

Study Guide prepared by
Catherine Bush
Barter Playwright-in-Residence

Clementine: The Musical

Book by Catherine Bush, Music & lyrics by Dax Dupuy
Adapted from the *Clementine* series of books by Sara Pennypacker

Performed by the Barter Players, from the historic Barter Theatre in Abingdon, VA

Setting

Various locations in Boston, Massachusetts including Clementine's apartment, her classroom at school, and the principal's office.



Characters

Clementine – a rambunctious third-grader
Margaret – Clementine's best friend, has "rules"
Mitchell – Margaret's brother, loves baseball
Mr. D'Matz – Clementine's teacher, loves Egypt
Waylon –classmate, believes he has superpowers
Norris – classmate, loves zombies
Principal Rice – the principal at Clementine's school
Mom – Clementine's mom, an artist
Dad – Clementine's dad, building superintendent
Various other teachers and students



Synopsis

Clementine is having a not-so-good of a day. First she gets sent to the principal's office for not paying attention, then she gets in trouble for cutting the glue out of her best friend Margaret's hair, and then Principal Rice gets mad when she tries to order a gorilla for a school pet. The only thing that helps Clementine feel better is riding by herself in her apartment building's service elevator. Then, in October, Clementine discovers that her beloved third grade teacher, Mr. D'Matz, is the finalist in the Adventures for Teachers competition. If he wins, he'll be leaving his students to go on an archaeological dig in Egypt. When the class is asked to write letters of recommendations for him, Clementine writes one that is sure to sabotage his chances of winning – but is then asked to read it aloud in front of the judges. After a moment of panic, Clementine abandons her script and speaks from the heart, explaining to the judges that Mr. D'Matz is the best teacher on earth. In spite of this, Mr. D'Matz doesn't win the trip, but he tells Clementine that he wasn't going to take it anyway because he would have missed his students too much. The school year continues. At Christmas time, Clementine's parents reveal that she is going to become a big sister in the summer – much to her chagrin. She would much rather have a gorilla. In the spring, Clementine's name is finally drawn for "Friend of the Week" but it turns into a not-so-good of a week when her cat Moisturizer goes missing. Unbeknownst to Clementine, Margaret rallies her classmates to find the kitten and her happiness is restored. That June, Clementine bids farewell to Mr. D'Matz and third grade, and says hello to her new baby sister, Summer. Clementine's joy is complete; she realizes that riding the service elevator is even more fun when you have a sister to share it with!

Vocabulary Words

behave

attention

frustrating

deserve

appointment

lobby

archaeological

tattoo

cartwheel

multiply

substitute

papyrus

hieroglyphics

recommendation

lever

pyramid

invisible

mummy

zombie

sphinx

sync

ramp

agenda

moisturizer

compliment

biography

anchor



A Brief History

Barter Theatre was founded during the Great Depression by Robert Porterfield, an enterprising young actor. He and his fellow actors found themselves out of work and hungry in New York City. Porterfield contrasted that to the abundance of food, but lack of live theatre, around his home region in Southwest Virginia. He returned to Washington County with an extraordinary proposition: bartering produce from the farms and gardens of the area to gain admission to see a play.

Barter Theatre opened its doors on June 10, 1933 proclaiming, "With vegetables you cannot sell, you can buy a good laugh." The price of admission was 40 cents or the equivalent in produce, the concept of trading "ham for Hamlet" caught on quickly. At the end of the first season, the Barter Company cleared \$4.35 in cash, two barrels of jelly and enjoyed a collective weight gain of over 300 pounds.

Playwrights including Noel Coward, Tennessee Williams and Thornton Wilder accepted Virginia ham as payment for royalties. An exception was George Bernard Shaw, a vegetarian, who bartered the rights to his plays for spinach.

Today, Barter Theatre has a reputation as a theatre where many actors performed before going on to achieve fame and fortune. The most recognized of these alumni include Gregory Peck, Patricia Neal, Ernest Borgnine, Hume Cronyn, Ned Beatty, Gary Collins, Larry Linville and Frances Fisher. The list also included James Burrows, creator of *Cheers*, Barry Corbin, and the late Jim Varney.

