

Study Guide

The Hillbilly Silly Science Spectacular



Did you know? This performance is a public service of the Sampson CenterStage Performing Arts Series and the County of Sampson and is totally funded and underwritten through the financial contributions of many businesses, corporations, civic organizations, and individuals from across Sampson County and is provided **FREE** to students in Clinton City Schools and Sampson County Schools.

Many thanks to all **Class Acts-Sampson CenterStage for Students Sponsors**...On the day of the performance a complete list of Class Acts Sponsors will be distributed to each teacher...

TEACHERS, How you can help? Please take a moment to have **YOUR** students write a note of appreciation to our sponsors...without them this performance would not be possible!

This study guide is provided as a courtesy of the *Class Acts-Sampson CenterStage for Students* series and is designed to aid in preparing students for an exciting performance.

We encourage you to make use of this valuable resource designed to not only enhance each student's theatergoing experience; but to also complement their total educational experience.

GOING TO THE THEATRE (101)



Going to the Theatre

Watching a live performance is very different than watching television or going to the movies. When you see a live performance you play a part too! Your role is an audience member. As an audience member you should obey the following instructions:

When you arrive, follow an usher to your seat. Your group may be assigned to specific areas or seats in the theatre. Please stay in the seat that you are given until the show is over.

Most theaters do not allow cameras, cellular telephones or recording devices. Please leave these at home or in your classroom.

Food, drink, candy and chewing gum are not allowed in the theatre.

Book bags and/or oversized handbags are not allowed in the theatre.

When the theater lights dim, it means the show is about to begin...Please be quiet.

Listen and watch carefully. Talking and making noise disturbs the performers on stage and your fellow audience members. Please hold your comments until after the performance. Of course when something is funny you may laugh. You may even cry when something is sad.

Show your appreciation by clapping when the performance is over and when the performers take a bow.

Stay seated after the show and an usher or your teacher will lead you out of the theater.

SPECIAL NOTE

This show will have a question and answer period following the performance. Please stay seated after the curtain call. If you have a question, raise your hand. Speak loudly and clearly when you are called upon.

Theatre Collaborators



When we see a show, we often think of only the performers on stage. However, many people come together to make a performance happen. Read the list of theatre collaborators and definitions and answer the discussion questions with a partner.

Artist - A person who creates (makes) art.

Professional Artist - A person who creates art as an occupation, that means the person earns his/her money with art.

Storyteller(s) - A teller, or tellers of stories, a relater of anecdotes, a reciter of tales (as in a children's library)

Actor - a person whose profession is acting on the stage, in movies, or on television.

Director - helps the performers understand their roles and tells them where to move on stage. The director also collaborates with designers to create the entire picture you see on stage.

Costume Designer - imagines and designs the clothing and other items worn by the performers on stage.

Lighting Designer - imagines and creates the lights of a performance to enhance the mood and the setting.

Set Designer - makes a map of each set and its changes

Props - items held or used by the actors on stage that help tell the story

THINK ABOUT IT!

Why is changing the color of lights important for the mood in a scene?

Have you ever been in a play?

Have you ever designed a costume?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS...

1. If you were to work in the theater business, which theater collaborator would you rather be?
2. Which job seems most challenging? Why?



THE HILLBILLY SILLY SCIENCE SPECTACULAR!



“BACKYARD BOOM!” TOUR

An amazing journey of science, improvisational comedy, and life skills...

Featuring Dr. Cletus Beaker, MD

Comprehensive Study Guide for Schools and Faculty

About the Performer



For over 12 years, performing artist Curt Strutz has been entertaining children, families, and adults from coast to coast across both the United States and Canada. His love and passion for entertaining has taken him to venues across the continent, and he has had the experience of performing at events such as the Illinois State Fair, Vancouver Boat Show, Wisconsin State Fair, New York National Boat Show, and various locations of Jellystone Campgrounds, KinderCare Child Care Centers, Cabela's Retail Stores, Great Wolf Lodge Resorts, and Bass Pro Shops.

The most recent show added to his roster, The Hillbilly Silly Science Spectacular, has quickly grown to become the most sought after shows he has done to date. Now performing at Theatres, Opera Houses, Performing Art Centers, and Fair Grandstand Stages – this program has given him the opportunity to both educate and entertain children and their families/teachers at a whole new level!

Curt appreciates your attendance at the Hillbilly Silly Science Spectacular and hopes that you enjoy his “bigger than life” character, Dr. Cletus Beaker, MD, as many folks already have!
“YEEE HAAAAW!”

A Special Message to Educators and Teachers...

Thank you for allowing Dr. Cletus Beaker, MD and the Hillbilly Silly Science Spectacular to become a part of your students' world of education! My skilled team of professionals and I have put in many hours of research, construction, rehearsal, travel, planning, (and trial & error) to bring this exciting and educational presentation to your community!

I am delighted in the fact that this show IS educational, but is ALSO designed with humor in mind. Children will delight in the laughter surrounding the doctor and his crazy antics, but all the while still learning about important scientific theories, terminology, and concepts that will help stimulate their minds and curiosity to learn more. The use of amazing on-stage science experiments, elaborately decorated sets, family-safe humor, and an abundance of audience participation make this a memorable journey into the world of both physical science and physical comedy/improvisation.

