



# THEATRE IV Classroom

## Connections

# Teacher Resources



### In the Classroom For Teachers & Students Grades K - 5

*Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile* and the Classroom Connections Study Guide are produced in support of the following Virginia Standards of Learning in English: K.1, K.2, K.3, K.4, K.5, K.6, K.7, K.8, K.11, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9, 1.12, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9, 2.11, 3.1, 3.3, 3.4, 3.6, 3.9, 3.10, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.7, 5.8.



### At the Library

*Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile*, by Bernard Waber

*The House on East 88th Street*, by Bernard Waber

*Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile: Lyle Walks the Dogs*, by Bernard Waber

*Funny, Funny Lyle*, by Bernard Waber

*Courage*, by Bernard Waber



### On the Web

Houghton-Mifflin Books' Fun with Lyle page - reproducibles, games, and more at: [www.houghtonmifflin-books.com/authors/waber/funwith-lyle.shtml](http://www.houghtonmifflin-books.com/authors/waber/funwith-lyle.shtml)

Crocodile facts, pictures, and video - even a quiz to test your croc IQ: <http://animal.discovery.com/reptiles/crocodile/>

# Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile

Book, Music and Lyrics by Bruce Craig Miller

Based on *The House on East 88th Street* and *Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile* by Bernard Waber