Robert Porterfield passed away in 1971. His successor, Rex Partington, had been at Barter in the 1950s as an actor and in the 1970s as stage manager. Rex returned as chief administrator from 1972 until his retirement in 1992. In March 2006, he passed away.

Richard Rose was named the producing artistic director in October 1992. In that time, attendance has grown from 42,000 annual patrons to more than 163,000 annual patrons. Significant capital improvements have also been made. Including maintenance to both theatres, and in 2006, the addition of The Barter Café at Stage II and dramatic improvements to Porterfield Square.

Barter represents three distinct venues of live theatre: Barter Theatre Main Stage, Barter Theatre Stage II and The Barter Players. Barter Theatre, with over 500 seats, features traditional theatre in a luxurious setting. Barter Stage II, across the street from Barter Main Stage and beyond Porterfield Square, offers seating for 167 around a thrust stage in an intimate setting and is perfect for more adventurous productions. The Barter Players is a talented ensemble of actors, producing plays for young audiences throughout the year.

History is always in the making at Barter Theatre, building on legends of the past; Barter looks forward to the challenge of growth in the future.

Biography of the Author – Sara Pennypacker

Sara Pennypacker was born in Massachusetts. She is the author of several children's books, including *Summer of the Gypsy Moths*, and those in the



Clementine and *Stuart* series. She has received many awards for her books including the Christopher Award for *Clementine's Letter* and the Golden Kite Award for *Pierre in Love*. Ms. Pennypacker travels widely to speak about literacy and to encourage reading and writing. She is the founder of the ShareOurBooks.org program which lends books provided by authors for community reads.

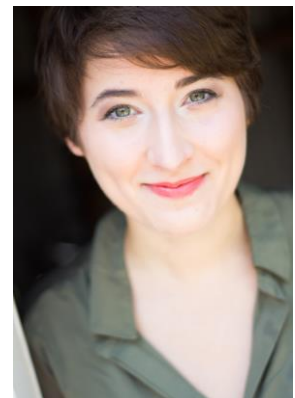
Biography of the Playwright

Catherine Bush lives in Abingdon, Virginia where she is Barter Theatre's Playwright-in-Residence. Her plays for young audiences include *Cry Wolf!*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Rapunzel*, *Frosty*, *The Scarlet Letter*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth*, *My Imaginary Pirate*, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, *The Call of the Wild*, *The Princess and the Pea*, *Rudolph*, *The Red Badge of Courage*, *Aesop's Fables*, *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*, *Mother Goose: The Musical*, *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*, *Old Turtle and the Broken Truth*, *Jingle All the Way*, *Antigone*, *Robin Hood*, and *Great Expectations*. www.catherinebushplays.com



Biography of the Composer/Lyricist

Dax Dupuy is a native of Alexandria, Louisiana. She grew up studying classical piano, until her brother showed her how to improv at age twelve –she has been creating her own melodies ever since. She has composed several Barter Player musicals, including *Mother Goose: The Musical*, *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*, *Rudolph*, *Frosty*, *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*, *Jingle All the Way*, and *Old Turtle and the Broken Truth* (music & lyrics). Dax holds a B.A. in Theatre from Louisiana College.



