Alliance Theatre

THEATRE FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Book and Lyrics by

Ma Willems

Music by

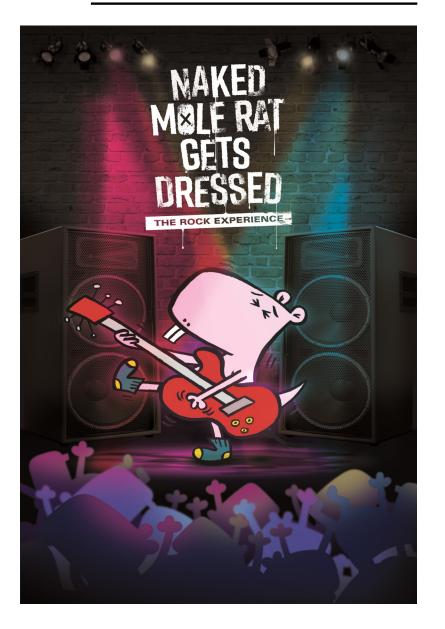
Deborah Wicks La Puma

Based on the book

Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed

by **Mo Willems**

Directed by **Leora Morris**



STudy Guide, Grades K-6

Created as part of the

Alliance Theatre Institute DRAMATURGY BY STUDGNTS program

3rd grade Jr. Dramaturgs of *The Museum School of Avondale Estates*

2nd grade Jr. Dramaturgs of *Clairemont Elementary School*

Under the guidance of Kim Baran, Alliance Institute Teaching Artist

Special Thanks To

Emily Cardner and **Elaine 1-Mast** of *The Museum School of Avondale Estates* **Tom Seetoo** of *Clairemont Elementary*

On The Coca-Cola Stage at the Alliance Theatre March 7-29, 2020

Dear Educators:

naked mole rats!

Welcome to the Alliance Theatre's production of laked Male Rat Gets Gressed: The Rock **EXPERIENCE**. This study guide was created by the Jr. Dramaturgs of The Museum School of Avondale Estates and Clairemont Elementary for use by the educators and student audiences of the play. The goal of the Dramaturgy by Students program is to provide peer-to-peer age-appropriate information to the student audience. We hope this helps you prepare to see the play and to reflect together afterward. Get ready to ROCK with the

<u>Al</u>liance

institute

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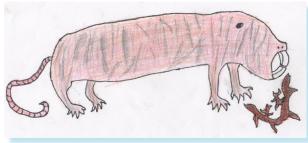
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About The Author & Playwright

Mo Willems

Mo Willems was born on February 11, 1968 in a Chicago, İllinois suburb, and he grew up there. He went to the Tisch School of the Arts in New York City and was a writer and animator for Sesame Street. He won six Emmy Awards for his work. Mo Willems left television and started writing and illustrating his own books in 2003. His first book was Don'T Let The Pigeon Drive The Bus. Mo lives in Massachusetts with his wife, Cherry, and daughter, Trixie.

Mo's favorite things:

- fauorite food = kimchi
- fauorite color = rust
- favorite hobbu = doodling

Mo Willems has written:

- Knuffle Bunny
- 10 Pigeon books; the newest is **Pigeon HAS To Go To School!**
- 25 Elephant and Piggie books, including Pigs Make Me Sneeze
- I Lost My Tooth!
- This is **NOT** a Good Idea
- Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed





Before the Pigy

Summary of The Play

Underground, Wilbur J. Mole Rat feels like something is missing. One day, in the tunnel, a hat and other clothes fall from the sky. Wilbur is skeptical at first, but he puts them on and shows his mole rat friends, Tall, Grande, and Venti. They are disgusted by his clothes! They call Grand-Pah, the most naked mole rat of all. He doesn't know what to say and decides to make a proclamation. Wilbur doesn't know what to wear to a proclamation, but he decides to play it safe.

- Ilhat will llilhur wear?
- What is the proclamation?
- How do male rats rack and rall?

SEE THE PLAY TO FIND OUT THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS!

Meet The Characters

All the characters are naked male rats!

