

Mooseltoe

a new moosical

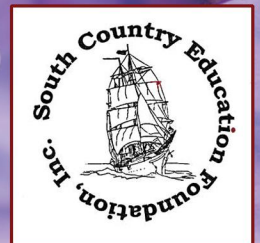


Student Activities Packet

A resource that explores
NYS Common Core Standards
for the 3rd Grade



Made possible with funding from



Prepared by
THE Gateway
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER OF SUFFOLK COUNTY

215 South Country Rd.
Bellport, NY 11713

631-286-0555
GatewayPlayhouse.org

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Made possible with a grant from the South Country Education Foundation

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Mooseltoe book & lyrics by Jim Semmelman; Music by George Kramer.

Set design by Kelly Tighe. Costumes by Randy Carafagno.

Mooseltoe is produced by Main Stage Artists. Production photos by Jeff Bellante. Special thanks to Ada Graham.

Summary of Mooseltoe

Mooseltoe tells the story of a lovable moose, Mooseltoe, who lives not far from the North Pole. All he wants for Christmas is to fly with Santa's reindeer on Christmas Eve. He gets discouraged by his family who want him to live a simple life. He is ridiculed by his "too cool for school" sister and is disheartened by his mother, who wants him close to home.



Mooseltoe then encounters Snow Ball who tells him to toughen up and go after what he wants. After a song and a dance, and the blessing of his mother who gives him a scarf to keep him warm on the way, Mooseltoe leaves in pursuit of his dream – to fly with Santa like a true reindeer.



Along the way, word spreads through the North Pole that Mooseltoe is a silly moose who is trying to fly. He meets three penguins who insult him and even insinuate that they could make money off of him by selling his crazy story to late night talk shows. Even though he tells them that he's not for sale, they leave and he feels even worse than ever.

The Narrator then brings us to Willy the Walrus, who is also very down on himself. Even though he wants to eat all day long and all night through, he feels horrible about how overweight he is. Suddenly, Willy falls into the water and Mooseltoe saves him by pulling him out with a branch. Mooseltoe insists that Willy should look further into himself and that there is "more of him to love." They make great friends, and Willy praises Mooseltoe's insight. To warm him after his chilly spill, Mooseltoe gives Willy the scarf that his mother gave to him. Willy then goes off into the village and leaves Mooseltoe to continue his journey to find the wisdom of the great Mooseking.

During his search, Mooseltoe falls asleep, and in a dream-like sequence the Mooseking appears in the form of a giant, smoking and talking mountain. The Mooseking tells Mooseltoe to believe in himself and he will fly:

*Believe in your dreams;
Believe in your worth;
Believe in yourself
And fly off the earth*





Mooseltoe, still dreaming, excitedly sings a song of revelation and begins to fly. He has a wonderful time flying and swooping, but when he realizes he was only dreaming, he falls back asleep into a deep slumber, finally covered in newly fallen snow.

The narrator then takes us to the inside of Santa's Workshop, where the elves are in a tizzy. It seems that Blitzen has fallen and broken his leg, and Santa is now one reindeer short for delivering presents on Christmas Eve. Santa refuses to postpone the trip or to take fewer presents because he only has six reindeer. The elves go into a panicked search for a new reindeer. They hear of Mooseltoe's will to fly, and they try to find him.

Mooseltoe is awakened by two Snow friends who say they have been led to him by Willy. They tell him they have been sent by Santa in search of someone to help deliver presents on Christmas Eve. He awakens with delight and tries immediately to fly, but with no success. The two Snow friends regret they must report that Mooseltoe indeed cannot fly. In despair, Mooseltoe has a vision of the Mooseking who re-iterates the need to simply believe in yourself and you can reach your dreams:

*It's all there inside
Just waiting for you.
You have to believe
To make it come true.*

*Now, just visualize,
You're flying around.
Before you know it,
You're off of the ground.*

Mooseltoe bids goodbye to his Snow friends and excitedly flies off to Santa's Workshop as his father, mother, and astounded sister look on. When he arrives, he is greeted with cheers and praise from everyone, including Santa Claus himself, who thanks Mooseltoe for saving Christmas.



Now that Mooseltoe is reunited with his family, and friends, they sing a song about the joys of Christmas, and Santa tells our hero, the believing Mooseltoe, to lead the sleigh on Christmas Eve.

THE END

Discussion Questions

NOTE: Each of the discussion questions is keyed to one of the Grade 3 Common Core Standards. You can find the key in the appendix of this document.