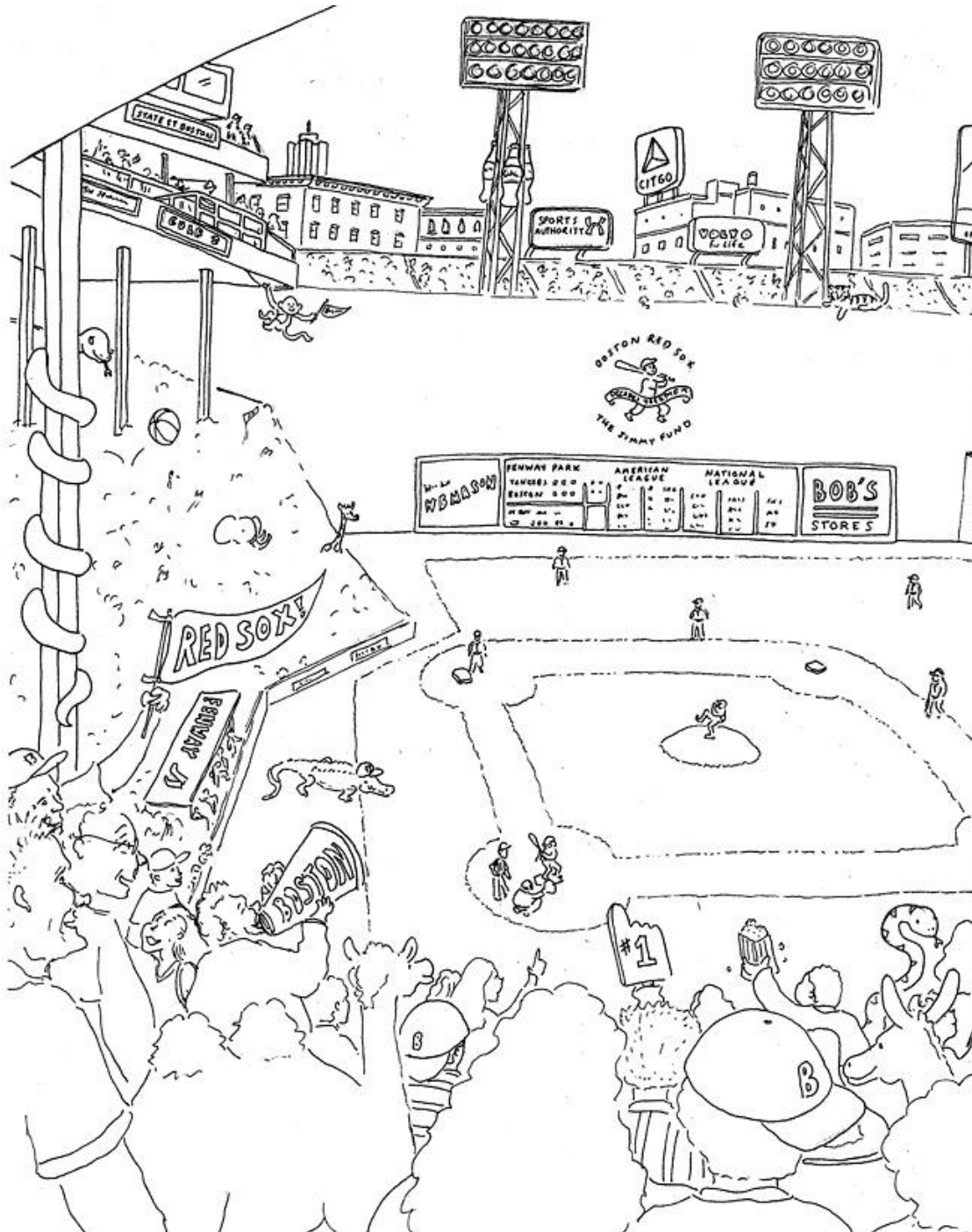
WORD SEARCH

Find the following words below: **Clementine, Margaret, Boston Red Sox, Principal Rice, Mr. D'Matz, Sara Pennypacker, gorilla, Egypt, Waylon, Norris, zombies, Barter Theatre, superpowers, artist, Mitchell, Moisturizer, Friend of the Week, baseball, Summer**

J U S G C L M R E M M U S C F
S A R A P E N N Y P A C K E R
Z T A M D R M C D N R Y P D I
X E R T A E H T R E T R A B E
L O T N B R S R Z R I T S D N
S M S I O E G I S N X B R N D
L O Y D I R R A C R A A E X O
M Q O B E U R I R S A L W M F
G F M T T R P I E E R L O I T
I O T S T A N B S D T I P T H
Z T I H L A A O N G I R R C E
R O P R U L T U T N S O E H W
M B I Y L K U C Y S T G P E E
G C D Q G R W A Y L O N U L E
E C L E M E N T I N E B S L K

Color the picture!

Clementine's friend Mitchell dreams of pitching for the Boston Red Sox. Color this picture of Fenway Park, where the Red Sox play ball.



True and False

Write **T** if the statement is **True** and **F** if the statement is **False**.

1. ___ At the start of the play, Clementine is in kindergarten.
2. ___ Margaret, Clementine's best friend, is in fourth grade.
3. ___ Clementine cuts glue out of Mitchell's hair.
4. ___ Clementine loves gorillas.
5. ___ Mitchell dreams of pitching for the Boston Red Sox someday.
6. ___ Clementine has a kitten named Noxzema.
7. ___ Clementine's teacher, Mr. D'Matz, wants to visit Greece.
8. ___ Clementine was chosen to read her letter out loud for the committee.
9. ___ Clementine's mother is an accountant.
10. ___ Clementine and her family live in a mansion in Boston.