WILBUR

Wilbur is fun, kind, and curious about clothes. Wilbur finds out that clothes could help him be unique.

GRAND-PAH

Grand-Pah is smart and friendly and surprises everyone at the end.

Tall. Grande, and Uenti are Wilbur's friends:

MI

Tall is unsure about clothes and is very nice to Wilbur even though she doesn't really agree with him.

GRANDE

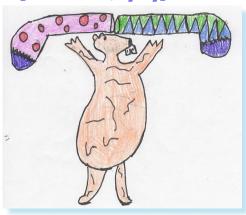
Grande is the popular naked mole rat and is confused about Wilbur's decision to wear clothes.



By Mila H.



Wilbur and his socks by Taylor



VENTI

Venti is cool and says 'dude' a lot. He is relaxed about Wilbur and the clothes situation.

SECRETISERVICE/MOLE/RAT

A strong and fierce mole rat who protects Grand-Pah.

WEATHERMOLERAT

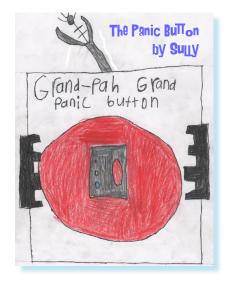
A naked mole rat who has to report the weather in the tunnels, which never changes.

STARKNAKED

Stark Naked is a news reporter who is serious and confident.

Vocabulary

The Jr. Dramaturgs selected words from the script that might need to be defined for younger audience members, and they created their own definitions.



APPAREL (n) clothing of a particular kind, such as a casual T-shirt

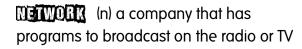
COINCIDENCE (n) two events or more that happen at the same time on accident but seem to be connected

COLONY (n) a group of animals living together

EPIDERMIS (n) the outer layer of skin

NAKED (adj) also means nude; not having clothes on the body

MAKED MOLERAT (n) a small animal that is pink and wrinkly with long teeth that are found in tunnels in east Africa



PANICBUTTON (n) an item you press in an emergency that usually makes something happen

PROCLAMATION (n) an official public announcement

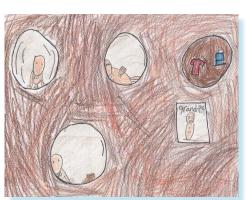
SARCASM (n) words that are the opposite of what you mean, to either insult or show irritation

SCANDAL (n) something that happens that surprises, shocks, or upsets because of actions that may be legally or morally wrong

> TATLOR (n) a person who makes clothes just for you; (v) to adjust clothing so it is just your size

TUNNEL (n) a covered, cylinder passageway, mostly underground





A naked mole rat Colony by Julia

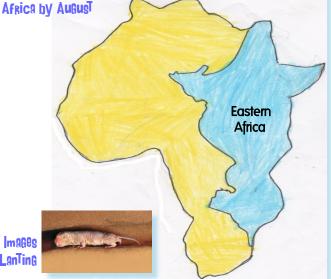
Making Connections

Real World Facts about Naked Mole Rats

Naked mole rats are the only characters in the play laked field Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience. They are unusual and unique animals that lots of people don't know about. We did the research for you so you can know some cool facts about the characters in this hilarious play.

HABITAT

- Naked mole rats are found in eastern Africa, specifically in Ethiopia, Kenya, Djibouti, and Somalia.
- They live in underground burrows and tunnels in grassy and partially dry areas.
- The tunnels are made of dirt, and some of the tunnels can total up to 2.5 miles.
- They live in close knit colonies.



AARP MinT Images by Franz Lanting

SIZE AND APPEARANCE

Naked mole rats are very small. They have tiny tails, long whiskers, are pinkish in color and very wrinkly. They have very poor eyesight and five appendages (toes) on their four limbs (legs).

- Length: 3"
- Weight: 1.5 ounces-3 pounds
- Long whiskers
- Very small
- Two long teeth on the top and two shorter on the bottom
- Tiny tails
- Pinkish in color
- Five fingers and toes
- Sleep belly up
- A little bit blind

Naked mole rat in a Tunnel by Nathan S.