1. What does the word “Mooseltoe” remind you of? Is this a play on another holiday word?
2. Mooseltoe has a problem and several of the characters have an opinion of what he should do. What does each of the following characters suggest that Mooseltoe should do?
 - a. Mooseltoe’s father
 - b. Snowball
 - c. The Three Penguin Girls
3. What do you think about their advice to Mooseltoe? Is this advice what you would have liked to hear if you were Mooseltoe?
4. What is the moral—or point—of the story?
5. Did Mooseltoe believe he could fly in the beginning of the story?
6. What does Mooseltoe’s mother’s advice mean when she tells him:

He lives far away.
Yet, is always nearby.
You need to tell HIM
That you want to fly.

Just follow your nose
And look for his face.
Your heart will tell you
When you’ve found the right place.

7. What caused Mooseltoe to believe that he could fly?
8. What does the Mooseking’s advice mean when he tells Mooseltoe:

Mooseltoe Moose
You’re looking for me?
I’ve always been here,
You just couldn’t see.

Believe in yourself
And the magic you bring.
I am here with you,
I am Mooseking.

9. Let's talk about Willy the Walrus for a moment.
 - a. How is Willy like Mooseltoe?
 - b. What is Willy like?
 - c. How does Mooseltoe help Willy?
 - d. How does Willy help Mooseltoe?
 - e. Why is this important to the action of the story?
 - f. Is there something that we can learn from this?
10. You just saw a play, and the action in this play is divided into scenes—just like a good story may have chapters. Scenes are like little self-contained stories set in a place.
 - a. What are the different scenes in **Mooseltoe**?

Suggested Follow-up Writing Assignments

1. Write a letter to Mooseltoe, telling him about a dream that you have for yourself. Tell him what you need to do yourself to achieve your dream.
2. Write a letter to Mooseltoe, telling him about a person you know who other people do not understand—like Willy the Walrus or Mooseltoe at the first part of the play. Tell Mooseltoe what you can do to help the person you know believe in himself or herself.
3. Write a letter to Mooseltoe, explaining to him about the South Country Character Counts pillars (trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship) and how the penguins would have acted differently toward him if they lived by the pillars.

Appendix: Matrix of Questions and Assignments to Common Core Standards

Speaking and Listening Standards

Comprehension and Collaboration

2. Determine the main ideas and supporting details of a text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

1. What is the moral—or point—of the story?
2. Did Mooseltoe believe he could fly in the beginning of the story?
3. What caused Mooseltoe to believe that he could fly?

Reading Standards: Foundational Skills

Phonics and Word Recognition

3. Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words. (d) Read grade-appropriate irregularly spelled words.

1. What does the word “Mooseltoe” remind you of?

Reading Standards for Literature

Key Ideas and Details

3. Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.

1. Let’s talk about Willy the Walrus for a moment.
 - a. How is Willy like Mooseltoe?
 - b. What is Willy like?
 - c. How does Mooseltoe help Willy?
 - d. How does Willy help Mooseltoe?
 - e. Why is this important to the action of the story?

- f. Is there something that we can learn from this?

Craft and Structure

4. Determine the meanings of words and phrases as they are used in a text, distinguishing literal from non-literal language.

1. What does Mooseltoe's mother's advice mean when she tells him:

He lives far away.
Yet, is always nearby.
You need to tell HIM
That you want to fly.

Just follow your nose
And look for his face.
Your heart will tell you
When you've found the right place.

2. What does the Mooseking's advice mean when he tells Mooseltoe:

Mooseltoe Moose
You're looking for me?
I've always been here,
You just couldn't see.

Believe in yourself
And the magic you bring.
I am here with you,
I am Mooseking.

3. What do the Snow People mean when they say:

The jobs we are given
Are getting quite old.
Just because we are snow
Doesn't mean that we're cold.

5. Refer to parts of stories, dramas, and poems when writing or speaking about a text, using terms such as chapter, scene, and stanza; describe how each successive part builds on earlier sections.

1. You just saw a play, and the action in this play is divided into scenes—just like a good story may have chapters. Scenes are like little self-contained stories set in a place. What are the different scenes in **Mooseltoe**?

6. Distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator or those of the characters.

1. Mooseltoe has a problem and several of the characters have an opinion of what he should do. What does each of the following characters suggest that Mooseltoe should do?
 - a. Mooseltoe’s father
 - b. Snowball
 - c. The Three Penguin Girls
2. What do you think about their advice to Mooseltoe?

Writing Standards

Responding to Literature

11. Create and present a poem, narrative, play, art work, or personal response to a particular author or theme studied in class.

1. Write a letter to Mooseltoe, telling him about a dream that you have for yourself. Tell him what you need to do yourself to achieve your dream.
2. Write a letter to Mooseltoe, telling him about a person you know who other people do not understand—like Willy the Walrus or Mooseltoe at the first part of the play. Tell Mooseltoe what you can do to help the person you know believe in himself or herself.
3. Write a letter to Mooseltoe, explaining to him about the South Country Character Counts pillars (trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship) and how the penguins would have acted differently toward him if they lived by the pillars.