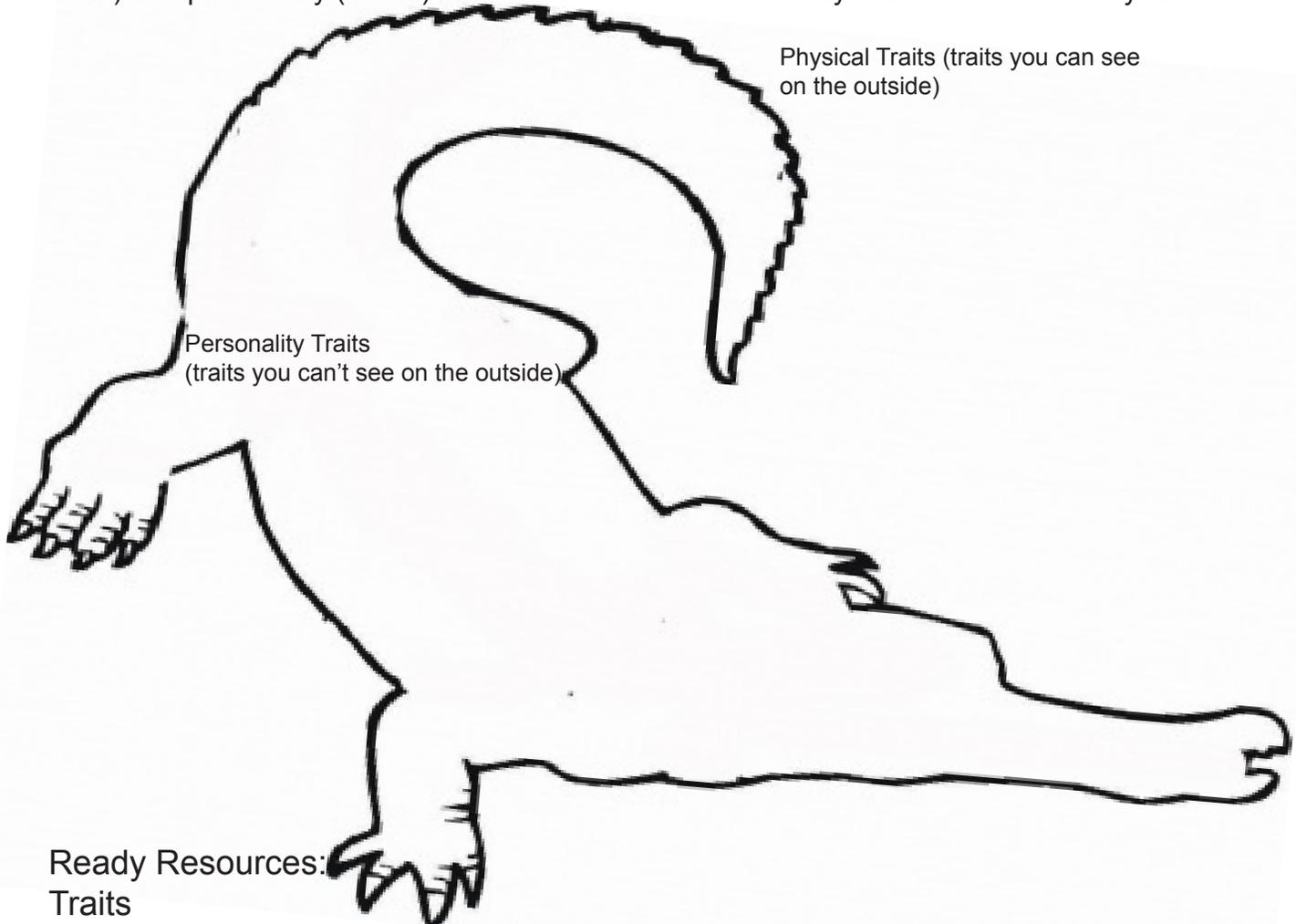


Some families have dogs, others are 'cat people.' But the Primm family has quite an unusual pet. When they move to New York City, they find, of all things, a crocodile living in their upstairs bathroom! Luckily, their pet is a very friendly crocodile, and the Primm family - especially their son Josh Primm - becomes very fond of Lyle. Lyle even gains the trust and friendship of the neighborhood after a game-winning home run makes him somewhat of a hero.

When the local news reports the story of Lyle and his heroic home-run, letters pour in praising Lyle. One is from Hector P. Valenti, saying that Lyle belongs to him! Valenti insists that Lyle should be with him, starring in their stage show "Lyle and Valenti." Josh, his friends, and his parents try to stop Valenti, but it is no use. Valenti and Lyle leave for Broadway. This makes Lyle sad; so much so that he runs away and returns to the Primm's. Eventually, the Primms persuade Valenti that Lyle should be with them. Come share in our happy ending in the fanciful Theatre IV musical, **Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile!**

# What a Character!

Character traits are made up of physical traits and personality traits. Think about the character of Lyle from the play *Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile*. Use this graphic organizer to record both physical (outside) and personality (inside) traits for the character. You may want to add a few of your own!



Physical Traits (traits you can see on the outside)

Personality Traits (traits you can't see on the outside)