Making Connections

Naked mole rat eating roots by **S**Loane

More Cool Facts about Naked Mole Rats

DIE

- Naked mole rats are herbivores. They eat roots and tubers by digging.
- A tuber is food such as a potato.
- Because they dig for their food, they need long teeth.
- They do eat feces, which makes them coprophagic.
- Feces = waste matter that is discharged from the intestines
- They don't need water because their food gives them the water they need.

Naked mole rate speeping and eating by Mariele

ADAPTATIONS AND OTHER FACTS

- Naked mole rats are mammals.
- They are not a mole or a rat. They are related to guinea pigs and porcupines.
- They roll around in their own feces so they all smell the same, and then, they can smell an intruder.
- Naked mole rats live in colonies with only one female that has the babies, kind of like a beehive.
- If a dangerous animal tries to enter the tunnel to eat the gueen, naked mole rats called soldiers block the entrance by stacking on top of each other in a big pile.
- A naked mole rat can move its teeth separately to pick up food.
- They have very strong jaws to dig through soil.
- A female naked mole rat can give birth to 12-28 pups at a time.
- They are also called sand puppies.

A naked mole rat colony in the tunnels by Axel

Rock Music

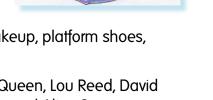
Rock music is a big part of the Rock Experience of the play. What is Rock music? Rock is a kind of popular music with a strong beat, a simple melody, and lyrics that often repeat



Glam Rock

Glam Rock is the kind of music that inspired the Rock Experience of the play.

- Glam Rock is a musical movement from the 1970s and started in Britain.
- It is also known as Glitter Rock because the singers' costumes were glittery and crazy.
- * People wore outrageous costumes, hairstyles, makeup, platform shoes, and of course, glitter.
- Musicians and bands famous for Glam Rock are Queen, Lou Reed, David Bowie, Elton John, Roxie Music, the New York Dolls, and Alice Cooper.



GuiTar by Fie

ELVISPRESLEY

Elvis Presley is one of the biggest rock-and-roll names in history. He toured around America and sang a lot. He was the first rock star, and a lot of people liked him, but a lot of people didn't. People didn't like that he was bringing new music to their culture. Elvis was "the King of Dance," and he loved to dance. He was born

in 1935 and died in 1977 at his home in Nashville called Graceland.



Elton John is famous for playing the piano and singing at the same time. He has sold over 300 million records. He is known for his style and his hair. He wears big glasses, funny wigs, and crazy, sparkly looking clothes. His biggest

> songs are I'm Still Standing, Don't Let The Sun Go Down On Me. and *Tiny Dancer*.



DAVIDBOWIE

David Bowie was born in London. England in 1947 and was honored in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1996. He died in 2016. He was known for his flashy appearances and being able to change his voice, musical genres, and looks. He never was afraid to be himself and be

different, even if he was laughed at. He has many famous songs such as Space Oddity (Ground Control to Major Tom), China Girl and Changes.

TINATURNER

Tina Turner is known for her long legs, short skirts,

What's Love Got to Do with İt, and Proud Mary. She sings alto, and her voice is strong and growly. Tina Turner was born Anna Mae Bullock on November 26, 1939 in Nutbush, Tennessee.



CulTural References

There are several cultural references in Naked Male Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience

Knowing these will help you understand the humor in the play.



Suit jacket by Risha



Dress by Ridley





Starbucks is a coffee shop with lots of different types of coffee and lattes. They also sell cold drinks, hot drinks, and snacks. The main sizes of cups are Tall, Venti, and Grande.

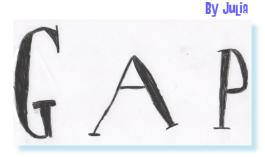


11 & **11**

H&M is a clothing store but used to be a hunting and fishing store. They sell trendy clothes, which are clothes that are popular clothes at the moment.



GAP is a store where you can buy casual clothes for men, women, kids, and babies.



CLoThing, Fabrics, and Patterns

Naked Male Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience mentions and features a lot of clothing styles, fabrics, and designs. We hope these pictures help you prepare.

