

# JUNIE B's ESSENTIAL SURVIVAL GUIDE TO SCHOOL

## STUDY GUIDE

Dear Teacher,

We have created the following study guide to help make your students' theater experience with Junie B's Essential Survival Guide to School as meaningful as possible. For many, it will be their first time viewing a live theatrical production. We have learned that when teachers discuss the play with their students before and after the production, the experience is more significant and long-lasting. Our study guide provides pre and post production discussion topics, as well as related activity sheets. These are just suggestions; please feel free to create your own activities and areas for discussion. We hope you and your class enjoy the show!

### ***Background***

Our play is based on Junie B's Essential Survival Guide to School by award-winning author Barbara Park.

### ***The Story***

- First grader Junie B. Jones decides that since she survived a whole year of kindergarten, she will write a guide for students to help them navigate the challenges of being a student.
- She has some trouble coming up with ideas but her friends contribute chapters on important things like backpacks, clothes, school supplies and bus routines.
- Junie B. becomes so stressed that it feels like she has a bull inside her stomach, but with help from her mother and her friend May, she realizes that how she deals with the pressure is just the sort of thing to put in her book.

### ***Before Seeing the Play***

1. You may want to read some of the Junie B. Jones stories and review the plots and characters with your students. You may want to point out that June B. has a unique way of speaking and often uses words incorrectly. Find some examples in the books and have students figure out what she means using contextual clues.
2. Discuss how students feel when they first start school. What are some scary things about beginning school? What sort of advice would you give to a new student starting school for the first time? What are some important rules you learned at your school?



## ***After Seeing the Play***

1. Ask your students how the play was different from the Junie B. books you read. How was it the same? Who were the student's favorite characters and why?
2. How does Junie B. change during the play? How does she find something she can write in her Survival Guide? How do other characters help her?
3. Junie B. feels like she has a bull in her stomach - El Toro Fabuloso. Discuss what would make you feel like that. Ask the class if they have ever felt that way. What animals could represent other feelings?
4. Discuss how the actors played their roles. How did you know some characters were supposed to be children and some were adults? How could you tell when the scene was in a different location?

## ***Activities***

*Creative Dramatics* (Common Core Standards ELA SL4 Presentation of Knowledge & Ideas)

Have your students re-enact scenes from the play. Use the five Ws: who are the characters, where does it take place, what happens in the scene, when does it happen and why are the characters in the scene? Examples of scenes might be:

- Junie B. and her friends thinking of ideas for the survival guide
- Junie B. interviewing all the people who help run the school
- Junie B.'s class performing a skit about school supplies

## ***Creative Writing***

1. *Create a survival guide for your school or class* (Common Core Standard ELA W6 Production & Distribution of Writing) - Have students come up with important things to know about your school or class. Each student can describe and illustrate a rule or feature of the school and everyone's work can be bound into a class guide for display. A starter page is attached.
2. *Give students writing prompts to complete the sentences or begin a paragraph or story* (Common Core Standard ELA W5 Production & Distribution of Writing):
  - A person who is important to our school is...
  - When I get (upset, scared, happy, etc.) I feel like there is a \_\_\_\_\_ inside of me...
  - If there were no rules at school...

3. *Write a letter* (Common Core Standard ELA W3 Text Types & Purposes) – Junie B.'s teacher sends notes home to her mother about her behavior. Have students write letters home in the voice of their teacher describing something positive they did in school.
4. *Story Recall-* (Common Core Standards ELA SL2 Comprehension and Collaboration)  
Use the attached sheet to answer quiz questions based on the play.

*Artistic Expression:* Use animal masks to role play feelings. Printable bull mask is attached, other animal masks available at:

<http://www.sparklebox.co.uk/topic/roleplay/masks/animal-masks.html>

Students can choose an animal, print out and color masks and describe the behavior or feeling that the animal represents.

*Memory Game with backpack and school supplies:* Have students sit in a circle with one backpack as a prop. The first student holds the backpack and says, "In my backpack there is a \_\_\_" and they mention a school supply. The backpack is passed to the next student who says, "In my backpack..." and they mention the first item and an item of their choice. The backpack is passed around the circle until the last student must list all the items each student has added previously.

## ***BIBLIOGRAPHY***

Barbara Park has written dozens of books for children of all ages. There are more than 30 books in the Junie B. Jones series.