I hope that the resources contained within this comprehensive study guide will help you and your students prepare for the show, as well as continue the foundations built during the show through continued classroom discussion. Science is a BLAST, something that children should love, cherish, and implement in their everyday lives! Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to help you in this process of discovery!

- Dr. Cletus Beaker, MD

The Theatre & Assembly Experience



Attending assembly and theatrical performances can be exciting for children, but can also be a new experience. Being aware of the surroundings and audience etiquette is important. Here are some good pointers for children at the show!

- Food, drink, chewing gum, toys, and phones are not to be brought or used during performances and should be left behind.
- Remain seated during the performance, and keep feet on the floor and hands to yourself. Standing and/or running around the theatre/assembly is not only distracting to others, but can be unsafe!
- Clapping, applause, and laughter are always welcome during live performances – in fact that activity helps build energy into the show and lets performers know they are doing a good job! If you are enjoying the show – clap and laugh!
- Talk before and after the show – talking, using a phone, or texting during the show can be very distracting to those sitting around you, and even to the performers on stage.
- If you need to leave the assembly/theatre during the course of the show, please do so with as little noise and distraction as possible. Bathroom use should be done before or after the presentation.
- **MOST IMPORTANTLY** – Enjoy the show!!!

Terms/Vocabulary Used In The Show



- **Hypothesis:** An idea or explanation that you test through study and experimentation. An educated guess as to what may be the result of the experiment.
- **Polymers:** A large chain-like molecule made up of smaller molecules – plastic is a great example of this.
- **Chemical Reaction:** An interaction between two or more chemicals that produce one or more new chemicals or chemical variations.
- **Exothermic:** A chemical reaction that releases heat.
- **Catalyst:** A substance that causes a chemical reaction to occur, but is not itself used in the reaction.
- **Vortex:** A mass of whirling fluid or air.
- **Gas:** An air-like substance that expands to fill the space it is in.
- **Dry Ice:** The solid form of Carbon Dioxide which holds a temperature at about -109.26 degrees! Brrr – that's cold (and dangerous to touch)!

The Importance of Safety



Practicing good safety habits is not only important to do in science, but important in everyday life. Here are some important things to remember with regards to science safety:

- **Eye Protection:** Wearing glasses, goggles, or face shield is always safe to protect your eyes during science experiments!
- **Gloves:** Heat, extreme cold, and certain chemicals can hurt your hands and skin. When using or handling these substances, it is always important to protect your hands with gloves.
- **Lab Coat:** Scientists wear lab coats to protect their arms, body, and clothing. Dr. Beaker wears a lab coat to protect both his skin and his overalls!

You can also practice good safety habits in your everyday non-science lives! Great ways to protect yourself include:

- Wearing seat belts in the car
- Not playing with fire
- Wearing a helmet when you ride a bike, scooter, or skateboard
- Not eating or drinking unknown substances
- Looking both ways before crossing the street
- Knowing to leave a building when you smell a gas leak

Classroom Discussion of Safety Topics is Always Important!

Classroom Ideas & Topics For Discussion



Create a Hypothesis: Have the students generate a hypothesis surrounding a specific reaction presented to them (what happens when a paper towel suspending a rock gets wet? – for example). Let them discover if their hypothesis was correct by executing the experiments.

- Why is it important to generate a hypothesis before experimenting?
- Can you create more than one hypothesis?
- Was your hypothesis correct? Does it matter if you were right/wrong?
- Do different brands/quality of paper towel make a difference in the result?
How about the number of rocks used?

Make a Hillbilly Volcanee (Volcano): We all know the famous “baking soda & vinegar” volcanoes. These will be indirectly covered in the Hillbilly Silly Science Spectacular show. Have students bring in a 16-20 oz juice bottle (Snapple, lemonade, etc.). For even more creative fun, have them decorate the to resemble a volcano using paint, markers, paper, etc. Once the bottles are decorated and dry, add about a half cup of vinegar to each bottle. Students (with help) can pour baking soda into the bottle until it “erupts.” Food color can be added to the vinegar to make it more exciting! Be sure to place it on a tray, as it will make a mess!

- Why did the volcano erupt?
- What type of safety equipment should be used with this experiment?
- How does learning about science help in your life?
- What do you want to be when you grow up – how is science used in the job you dream about?



AT HOME

Dear Parents,

Recently, your student attended The Hillbilly Silly Science Spectacular performed by Curt Strutz, aka...“Dr. Cletus Beaker.” In this performance, “Dr. Beaker” combined humor and science to take students on a educational journey designed to stimulate their mind and create curiosity regarding science.

Prior to attending the performance; teachers reviewed proper theatre etiquette with students and introduced information about the performance, “Dr. Beaker,” scientific vocabulary terms, and safety.

Aside from the many benefits for students of simply experiencing theater, the materials addressed in this play supported many goals contained n the North Carolina Standard Course of Study.

As a parent, you are your child’s best teacher. They can also teach you through their experiences. Ask your student about the play they attended and read through this booklet.

Thank you for your participation in the arts.



DO IT!

A reviewer writes an opinion of the actors, sets, and director for a newspaper or magazine. Write your review of the concert for your family.