Fabric Cesign

ARGYLE

diamond pattern



ARGYLE SOCKS by Emi

PAISLEY a curved feather pattern, very colorful



STRIPES

a pattern with a lot of very think or thin lines



Hats

Fedora by Stoane



FEDORA soft felt hat with a curled rim

a pattern with a lot of squares





Plaid jack et bV Nina

POLKADOTS a pattern with a lot of circles



FLORAL a pattern with a lot of flowers





FLORAL





STRAW HAT by Eddie



Clothing, Fabrics, and Patterns

Fabric

COTTON POLYBLEND mix cotton and polyester





FLANNEL

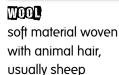




SEERSUCKER a cotton fabric that is puckered and usually has stripes



A man-made material that is smooth and washable





FLEECE A very fluffy and soft man-made fabric

Apparel (another word for clothing)

BLAZER lightweight jacket



TUKEDO a fancy outfit for special occasions; usually black and

BUSINESS CASUAL simple clothing that you

could wear to work, but not as fancy as a suit



CARGO SHORTS pants or shorts with many pockets

GOWNS a fancy dress that you wear to parties and balls





white

a shoulder pad/piece, usually on a military uniform, normally gold with a brass buttons



BISGUSS

The play uses two very different types of humor: Play on Words and Sarcasm. Play on Words, or a pun, is using humor and double meaning in your words to get your point across. One example would be, "White boards are remarkable." The boards can be marked on again and again, and teachers think they are pretty amazing.

EXAMPLES OF PLAY ON WORDS FROM Daked Male Rat Gets Dressed: The Rack Experience

- "We live in a Tunnel of Rock, so we Rock!" This joke uses two types of rock: rock as in rock music and rocks you find in the ground.
- "I'm wearing my birthday suit." A "birthday suit" is when you are naked like the day when you were born, when you do not wear anything AT ALL.
- "There must be more to the fabric of my life." "Fabric of my life" means all the events that happen in your life. This is funny in the play because at this moment, the characters aren't wearing clothes.



ASTRONAUT COSTUME bv Eddie

Sarcasm is mocking or saying something you do not mean. One example would be. "Th. that's just great" when something isn't great at all.

EXAMPLE OF SARCASM FROM THE PLAY

Grande, who is really sarcastic, says to Wilbur: "If you Like CLothes so much, Wilbur, Then why don'T you just open a store or something!"

Grande is teasing Wilbur because he actually doesn't want Wilbur to open a store.

Pre-Show and Post-Show Questions

Before The Play

- Have you heard or read the story of Naked Mole Rats Get Dressed by Mo Willems?
- What do you think the play is about from reading the title?
- What are naked mole rats? (see pages 6-7 for the answer)
- What is a rock concert? (see page 8)
- Is it easy to be yourself?
- Do you think you should judge books by their covers?

During The Play

- Watch how the actors transform their bodies to become the characters throughout the play.
- Notice how the lighting affects the mood of the scenes.
- How do they transform the stage into a tunnel? What materials do you think they used?
- What happens to create the feeling of a rock concert? Notice the lighting, the sound, and the costumes.
- Notice which characters are wearing clothes and when.

AfTer The Play

- Who was your favorite character, and why?
- What was a moment from the play that you remember? Why was it memorable?
- Did any part make you laugh? Or scared? Which part and why?
- How do the actors transform their bodies to become different characters throughout the play?
- When do YOU ask, "Why not?"
- How do you use your clothes to express your emotions and attitude?

Tall, Venti, and Grande by Nathan

QUESTIONS FOR YOU FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE PLAY, Learn Marris:

- When in your life have you tried something new and realized it wasn't as scary as you thought it would be?
- When have you tried something out of the "norm?"
- How do you interact with different generations (i.e. people who are older or younger than you)? Do you change anything about the way you talk, hear, think, etc.? Or is it the same?

Reflecting on the Themes of Naked Male Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience

Discuss these together with your class. What are your ideas for themes?

ALWAYS BE YOURSELF AND YOU WILL WIN

- Trust yourself, and you will win.
- It's okay to be different.