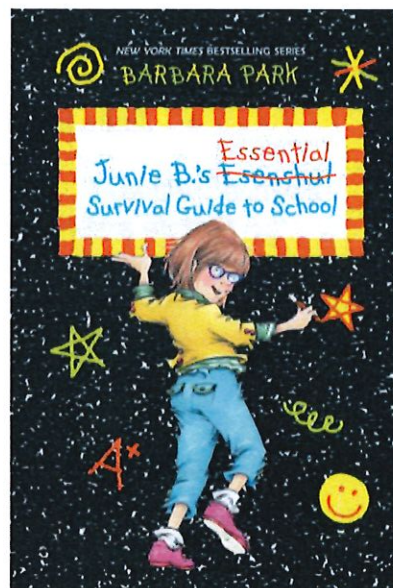
### **Internet:**

Learn about author Barbara Park:

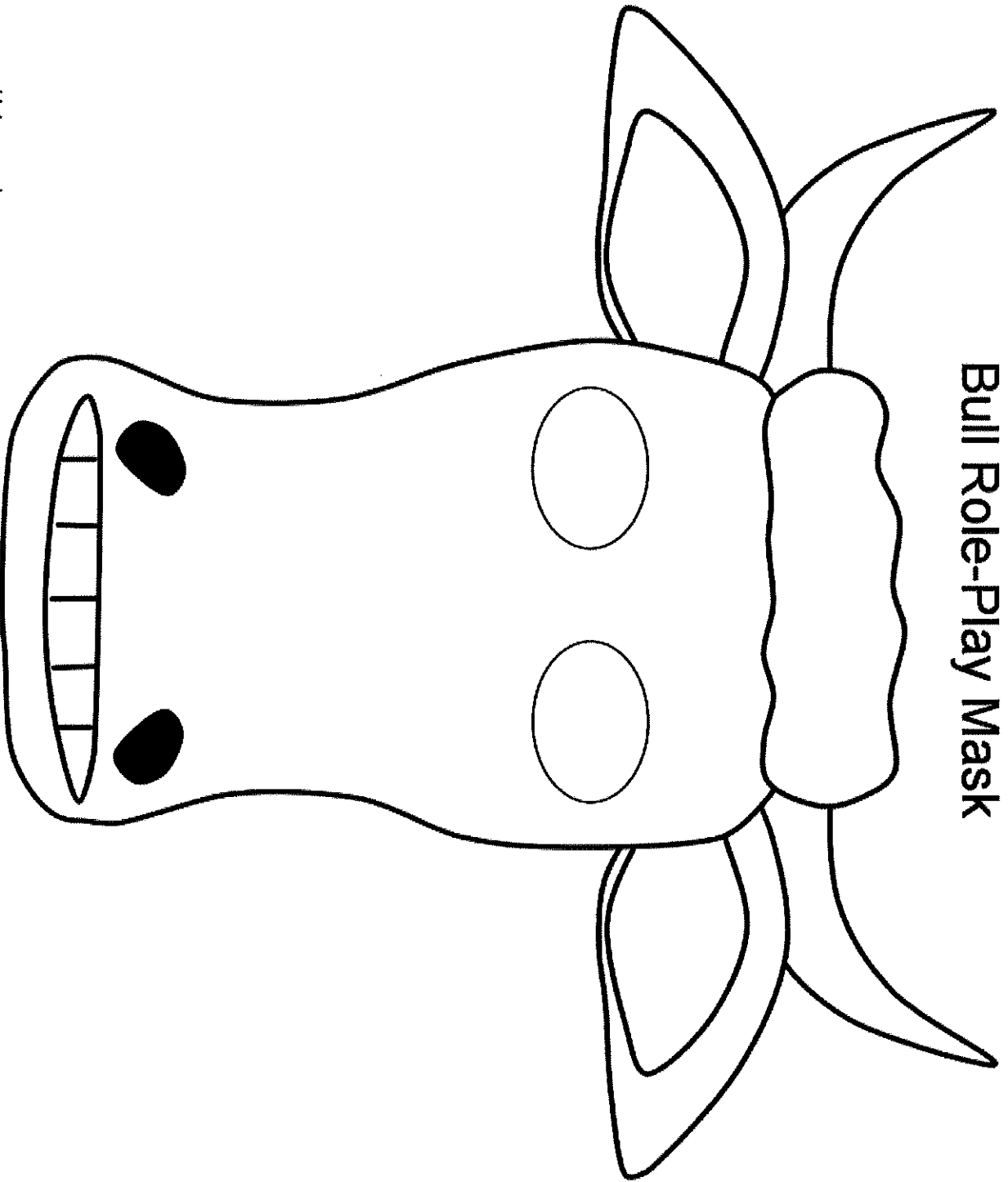
<http://www.randomhouse.com/teachers/author/park-barbara/>

Random House: Junie B. Jones (with printable activities)

<http://juniebjoness.com/>



# Bull Role-Play Mask



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Junie B. Jones Multiple Choice Quiz



1. What does Sheldon love most of all?
  - Pizza
  - Backpacks
  - School
  - Sparkles
  
2. What is the name of the bull in Junie B's stomach?
  - El Toro Fabuloso
  - Amazing Amigo
  - Bully
  - Tummy Toro
  
3. The character Gladys Gutzman is:
  - Junie B's teacher
  - The principal
  - The janitor
  - The cookie lady
  
4. What does Junie B. try to bury?
  - The survival guide
  - School supplies
  - Her report card
  - A bus
  
5. Which of the following is NOT a rule in the school?
  - Be Helpful
  - Wear Pajamas
  - Work Hard
  - Be Quiet

\_\_\_\_\_’s Essential Survival Guide to School

Write your own note home  
from your teacher

