

Welcome!



Dear Teacher,

The State Theatre in New Brunswick, New Jersey welcomes you to the performance of *Goodnight Moon and The Runaway Bunny*. The production, by Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia, brings to life these two popular children's books written by Margaret Wise Brown and illustrated by Clement Hurd.

These *Keynotes* provide information and activities that will help you prepare your students for the performance and then reflect on what they've seen and heard in the show. With younger students, we encourage you to read the information to them and facilitate the activities. This guide also contains reproducible activity pages that can be used with even the youngest students.

See you at the State Theatre!



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Photos by Margo E. Gesser

Bank of America



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Continental Airlines is the official airline of the State Theatre.



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State TheatreNJ.org
Keynotes

Keynotes are produced by the Education Department of the State Theatre, New Brunswick, NJ.

Wesley Brustad, *President*

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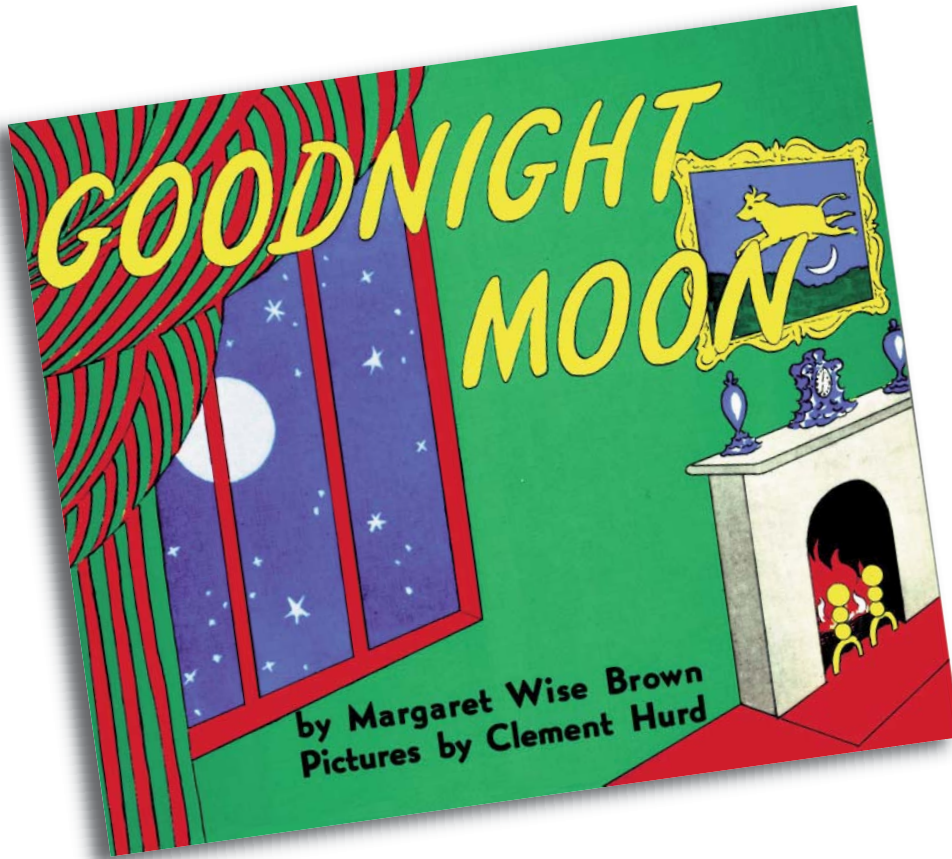
Online at www.StateTheatreNJ.org/Keynotes

Keynotes for *Goodnight Moon and The Runaway Bunny* created by Katie Pyott. Edited by Lian Farrer.
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The State Theatre, a premier nonprofit venue for the performing arts and entertainment.



In *Goodnight Moon*, a young rabbit goes through a bedtime ritual of saying goodnight to every object in sight and in his imagination, from the pictures on the walls to the brush and comb, to the moon and stars, to "the old lady whispering 'hush.'". The text is written in the form of a rhyming poem.

