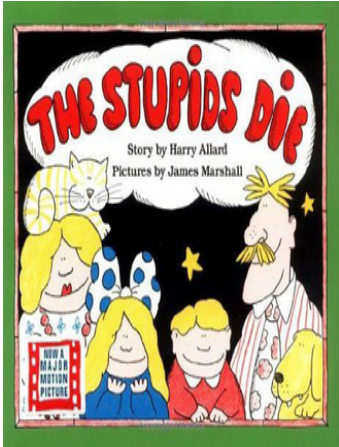
Our teacher was last seen: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I think she went missing because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If I had to guess where she might be I probably would say\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

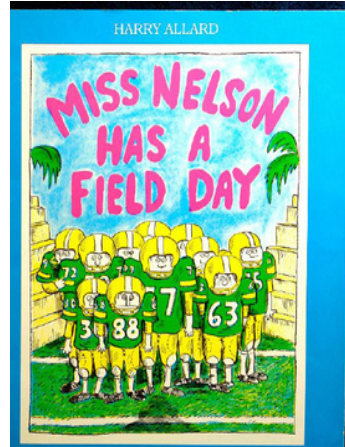
We want her back because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Children's Books written By Harry Allard and  
illustrated By James Marshall



1977- Stupid's Step Out

1977-It's so nice to have a Wolf  
Around The House



1977-Miss Nelson is Missing

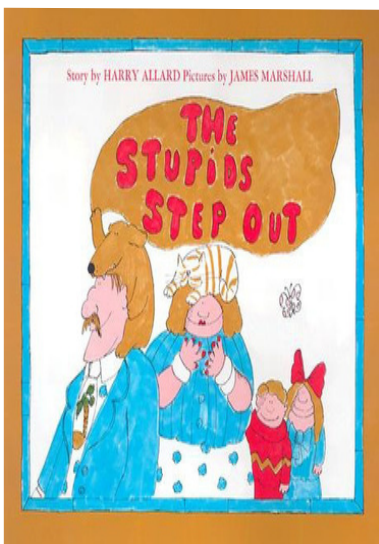
1984- The Stupid's have a Ball

1985-The Stupid's Die

1986-Miss Nelson is Back

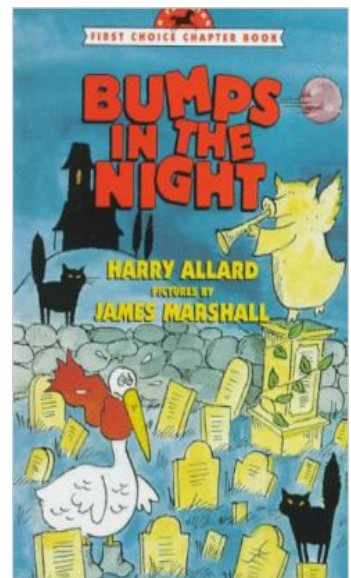
1988-Miss Nelson has a Field Day

1989-The Stupids Take Off



1996- Bumps in the Night

1997-There's a Party at  
Mona's Tonight







**Miss Nelson is missing and you are the detective...**

\*In the story the author leaves clues to reveal Miss Swamp and Miss Nelson are the same person. Have your students re-read the story and make a list of all the clues in the story.

\*\*\*\*\*

## WRITING PROMPTS

Have your students choose one of themes from Miss Nelson Is Missing( respect, responsibility, teamwork) and write a short paragraph on the importance of the theme in the story. Does it help move the plot along.? How does it help tell the story?

Write a Letter: The students in Room 207 write a letter to Miss Nelson apologizing for their bad behavior and want her to return to the classroom. Have your students write a letter to Miss Nelson for the perspective of a character in the classroom. How would you beg her to come back to teaching?

Free Writing: Miss Nelson's students do not fully appreciate what a wonderful teacher she is until they are without her. Have your students think of a time in their own lives when you lost something and only fully realized it's importance when it was gone.

