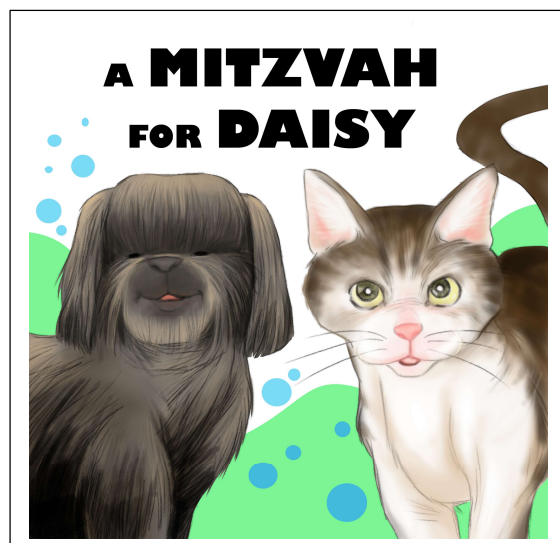


StoryMakers

Presents



Directed by Don Butler
Book and Lyrics by Don Butler
Music by Giorgio Volpe
Additional Music by Don Butler
Based on the children's book series
by Deborah Lee Prescott

The Cast

Julia Kirk, Daisy
Cassidy Joseph, Mitzvah
Shelley Keelor, Mom
Alejandro Rowinsky, Musician

Suggested Curricula for K-2

Character Education, Language Arts,
Life Skills, Music, Theatre

Florida Standards

ELA.K.R.1.1, ELA.K.R.1.3, ELA.1.R.1.1, ELA.1.R.1.2,
MU.K.C.2.1, MU.K.O.1.1, MU.1.C.1.4, MU.2.F.2.1,
TH.K.C.1.1, TH.1.C.1.1, TH.2.C.1.1,
TH.K.C.1, TH.1.C.1, TH.2.C.1

Pet Activity

- Do you have a pet? Tell us about it.
- If you don't, what kind of pet would you choose?
- Do you ever help take care of your pet? If so, what do you do?
- Do you have any interesting or funny stories about your pet?
- Make up a story that has your pet as the main character.
- Draw some pictures (illustrations) that help tell your story.

Pre-performance Questions/Activities

- 1) What are the differences between dogs and cats?
- 2) How are they alike?
- 3) Can they get along even if they are different?
- 3) Explore how they move and then try other animals.
- 4) How do animals really communicate?
- 5) What is an animal shelter?
- 6) What does adopting an animal mean?
- 7) What is the difference between hair and fur? Is one better than the other?
- 8) What are the five senses? Which one would you choose to be without, if you had to choose?

Post-performance

Questions:

- 1) Is what Daisy thinks of dogs based on facts or feelings?
- 2) What's the difference between facts and feelings?

Word Game:

"Frenemy" is what is called a portmanteau. Without necessarily emphasizing that word, ask your students if they can think of other words that are combinations of two words. Examples would include: brunch, motel, smog, spork, and skort. See if they can make up their own.

* Like a banana sandwich could be a banawich or a sandana.



Character Education

Six Pillars of Character Counts

Trustworthiness: Daisy and Mitzvah both know that they can trust Mom, since she always does what she says, even if it's not something they like. She does it because she thinks it's best for them and they trust her for that. She feeds them, takes them out, gives them medical attention, if they need it. And they can trust she'll always be there for them. Are you that kind of person with your family and friends? Do you have family and friends that you trust too?

Respect: Daisy comes to have a lot of respect for Mitzvah because Mitzvah is so brave. And she knows Mitzvah is scared but still "keeps her chin up" and stays cheerful even when things are a little frightening. Daisy sees that and respects her for it.

Responsibility: Daisy takes responsibility for making sure Mitzvah is all right. And she also lets Mom know when Mitzvah needs help. Mom takes responsibility to see that her pets are fed, exercised, and well taken care of and that they are as happy as she can make them.

Fairness: Mom tries to treat both her pets in an equal way, even though Mitzvah is new to the family. Mom doesn't play favorites with her pets.

Caring: All the characters show that they are caring. Mitzvah appreciates Mom and Daisy for taking her in and loves them for it. Daisy shows Mitzvah that she is caring by helping her to find ways to "see" other than with her eyes, and to cheer her up when she is frightened and unhappy. Mom shows she cares for her pets all the time by the kind way she treats them.

