monkey baa

WHERE IS THE GREEN SHEEP?

Based on the book by Mem Fox and Judy Horacek
Written for the stage and directed by Eva Di Cesare

My trip to the theatre

Hello!

For parents, carers, teachers and other adults:

This guide is designed to support young people before they attend the performance of Where is The Green Sheep? It includes both a social story and a visual guide. A social story is a short, first person story that walks through the experience from start to finish, helping young people understand what will happen and how it might feel. A visual guide uses simple images and clear information to show what they may see, hear and do at the theatre. You are encouraged to read through the guide first and decide which pages will be most helpful for the young person you are supporting. Some young people may only need to see a few pages, while others may benefit from looking at the whole guide. It is okay to skip pages, return to them later or use the guide in a way that feels right for your young person.

This resource was created by Alexander Andrews.

Social story

A theatre is a place where stories are told on a stage. People may use puppets, costumes, music, lights and pictures to tell the story. I am going to the theatre to see Where is the Green Sheep?

The show is about many different sheep. Some sheep are quiet. Some sheep are playful. The show is gentle and calm. Nothing dangerous happens.

Before I go, I make sure I have what I need. I might bring a drink or a snack for later. I know I eat and drink outside the theatre, not during the show.

When I arrive, I go inside the theatre with an adult. There may be other people there. Ushers can help us find where to go. I can ask for help if I need it.

I walk to my seat and sit down. I can look around and get comfortable. I wait for the show to begin.

The lights will dim when the show starts. Music and sounds will begin. Performers will come onto the stage and they will make sheep puppets move. Pictures will appear on a big screen. Some sounds might be loud. This is all part of the show.

During the show, I can enjoy it in my own way. I can laugh, clap or sit quietly. If I need a break or help, I can tell an adult.

When the show ends, the performers bow. This means the show is finished. I can clap if I want to. The show is over and I will leave. I am finished at the theatre.

Visual story

What will I see on the stage?

The stage is where the show happens. Performers act, sing and move on the stage. The stage has colourful sets, costumes, and lights. Sometimes the lights may be bright or dim.

I will see three performers on stage. They move and play with sheep puppets. The puppets are not really alive. They are objects used to help tell the story.

Other people will be sitting in the theatre to watch the show. Some people may clap or make noise. This is okay.

I may see ushers or staff in the theatre. They are there to help if I need it.

Who will I see on stage?

I will see three actors on stage who play the farmers in the story. They do not talk. They walk and move around the stage. At the start of the show, they may walk past me as they enter through the audience. They dance, carry props and set pieces, make facial expressions and move the puppets to help tell the story.

The puppets are sheep made from soft materials. The actors hold the puppets and move their heads, legs, and bodies. This makes the sheep look like they are thinking, breathing, sleeping, playing or feeling curious. The sheep do not talk.

I will also see animations on a big screen behind the actors. The animations come from the pictures in the book. They move and change during the show.

I will see the lights change and animations on the screen. This shows rain, night time and daytime.

I will see sheep puppets being moved by actors. They may look alive, even though they are not real.

I will see sheep move quickly, slide or jump. There are moments with lots of movement happening at once.

I will see big props like a car being carried and moved by the actors. The actors work together to change the space in front of us.

I will see actors use their bodies and faces to tell the story without talking.

I will see darker lighting with stars and night sky pictures, as well moving pictures on a large screen.

What will I hear on stage?

There is recorded music playing during the show. The music changes to match what is happening on stage. Sometimes the music is gentle. Sometimes it is lively. There is no live music and no singing.

I will hear recorded voices reading the words from the book. The voices are children's voices. They ask questions, cheer and whisper. This helps tell the story. The actors on stage do not speak.

I will hear sound effects during the show. These include rain, wind, water, waves and sheep sounds. There are also car and train sounds. Some sounds may be loud or surprising. They are all safe.

Other people in the theatre may laugh or clap. This is part of enjoying the show.

Before the show starts, I will hear an announcement and an Acknowledgement of Country. The announcement welcomes me to the show.

If the sounds feel too much, I can take a break. I can ask an adult to step outside or find a quiet space for a moment.

Safe spaces

Monkey Baa makes sure their spaces are safe for everyone. The spaces are checked for things like broken equipment, slippery floors and anything that could cause harm. Areas are kept clean and tidy so everyone can move around safely.

Monkey Baa works to create a calm and respectful environment where everyone feels welcome. Everyone is allowed to be themselves and enjoy the experience in their own way. Anyone can ask for help at any time.

Friendly helpers

The adults who work with Monkey Baa are trained to help keep everyone safe. They know what to do if there is a problem or an emergency. They speak kindly and respectfully and know how to notice if someone might be feeling worried, uncomfortable or unsafe.

If anyone needs help, they can use words, signs or gestures to let an adult know. An adult will listen and help decide what to do next.

Involving adults and taking breaks

Monkey Baa talks with parents, carers and teachers to help keep everyone safe. This means sharing information about what is happening and how safety is supported. If there are any concerns, the adults will work together to help.

If anyone starts to feel overwhelmed by what they see or hear, it is okay to take a break. They can let an adult know if you need time away or a quiet space. They can return to the show when they are ready.

Kind behaviour and speaking up

Everyone helps make the space feel safe and comfortable. This means being kind, respectful and listening to each other. Bullying or mean behaviour is not okay.

If something makes anyone feel uncomfortable or unsafe, they can tell a trusted adult. Everyone will be listened to and their feelings will be taken seriously. Speaking up helps keep everyone safe.

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