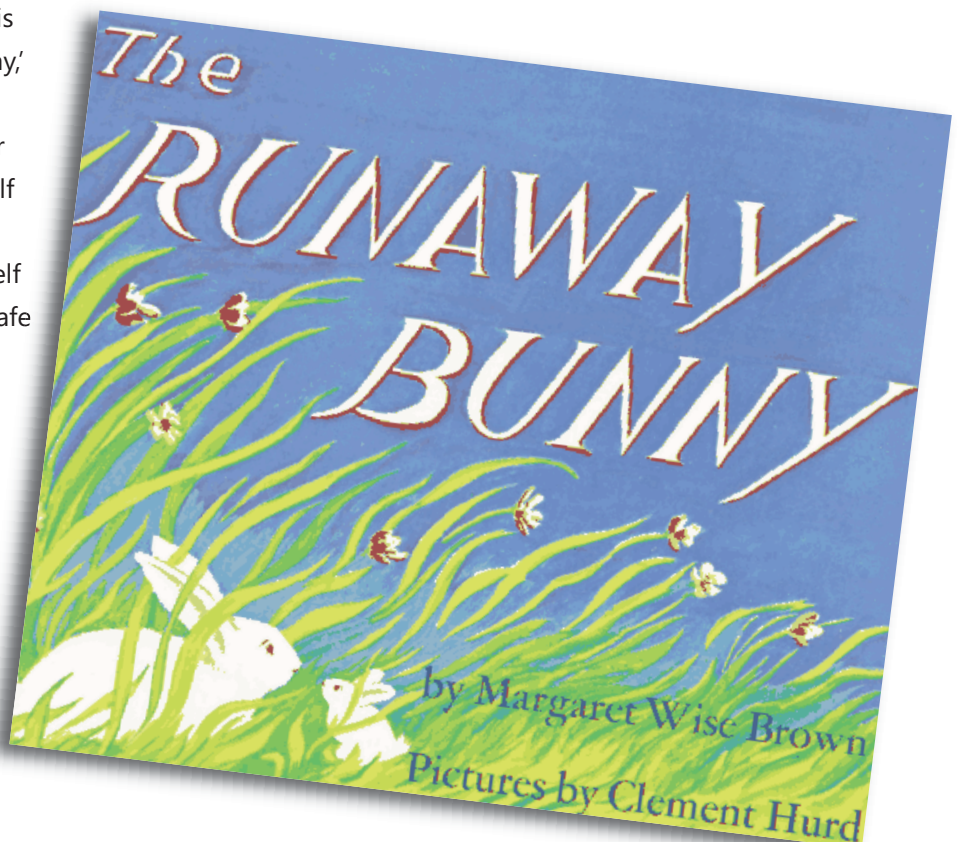
Ask your students:

- Can you name any of the things the bunny says goodnight to in the story? How many can you think of?
- Do you like going to bed?
- What are some of the things you do to get ready for bed?
- Who do you say goodnight to before bedtime?

In *The Runaway Bunny*, a young bunny tells his mother he wants to run away. "'If you run away,' says his mother, 'I will run after you.'" And so begins an imaginary game of chase. Whatever the little bunny declares he will change himself into—a fish, a rock, a bird, a boat, etc.—his mother replies that she, too, will change herself so that she can always keep her little bunny safe and protected.

Ask your students:

- Can you name any of the things the bunny says he will become? How many can you name?
- If you could change into anything you wanted, what would you become? Why?
- Why do you think the little bunny wanted to run away?
- Have you ever wanted to run away? Why?



Meet the Creators



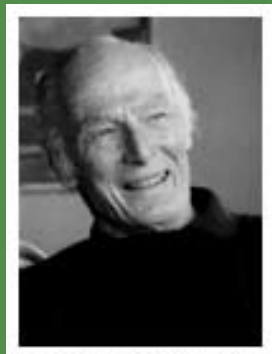
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When Margaret Wise Brown (1910-1952) began to write for young children, most picture books were written by illustrators, whose training and talents lay mainly in the visual arts. Brown was the first picture-book author to achieve recognition as a writer.

After graduating from Hollins College in 1932, Brown worked as a teacher and also studied art. It was while working at the Bank Street Experimental School

in New York City that she started writing books for children. Her first book was *When the Wind Blew*, published in 1937 by Harper & Brothers. Brown went on to develop her *Here and Now* stories and *Noisy Book* series while employed as an editor at William R. Scott. In the early 1950s, she wrote several books for the Little Golden Books series, including *The Color Kittens*, *Mister Dog*, and *Sailor Dog*.



Clement Hurd (1908-1988) was an American illustrator of children's books. He is best known for his collaborations with author Margaret Wise Brown. He also illustrated a number of books written by his wife Edith (a friend of Brown's), as well as *The World Is Round*, a children's book written by Gertrude Stein.

