



Study Buddy

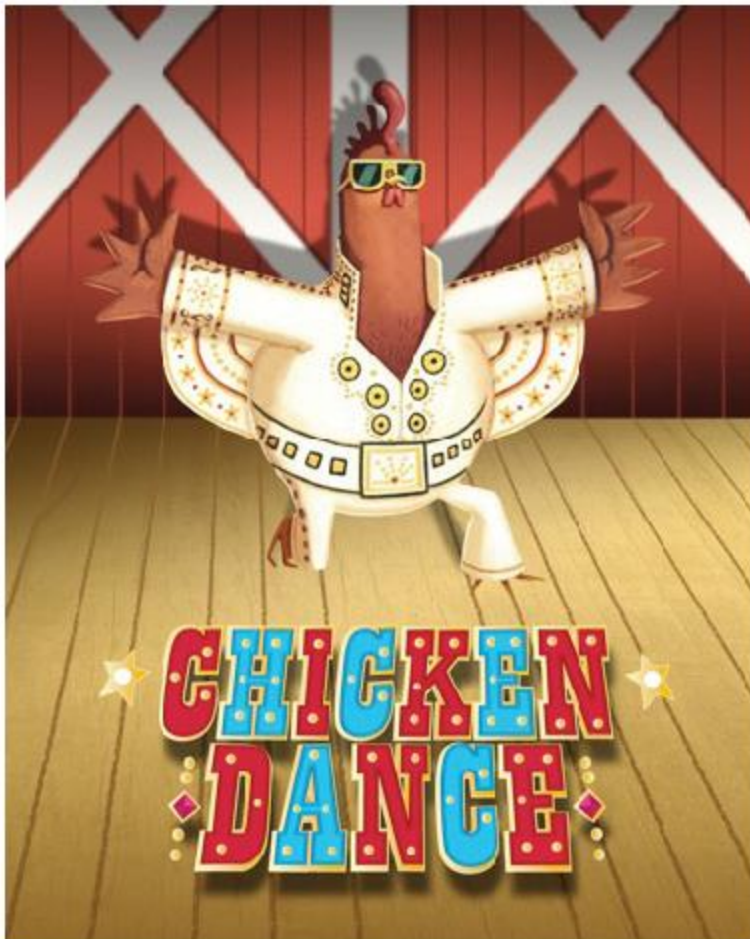


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ArtsPower National Touring Theatre

Gary W. Blackman
Mark A. Blackman

Executive Producers

Chicken Dance

Based on the book
Chicken Dance

By Tammi Sauer & Dan Santat
Published 2009 by

Sterling Publishers, New York, NY

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Script by Greg Gunning

Music and Lyrics by John Forster

Costume Design and Construction by
Fred Sorrentino

Set Illustrations by

Dan Helzer/Blitz Designs

Based on the book by Tammi Sauer and illustrated by Dan Santat



Study Buddy

Teacher Information

This study guide is designed to help you and your students prepare for, enjoy, and discuss ArtsPower's musical play, *Chicken Dance* 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 *Chicken Dance*?

ArtsPower's *Chicken Dance* is a musical based on the book written by Tammi Sauer and illustrated by Dan Santat. It was published by Sterling Publishers in 2009.

Marge and Lola are two friendly chickens who live in the barnyard. One day, they see a poster on the barn door announcing the Barnyard Talent Show where the first prize is two tickets to see **Elvis Poultry**, the "top bird" of a singer, in "The Final Doodle Doo" concert. So, Marge and Lola make it their mission to win the contest. However, they are unable to figure out exactly what their talent is.

Mac the Duck is the barnyard bully who continues to remind the two determined chickens that they will never win the contest. "Ducks win every year," Mac tells them.

Elsie the Cow tells Marge and Lola she is not going to enter the contest. She is sure she will lose, so why bother? But the chickens convince Elsie to enter. **Gertie the Goat** and **Penelope the Pig** also sign up for the contest.

Marge and Lola need to come up with an act. They try flying, but chickens can't fly. They try juggling. They try to do some magic. They even try a high wire act but fail at that, too. Just before the contest starts, they decide they are going to "wing in" and do their own *Chicken Dance*.

The Barnyard Talent Show is an exciting competition that ends with a wonderful surprise!



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
CHICKEN DANCE on Amazon,
click here.

(<http://www.amazon.com/Chicken-Dance-Tammi-Sauer/dp/1402753667>)



Study Buddy

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, change, and pack 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

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?



Learning Activity

Before the performance, read **Chicken Dance**. 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 is accessed on an iPad which is operated by the stage manager.

The musical **Chicken Dance** 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.