Citizenship: Mom shows good citizenship when she rescues a pet from the animal shelter rather than buying a dog from a breeder. Mom realizes she is taking a risk by rescuing a dog she knows nothing about, but she believes it is her duty as a good citizen to take in a dog that someone else didn't want and to provide for it so that the shelter can spend its time and money taking care of other needy animals.

Vocabulary in the Show

Aloof
Coexist
Domesticated
Intuition
Mutt
Pedigree
Prejudiced
Suspicion
Is "bestest" a real word?

Theater Words

Book of a Musical
Choreography
Curtain Call
Diction
Finale
Lyrics
A Merry Chase
Music/Score

Terms to Know

Glaucoma:

Mitzvah has a disease called glaucoma, which creates swelling in the eyes. Humans can have this too.

Ophthalmologist:

An ophthalmologist specializes in eye problems. The human mom was amazed: she had never heard of a pet ophthalmologist. But both Mitzvah and her human mom discovered that specialty veterinarians are experts in their fields. Amazingly, the doctors learn how to treat animals who can't tell them in words what is wrong with them.

Service Animal:

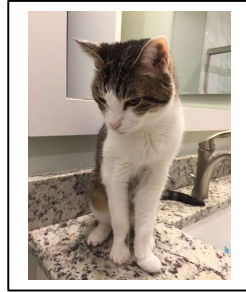
Service animals are working animals that have been trained to perform tasks that assist disabled people. In the story, Daisy kind of fills the role of a service animal for Mitzvah.

Veterinarian:

A medical doctor specializing in animals (sometimes specific animals). Mitzvah's regular vet tried to reduce the swelling in Mitzvah's eyes but then told her human mom that Mitzvah needed an ophthalmologist.



The Real Mitzvah



The Real Daisy

Animal Rescue

Mitzvah was adopted by her human mom from Tri-County Animal Rescue in Boca Raton on July 7, 2007. You can visit a local shelter too if you and your family are looking to provide a loving home for an abandoned animal.

Here's a listing of Palm Beach County sites:

- Barky Pines Animal Rescue & Sanctuary
- Justin Bartlett Animal Rescue
- Big Dog Ranch Rescue
- Furry Friends Adoption, Clinic & Ranch
- Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League
- Save A Pet Florida

Resources

Prescott, Deborah Lee. *A Dog Named Mitzvah*, Daytona Beach Shores, Florida: Taylor and Seale Publishing, 2016.

Prescott, Deborah Lee. *Mitzvah Gets Scared*, Daytona Beach Shores, Florida: Taylor and Seale Publishing, 2017.

Prescott, Deborah Lee. *Mazel Tov, Mitzvah!* Daytona Beach Shores, Florida: Taylor and Seale Publishing, 2020.

StoryMakers Theater Company

West Palm Beach, FL

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Theater Etiquette

Here are some things all students should know before they arrive at the theater.

• **Respect**

Being a great audience member requires respect—respect for the theater space, the performers, your teacher, your classmates, other patrons and yourself.

• **No Food, Drink or Gum**

Show your respect for the theater space by keeping it clean. Do not bring any food, drinks or gum into the theater. Not only does this create a mess when you are finished eating, but the crinkling of wrappers is distracting to the rest of the audience and the performers.

• **Listening**

One of the basic elements of being a great audience member is listening. The audience is an important part of the show. The people on stage can see and hear you, so your reactions and behavior affect the performance. When you are watching a live performance, it's important not to talk. However, laughing and applauding at appropriate times is encouraged! That's how you help create a supportive and focused atmosphere, making the best experience possible for everyone involved.

• **Stay seated**

Once you are seated you should avoid standing or getting out of your seat because this distracts others and can block their view.

• **Electronic devices**

Please turn off all cell phones! It's rude to talk on your cell phone or send text messages during a performance. The light from your phone is distracting to other audience members and to the actors on stage. Also, there is no photography or recording allowed during the performance.

• **The End**

The curtain call is when the performers take their final bow and the audience thanks them for a job well done. At the end of the performance, it's important that you stay in your seat until your teacher guides you to the exit.

• **Above all ... enjoy yourself!**