The son of a New York mortgage banker, Hurd was educated at St. Paul's School in Concord, New Hampshire, studied architecture at Yale University and painting with Fernand Léger in Paris. On seeing two of his paintings, Brown asked him if he would consider illustrating children's books.

Have You Read...?

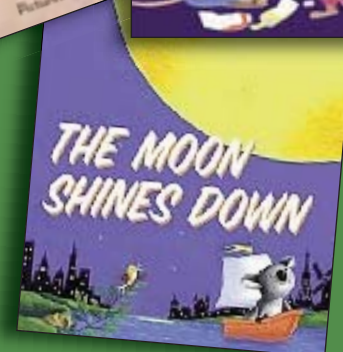
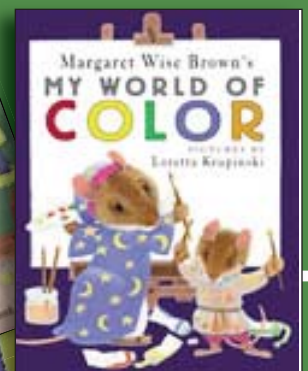
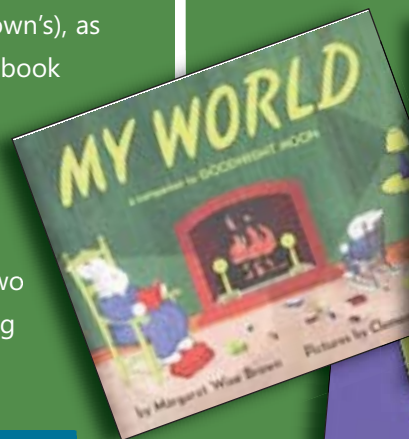
In addition to *Goodnight Moon* and *The Runaway Bunny*, Margaret Wise Brown and Clement Hurd also teamed up to create *My World* and *Bumble Bugs and Elephants*.

Other books by Margaret Wise Brown include:

- *My World of Color*
- *The Moon Shines Down*
- *Two Little Trains*
- *Sneakers, the Seaside Cat*
- *The Little Fir Tree*
- *The Important Book*

Ask your students:

- Have you heard of any of these books?
- How many have you read?
- Do you remember the stories?
- Do you remember any of the pictures?



Take a Closer Look!

Look carefully at the bookshelves pictured in *Goodnight Moon*. You'll see that one of the little rabbit's books is *The Runaway Bunny*. One of three framed pictures on the walls shows a scene from the same book.

About the Production



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The performance of *Goodnight Moon* and *The Runaway Bunny* employs a variety of styles of **PUPPETS**—including rod and table-top puppets—to tell the two the stories. Amazingly, all of the puppets and scenic elements are manipulated by just three puppeteers!

In *Goodnight Moon*, part of the visual magic comes from the use of **BLACK LIGHT**. Black light makes fluorescent colors glow in the dark, and makes anything black invisible to the eye. In *Goodnight Moon*, the puppets and scenery are painted with fluorescent paint, which makes them really stand out under the ultraviolet light. The puppeteers are onstage as they work with the puppets. They wear black clothing and black masks and perform in front of a black wall. This makes them almost invisible to the audience and allows them to execute all kinds of visual illusions with the puppets.

The show also employs pre-recorded **NARRATION** of Margaret Wise Brown's text of the two stories, and original **MUSIC** composed by Steven Naylor especially for this production.

This production is by **MERMAID THEATRE OF NOVA SCOTIA**. Founded in 1972, the company ranks among Canada's most respected creators of theater for children. Mermaid has performed for more than three million people on four continents.



Make Your Own Puppets!

Sock Puppet

www.daniellesplace.com/HTML/puppets.html

Rod Puppet

www.puppets2000.com/index6b.html

Bunny Hand Puppet:

www.bluebonnetvillage.com/puppet.htm



Bunny Basics



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Rabbits are ground dwellers that live in environments ranging from desert to wetland. They have long ears that allow them to hear very well. In addition to their prominent ears, which can measure more than 4 inches long, rabbits have long, powerful hind legs and a short tail.

Did You Know?