DON'I CHANGE YOUR OPINION, JUST BECAUSE OTHERS TELL YOU TO

Do what you say and not what others say.

TRY NEW THINGS, AS LONG AS LT ISN'T DANGEROUS OR BREAKING RULES

Try something you have never done before, but be careful and follow laws.

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF

Don't be unreasonable with yourself; do what your mind says.

DON'T JUDGE A BOOK BY HIS COVER

Don't judge someone or something just by their appearance.

SOMETIMES YOU JUST NEED TO ASK "WHYNOT?"

If you don't think or ask "why not," you might not try new things.

DON'T JUST FOLLOW, LEAD TOO!

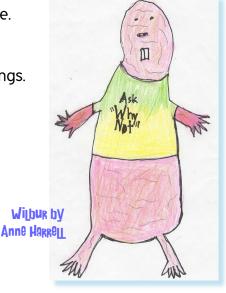
If you have a good idea, be brave to lead.

EVERYBODYISDIFFERENT, NAKEDORNOT

Everybody is different in a good way.

Additional Post-Play Activities

- Dramatize favorite and memorable scenes and characters from the play.
- Create a fashion show with crazy clothes. Have someone be the 'host' and describe the clothing as it comes down the 'runway.'
- Design your own clothes for a naked mole rat, or yourself!
- Draw your favorite scenes or characters from the play.

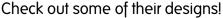


Post-Show Activities for Upper Elementary Audience Members

The Jr. Dramaturgs at Henderson Mill Elementary devised some post-play activities for older audience members grades 3-6.

Recycled Runway: Naked Mole Rat Edition

Third grade students collected recyclable materials, including scrap fabric, cardboard, string, plastic bags, and more. Using a white T-shirt as a base, they designed a new outfit for Wilbur and modeled their creations at a fashion show. Visit TinyuRLcom/RecycleRunway2020 to watch our student models strut their designs on the runway.





What Happens Next?

Fifth grade students dramatized new endings to the story by comparing the script with the book. They creatively reinterpreted the conclusion and wrote their own scripts. Revised endings included Wilbur traveling on a cruise, getting hypnotized, transforming into different celebrities, and participating in a clothes battle.

If you could change the end of *Naked* Mole Rat Gets Dressed, what would happen? Who would Wilbur meet, and where would he travel? How would you put your story in a script

Cruise Catastrophe

Scene 1

Wanda: I'm so excited to go on a cruise with Grand-Pah

and Wilbur!

Wilbur: Yep! I have been saving my money from my clothes

shop for the past five years just for this trip!

Grand-Pah: We are going on a vacation! We're heading out to spread

the word of the awesomeness about clothes. We will learn

about different clothing traditions!

Wanda: We could make flyers or posters and pass them around!

So, what does the cruise look like? I'm so excited; I

don't even know how to feel!

Grand-Pah: It is really big, and it has anything you like.

Wanda: So, it has a spa and a hot tub and a chocolate fountain?

Grand-Pah: Yes, it does, and you get to have your own room.

Wanda: Oh my gosh! This sounds like the best cruise ever!

More Post-Show Activities for Grades 3-5

Town Hall

Inspired by the story of Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed, the fourth grade hosted its own Town Hall.

- 1. Students create their own character of another mole rat in the colony. Students brainstorm their character's name, age, occupation, and opinion on wearing clothes. They create a statue of their character, thinking of how they would stand or sit. Walking around the classroom, they imagine how their character would move. Do they walk, skip, jump, or shuffle their feet? While still walking around the classroom, characters greet each other, identifying how they would sound (i.e. high or low pitch, quiet or loud volume).
- 2. Next, the teacher steps into the role as a Secretary to the Mayor. **No^{TQ}:** It is important for the teacher to not be in a position of power. That way, there is no resolution at the Town Hall. No mole rat will "win" or "lose." Instead, the Secretary will take notes to send to the Mayor so they can make their decision at a "later date."
- 3. The Town Hall: The Secretary welcomes everyone to the Town Hall and asks each mole rat to briefly introduce themselves and their opinion on clothing. Following the introductions, the Secretary will identify three spaces in the classroom (i.e. three corners). The students, in-role, will self-select which corner aligns with their character's beliefs. The different options are:
 - Naked mole rats should not wear clothes.
 - Naked mole rats should wear clothes.
 - Naked mole rats can either wear clothes or not wear clothes.