\*\*\*\*\*

## STORY TO STAGE

In theatre, actors often play multiple characters in the same show. How do they use their body language, voice, and expressoin to get this across to the audience? Have your students try to play Miss Nelson and then Miss Swamp, experimenting with the extreme opposites of these character's appearances and how they act. Use a line from the book, or the one provided below, for them to say as both characters.

"Now settle down". How would each character say this line differently? Now you've got your students acting!





# Vocabulary Words:

There are many words in *Miss Nelson Is Missing* that need to be defined!  
Have your students match the word with the correct definition.

A\*the longest side of a right triangle.

B\*a person who has escaped from a place or is in hiding, especially to avoid arrest.

C\*physical punishment such as spanking or flogging.

D\*a large, deep pit.

E\*a higher branch of mathematics dealing with the functions of angles.

F\*inclined to vomit; ill; queasy.

G\*an office or department for transacting a particular business.

H\*evil, wicked, or demonic.

I\*a young troublemaker, delinquent.

J\*a body of advisors especially in government.

K\*not operating normally or properly.

L\*a quadrilateral of which only the opposite sides and angles are equal.

Nauseous \_\_\_\_

Hooligan \_\_\_\_

Corporal \_\_\_\_

Punishment \_\_\_\_

Dysfunctional \_\_\_\_

Cabinet \_\_\_\_

Quarry \_\_\_\_

Trigonometry \_\_\_\_

Hypotenuse \_\_\_\_

Bureau \_\_\_\_

Diabolical \_\_\_\_

Rhomboid \_\_\_\_

Fugitive \_\_\_\_

Other Vocabulary words include:

Misbehaving

Arithmetic

Detective

Swarm

Shades

Discouraged

Exclaimed

Know-it-All

Squirmed

Refused

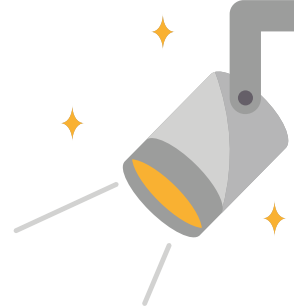
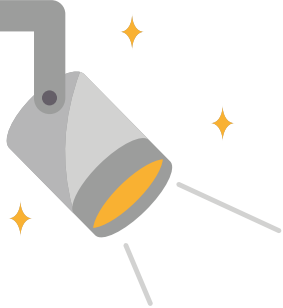
Unpleasant

Drawn

Gobbled

# What Makes up a Play?

## Technical Theatre Elements



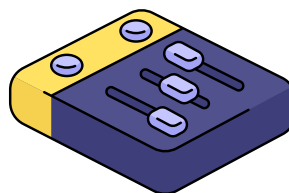
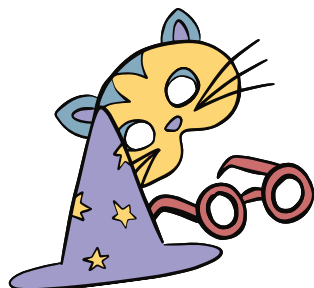
There are different things that make up a play. For one, you have to have actors.

Then, you need a story for them to tell. This story often has a meaning or subject matter that it's about, or a theme. Usually, this story has characters and dialogue, or conversation between the characters. Finally, you put those actors with the play in front of an audience, and presto! Theatre! But what about all the fun lighting and sets and costumes? Well, that is called the "technical elements" of theatre, and they also tell the story.

How did the set, the furniture, fake walls, colors, props, objects on stage, help to tell the story?

How did what the characters costumes, or what they were wearing on stage, help tell the story? Did they tell us something about the character?

How did the lights and sounds help tell the story? Did they create a mood that helped tell the story?



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WOOLF?

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NONA**

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Through December 17

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**SEVEN  
GUITARS**

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TACOS**

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through March 3

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Misbehavin'**

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JR.**

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