- Rabbits are not rodents but belong to their own order called **LAGOMORPHS**.
- Rabbits are **HERBIVORES**, which means they eat plants, but do not eat meat.
- Rabbits' teeth never stop growing. They keep them from growing too long by constantly chewing to wear them down. Rabbits will chew on almost anything but house rabbits especially like remote controls!
- House rabbits generally live 8-12 years.
- According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the oldest rabbit in the world lived to the age of 18.
- Larger rabbits generally have shorter lifespans than smaller rabbits.
- Outdoor rabbits have (on average) a much shorter lifespan because of the many risks and hazards associated with living outside.
- Rabbits should not be kept as a classroom pet.



Ask your students:

- Can you think of any other famous rabbits besides the ones in *Goodnight Moon* and *The Runaway Bunny*?
- What do real rabbits eat? Do the rabbits in *Goodnight Moon* and *The Runaway Bunny* eat or drink anything?
- A herbivore is an animal that eats only plants, such as fruits, vegetables, grass, and leaves. Carnivores eat meat. Omnivores eat EVERYTHING. Are rabbits herbivores, carnivores, or omnivores? What about people?



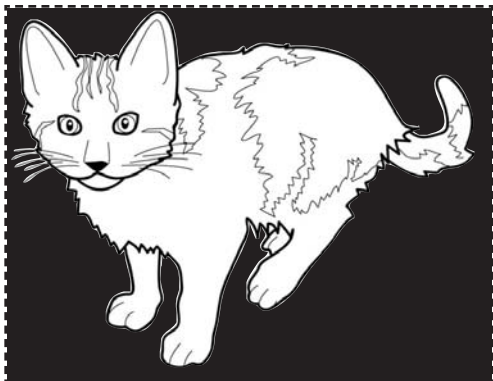
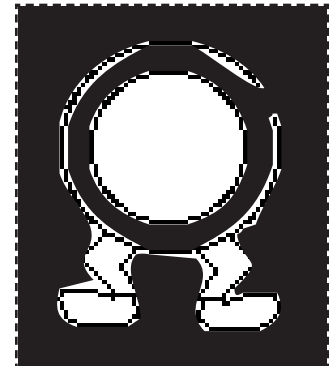
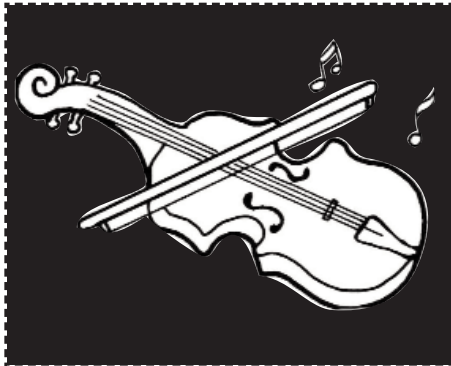
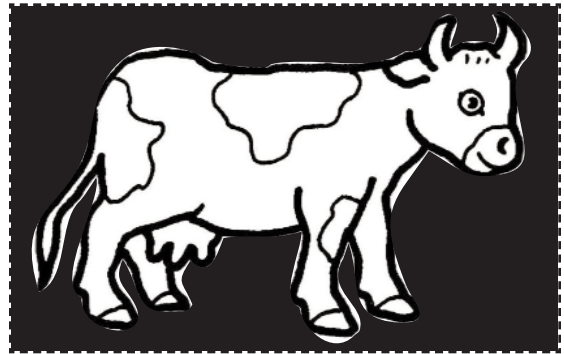
Students can play this online animal diet game to learn about the difference between the three types of eaters.

www.sheppardsoftware.com/content/animals/kidscorner/games/animaldietgame.htm

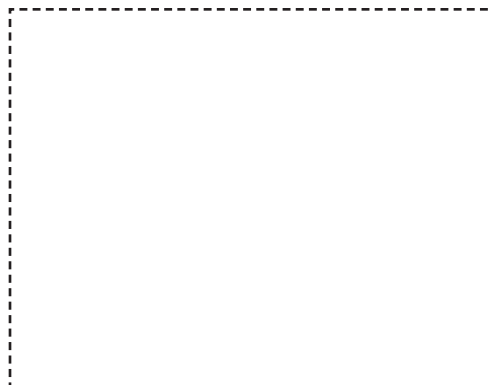
Rhyme Time



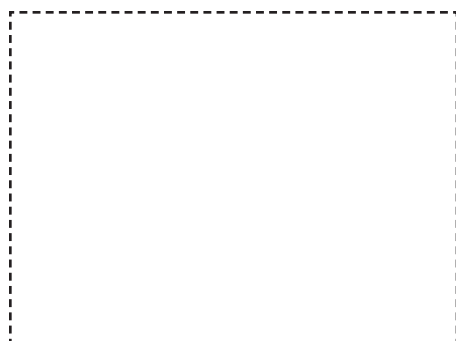
Cut out the pictures below. On the next page, have your students match the pictures to the correct spaces in order to create their own picture book for this nursery rhyme.