Once they physically move to that space in the room, each group must work together to develop an argument that conveys their opinion. The teacher may add other requirements (i.e. How many points do they have to make? Is it a one sentence headline? Do the students need visual aids to persuade the Mayor?) Each group presents its argument to the Secretary. The teacher, in-role, asks follow-up questions and pretends to take notes.

The Secretary promises to send the notes to the Mayor, and the Mayor will decide in the coming weeks.



a Professional Development workshop.

1.

OuT-of-DaTe Fashion Rules

Wilbur loves fashion! Here are some outdated fashion rules that people used to live by. I really hope you are glad that we don't follow them today!

By Fie - The Museum School of Avondale Estates

- Avoid white after Labor Day; avoid wearing white in the winter.
- 2. Don't wear black and navy.
- 3. Don't wear sleeveless dresses to work.
- 4. Wear pantyhose or stockings with dresses and skirts.
- 5. Match your belt with your shoes.
- 6. Say no to double denim.
- 7. Stay away from mixed prints.
- 8. Avoid horizontal stripes.
- 9. Don't wear black in summer.
- 10. Plus-size clothes shouldn't be form fitting.
- 11. Women can't wear men's clothes and vice versa.
- 12. Dress your age.
- 13. Don't wear the same dress twice.
- 14. Dresses and skirts must be below the knee.
- 15. No socks and sandals at the same time.

Proclamations

A big part of the play includes a proclamation by Grand-Pah.

A proclamation is a statement that a mayor, governor, president or important people say to make an official statement or announcement about something important. Some proclamations are praising someone or celebrating something. Some include embarrassment and harm. There was even a proclamation about school lunch week.

One of the most important proclamations is the *Emancipation Proclamation*, which was made by President Abraham Lincoln to free the slaves in the southern states.

*Proclamations are everywhere!

*This is a proclamation.



Overalls by Nina and Alejandra

SCARF by SLoane



After the Play

Review The Play

Color how many stars you give laked Mole Rat Gets Bressed: The Rock Experience.



What were your favorite parts and why? What would you add or change?

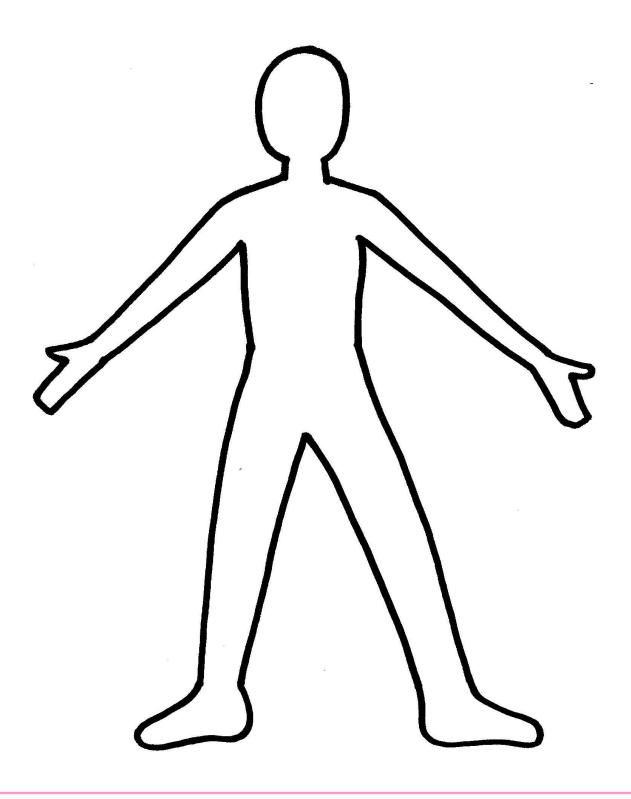
Draw a picture of your favorite part of the play:

SHARE YOUR REVIEW WITH THE ALLIANCE THEATRE!
SEND LT TO: Redecca.pogue@allianceTheatre.org.