Matching!

Draw a line connecting the name on the left with its description on the right:

Mom

building superintendent

Mitchell

loves zombies

Norris

an artist

Dad

believes he has superpowers

Waylon

plays baseball

Questions/Activities

1. In the book, Clementine admits that she secretly likes journaling because “I can remind myself of the things I might forget when I’m a grown-up. Like that I plan to smoke cigars. And I do not plan to get married...” **Write a journal entry** detailing what happened to you the day you saw this play. Is there something you would never want to forget? Why is going to the theatre an adventure? **Discuss.**

2. How did the *Clementine* stories you read compare to the production you saw? Why do you think adult actors played children? Which episodes from the books were included in the play? Which episodes were omitted? Why do you think this was done? Who was your favorite character and why? **Discuss.**

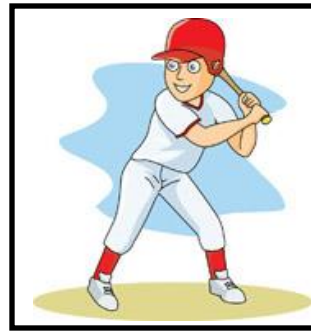
3. Clementine faces many changes in this play, but the biggest is this: she’s going to be a big sister! How does Clementine feel about that? What kind of changes have you experienced in your life? (i.e. new school, moving to a new house or city) Is change good? Bad? Both at the same time? **Discuss.**

Compare and Contrast!

Consider Clementine’s two friends:



Margaret



Mitchell

Write a paper comparing and contrasting their relationship with Clementine. Which one would you want for a best friend?

4. Clementine’s teacher, Mr. D’Matz, teaches his class all about the ancient Egyptians. Using the internet, research one of the following Egyptian topics:

The Pyramids of Giza

<https://discoveringegypt.com/pyramids-temples-of-egypt/pyramids-of-giza/>

Hieroglyphics

<https://discoveringegypt.com/egyptian-hieroglyphic-writing/>

Mummies

<https://discoveringegypt.com/egyptian-gods-and-mummies/>

The ramp and lever

<http://www.livescience.com/49106-simple-machines.html>

Papyrus

<http://quatr.us/egypt/literature/papyrus.htm>

Using visual aids, make an oral presentation to your class.

5. **Define the vocabulary words** found on the bottom of Pg. 2 then write sentences using them. Remember: anyone reading your sentence should be able to understand the word from the context in which it is used.

6. Clementine worries that the kids in her class won’t have anything nice to write about her in her “Friend of the Week” booklet, but just the opposite is true. Make a list of your fellow classmates. Next to each person’s name, write something you like about them. How does it affect our relationships when we look for the good in people? **Discuss.**

7. This play, *Clementine the Musical*, is adapted from the books in Sara Pennypacker’s *Clementine* series. Pick another favorite Sara Pennypacker story, i.e. “*Waylon! One Awesome Thing*,” “*Pax*,” “*Summer of the Gypsy Moths*.” **Divide the class into groups and assign each group a scene from the story. Have each group adapt their scene into the scene for a play. Design the appropriate costumes, props and set needed.** Now have each group present their scene in chronological order. Is the story clear? How different is your play from the story you read? How difficult is it to take a piece of literature and turn it into a play?

8. **Write a letter** to your favorite actors from this production. Tell them what you liked about the play, their performance, etc. Mail your letters to:

The Barter Players
c/o Barter Theatre
P.O. Box 867
Abingdon, VA 24212-0867
ATTN: Clementine: The Musical

10. Mitchell tells Clementine that he feels sorry for his sister Margaret because while he (Mitchell) loves playing baseball, Margaret just loves winning awards. Which is more important to you? The experience or the recognition of achievement? **Discuss.**

Suggested Further Reading/Links

Other stories by Sara Pennypacker:

Pax

The Waylon series

The Stuart series

The Flat Stanley series

Pierre in Love

Meet the Dullards

Summer of the Gypsy Moths

Sparrow Girl

Dumbstruck