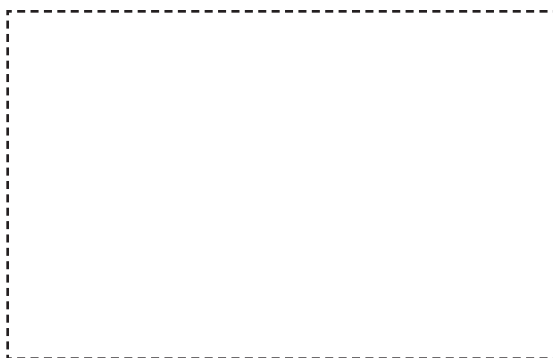
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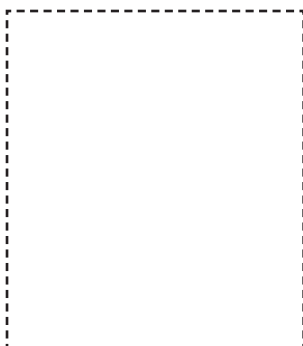


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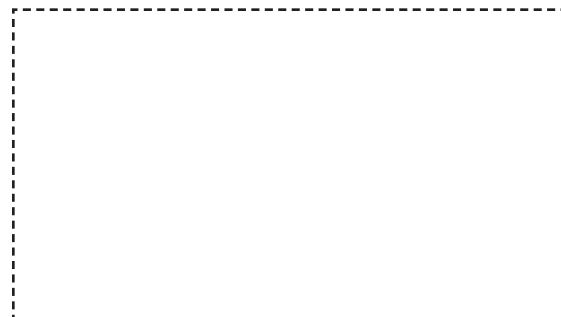


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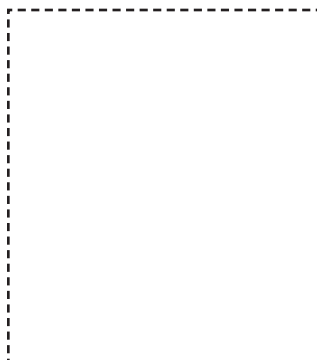
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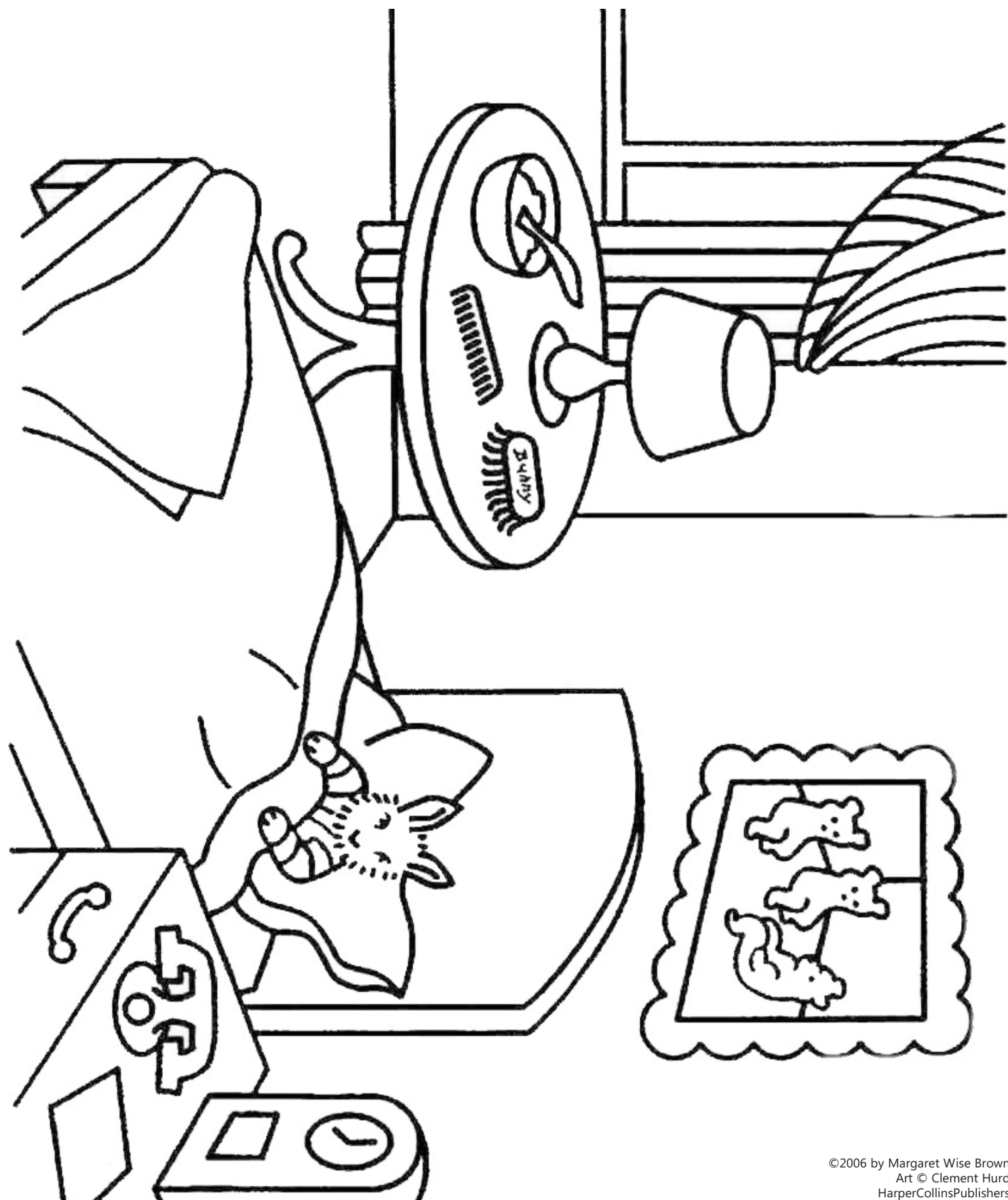