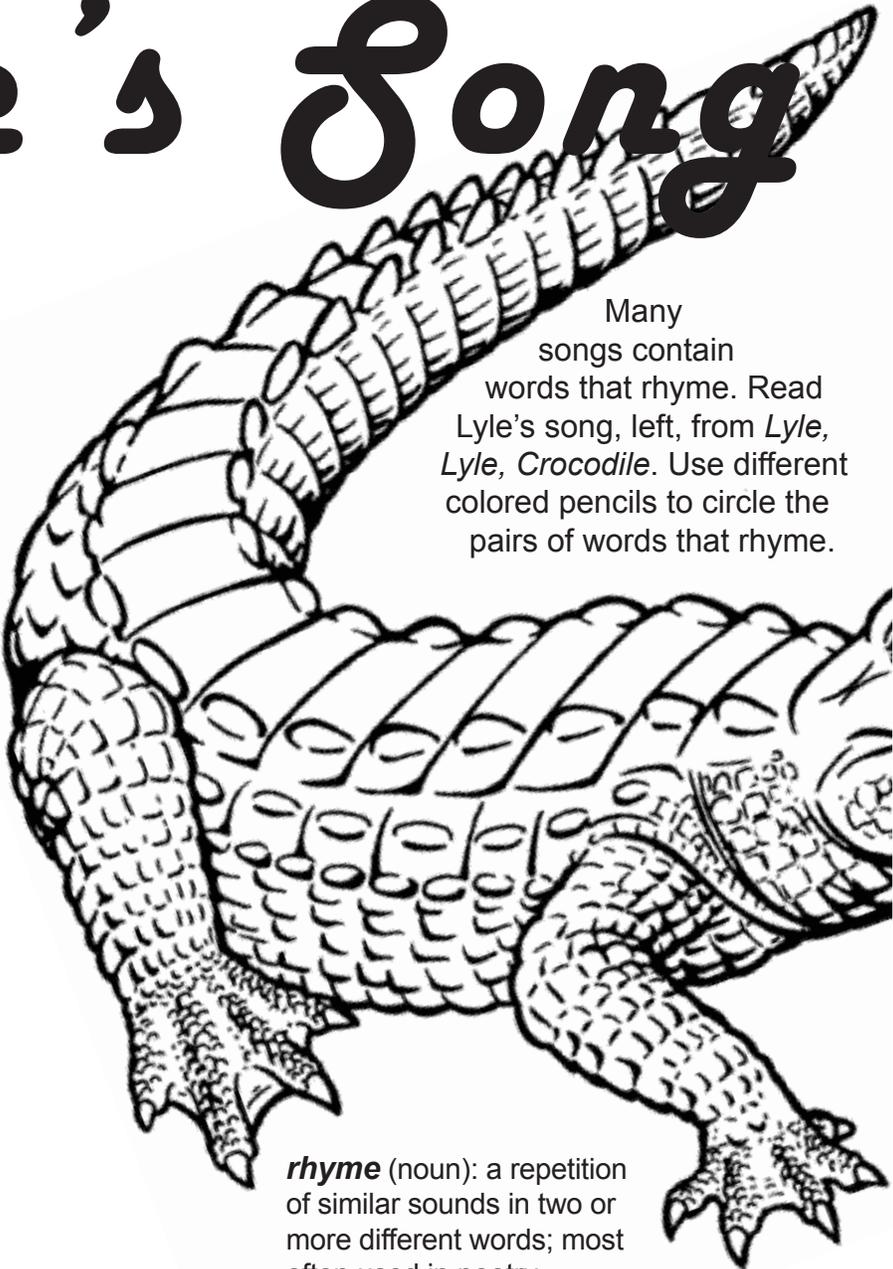
## Ready Resources: Traits

|            |              |            |             |             |           |             |
|------------|--------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| alluring   | concerned    | ecstatic   | hilarious   | lonely      | playful   | spiteful    |
| amicable   | considerate  | enraged    | honest      | melancholy  | puzzled   | suspicious  |
| apologetic | courageous   | envious    | honorable   | mischievous | radical   | sympathetic |
| arrogant   | cruel        | focused    | humble      | miserable   | regretful | tedious     |
| awestruck  | curious      | frustrated | hysterical  | modest      | relieved  | tenacious   |
| bashful    | defeated     | furry      | idiotic     | negative    | rough     | thoughtful  |
| benevolent | demure       | gallant    | impish      | nervous     | satisfied | timid       |
| bold       | depressed    | gentle     | indifferent | nosey       | selfish   | trustworthy |
| bored      | determined   | gleeful    | innocent    | obnoxious   | selfless  | unpleasant  |
| brave      | devious      | glum       | inquisitive | odd         | serious   | wary        |
| candid     | disappointed | green      | jaded       | optimistic  | sheepish  | willing     |
| calm       | disdainful   | grieving   | joyful      | paranoid    | shy       | wily        |
| carefree   | disgusted    | happy      | jubilant    | perplexed   | skeptical | withdrawn   |
| cautious   | distracted   | harmless   | kind        | pessimistic | sly       | wretched    |
| confident  | eager        | haughty    | livid       | petty       | smooth    | zealous     |



**THEATRE IV**

# Lyle's Song



Speaking of lucky, I feel blest.  
Speaking of friends, there go the best.  
Others I met would scream and flee,  
But not the Primms, they took the time to see  
The real me.

Yes, my skin is tough as leather,  
If you want soft as a feather,  
You'd be better off with a gerbil or a lamb.  
But the Primms see past my hide  
To the friendly heart inside.  
They love me for who I am.

Sure, my tail is strong and limber.  
These jaws could snap a timber,  
But despite my clams, I'm sweet as toast and jam.  
I am playful in a puddle,  
And careful in a cuddle,  
If you love me for who I am.

It's easy when you first see me  
To be afraid of what see.  
I'll never fit the mold  
Of pets you pat and hold.

But if you can look past parts of me  
That may seem strange, you will see  
I have feelings, too.  
In fact, I'm just like you.