After the Play

Design Your Own CosTume!

How would you design the costumes and clothing for your favorite character from Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience?



SCRAmbled Up Word Search

Unscramble the names of characters and settings from Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience. Look on page 5 for a list of characters.

> **CLUE**: if the answer is 2 words or more, the letters might be mixed up!

pagrdna
latl
liwbur
ranged
uneInt
eitnv
ntkdsareka
sitvrceercseeeolm



KEYONPAGE 23

Wilbur's Word Search

ROCKMUSICVLGI Т ARE LO M D E KA Z \mathbf{B} N T S D Т Т J U X R R E Y S I B K I KAX 0 0 I X P 0 0 D U K M B AY L N X L S I L C S V Η \mathbf{B} P GK F A D OU T P D I NRE AWL R S A \mathbf{Z} S \mathbf{Z} 0 Ι E A I CDB PVLN K SAO RVN L D N L P RHA T T W S K D P \mathbf{R} E LPYARGY L E Ι Y M VYADQRLENNU D N MAHRETEDNARGHX

Argyle Grande Grand pah Hat Naked Mole Rat **Paisley** Plaid Polka dot



Rock music Socks Suit Tall **Tunnel** Venti Wilbur

Polka doT, plaid, and sTriped Tie by Alejandra

KEYONPAGE 23

After the Play

A Naked Mole Rat Crossword Puzzle

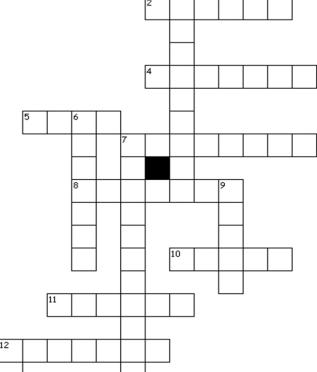
The pictures are clues!





ACROSS

- 2. the naked mole rat who starts it all
- 4. a dot pattern on clothing
- 5. _____ and roll
- 7. ____!
 Tell the nation!
- 8. the main setting for the play
- 10. without clothes
- 11. makes music and has strings
- 12. a trend that is popular with clothing





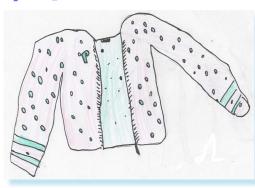
DOWN

By Ronan

- something that you talk and sing into and it makes your voice louder
- 3. the reason Wilbur gives for wearing clothes
- 6. what you wear
- 7. it is used to call Grand-pah
- 9. worn on your feet
- 12. a pattern with flowers



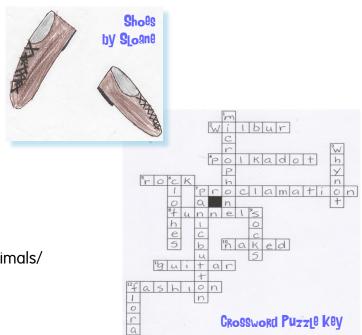




Resources

Websites

- www.learnersdictionary.com
- www.merriam-webster.com
- www.ultimateclassicrock.com/epicrock-concerts
- www.pigeonpresents.com
- www.pigeonpresents.com/mo
- https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/ mammals/n/naked-mole-rat/
- www.zooatlanta.org
- https://nationalzoo.si.edu/
- https://www.billboard.com/rock



Georgia Standards of Excellence Language Arts

ELAGSERL3: With prompting and support, identify characters, setting and major events in a story.

ELAGSERL3: Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).

ELAGSESL1: Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with divers partner, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

ELAGSESL2: Recount or describe key ideas or details from written texts read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.

Georgia Standards of Excellence. Theatre

TARE.1: Engage actively and appropriately as an audience member.

TA.CN.1: Explore how theatre connects to life experience, careers, and other content.



Word Search Key

Ward Scramble

Grand-Pah

Tall

Wilbur

Grande

tunnel

Venti

Stark Naked

Secret Service Mole