ran away with the



.

Color the Bunny



What's My Job at the Show?



Going to see a play at a theater is not the same as watching TV. When you are sitting in audience at the State Theatre, the actors will be in the same room as you. They will be able to hear and see everything that goes on in the audience. Use the key to find out what your job is at the performance.



look



listen



performance



audience



clap

When I go to a



, I am part of the



. This is a

very important job. I have to



and



carefully.

If I talk or move around, the actors and the



will have a

hard time paying attention to the



When the



is over, it's okay for me to



.



Goodnight Moon / The Runaway Bunny

Over the Moon: A Collection of First Books: Goodnight Moon, The Runaway Bunny and My World, by Margaret Wise Brown, illustrated by Clement Hurd. HarperCollins, 2006.

Goodnight Moon and Other Sleepytime Tales. DVD, Not rated. HBO Home Video, 2000.

Learn more about Margaret Wise Brown at her website. See photos of her and view original manuscripts.

www.margaretwisebrown.com

The Runaway Bunny was turned into a concert piece for violin, orchestra and narrator by composer Glen Roven. Visit the website to learn more and hear the music.

www.runawaybunnymusic.com



Puppets

Visit Mermaid Theatre's website for more information on the show.

www.mermaidtheatre.ns.ca

For more information about black light, check out

www.howstuffworks.com/question59.htm

If you're interested in learning how to use puppets with your students, here are some useful resources:

Making Puppets Come Alive, by Larry Engler and Carol Fijan. Dover, 1997.

A Show of Hands: Using Puppets with Young Children, by Ingrid M. Crepeau and M. Ann Richards. Readleaf Press, 2003.

Rabbits

Learn about keeping rabbits as pets at the NJ House Rabbit Society website.

www.njhhs.com

First-School offers rabbit crafts and activities for young students.

www.first-school.ws/THEME/animals/wild/rabbit.htm

Other books about bunnies:

Funny Bunnies, by Laurie Frankel. Chronicle Books, 2004.

The Rabbit Handbook, by K. Gendron. Barron's Educational Series, 2000.

The Tale of Peter Rabbit, by Beatrix Potter. Grosset & Dunlap, 2004.

The Velveteen Rabbit, by Margery Williams. HarperCollins, 1999.

Guess How Much I Love You? By Sam McBratney and Anita Jeram. Candlewick, 2008.