I admit to the sensation  
That was caused by my relation  
Who once bit a man mistaken for a ham.  
But the Primms will all agree,  
That was him, not me!  
They love me for who I am.

They opened up their hearts,  
And saw my better parts.  
And now they love me for who I am.

Many songs contain words that rhyme. Read Lyle's song, left, from *Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile*. Use different colored pencils to circle the pairs of words that rhyme.

**rhyme** (noun): a repetition of similar sounds in two or more different words; most often used in poetry.

## Journal Sharing

The Primm family loves Lyle for who he is. Who loves you for who you are? Write in your journal about someone special who loves you no matter what - whether you are happy or grumpy, neat or messy, loud or quiet.

# Discovering Bernard Waber



Bernard Waber;  
author of the  
original *Lyle* books

**B**ernard Waber was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on September 27, 1924. During his childhood, his family moved around the city as one family business after another failed. With each move, young Bernard always made his parents promise that there would be a library and a movie theater within walking distance of their new home.

When Bernard was eight years old, he got his first job working in a local movie theater after school. Running to the theater from school everyday, Bernard would arrive just in time to watch the final ten to fifteen minutes of the daily feature. He would then spend his idle moments imagining the beginning and middle of the film. This became his first experience at plot construction, and to this day, Waber often thinks of the ending of a story before creating the beginning and middle.

After graduating from high school, Waber joined the U.S. Army and served from 1942-1945. He then attended the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia College of Art, and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. During college Waber married Pauline Fleishman and over the next few years, the two moved to New York City and had three children.

Waber's first employment was at Conde Nast Publications as an artist. During this time, art directors looking at his portfolio suggested that his style was appropriate for children's books. This suited Waber as he was beginning to read to his own children and found that he enjoyed their books far more than adult novels.

In 1961 his first book, "Lorenzo," was published by Houghton Mifflin. Over the years he has won many awards for his children's books including the New York Herald Tribune's Children's Spring Book Festival picture book honor and the Lewis Carroll Shelf Award.

## Vocabulary

**feature** (noun): the main movie shown at a theater

**idle** (adjective): free time

**plot** (noun): the main story

**employment** (noun): the job for which one is hired

**portfolio** (noun): a collection (of drawings) that serves as a work sample.

1. How do you think Bernard's childhood affected his choice of career as a children's book writer?
2. What was Bernard Waber's first book called? When was it published?
3. By reading the first paragraph, what can you *infer* about Bernard's interests as a young boy?



# Sequencing a Story

All stories have a beginning, a middle, and an end. We learned that the author of the book Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile often thinks of an ending first, then creates his story's beginning and middle. In the beginning, characters are introduced and a problem or conflict comes about. The action rises throughout the story and culminates toward the end in a resolution of the initial problem or conflict.

1. Read the following events from the play, *Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile*.
2. Cut them out and put them in order, chronologically.
3. Paste the events onto a large piece of paper and illustrate each.
4. Add another event that you remember from the play!

Lyle runs away from "the show."

The Primm family moves to New York City and finds that they have a very unique pet!

Lyle hits a home run!

The Primm's neighbors are upset because there is a crocodile living with them.

Lyle gets in the news and becomes a home-town hero!



## *Journal:*

If you could change an event in the play, how would you change it?

## *Challenge:*

Try Bernard Waber's strategy of beginning a story with an end in mind. Write about your own story's end.



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www.TheatreIV.org

Theatre IV Presents...

## *Lyle, Lyle Crocodile*

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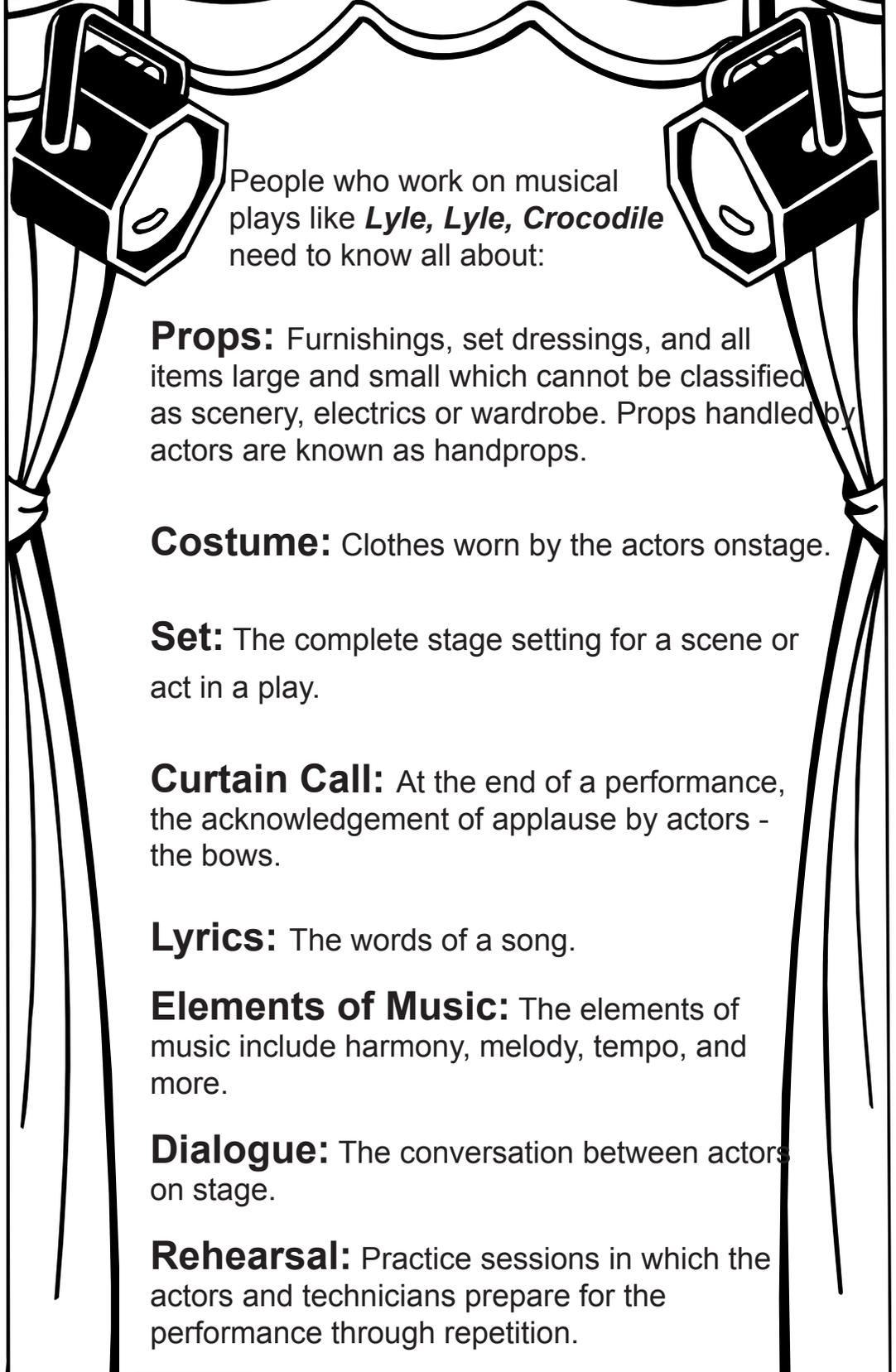
Theatre IV...  
Bruce Miller,  
Artistic Director

Phil Whiteway,  
Managing Director

Classroom Connections  
Study Guide written by  
Heather Widener, MAT  
Widener Consulting LLC

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# *Play with Words!*



People who work on musical plays like *Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile* need to know all about:

**Props:** Furnishings, set dressings, and all items large and small which cannot be classified as scenery, electrics or wardrobe. Props handled by actors are known as handprops.

**Costume:** Clothes worn by the actors onstage.

**Set:** The complete stage setting for a scene or act in a play.

**Curtain Call:** At the end of a performance, the acknowledgement of applause by actors - the bows.

**Lyrics:** The words of a song.

**Elements of Music:** The elements of music include harmony, melody, tempo, and more.

**Dialogue:** The conversation between actors on stage.

**Rehearsal:** Practice sessions in which the actors and technicians prepare for the performance through repetition.