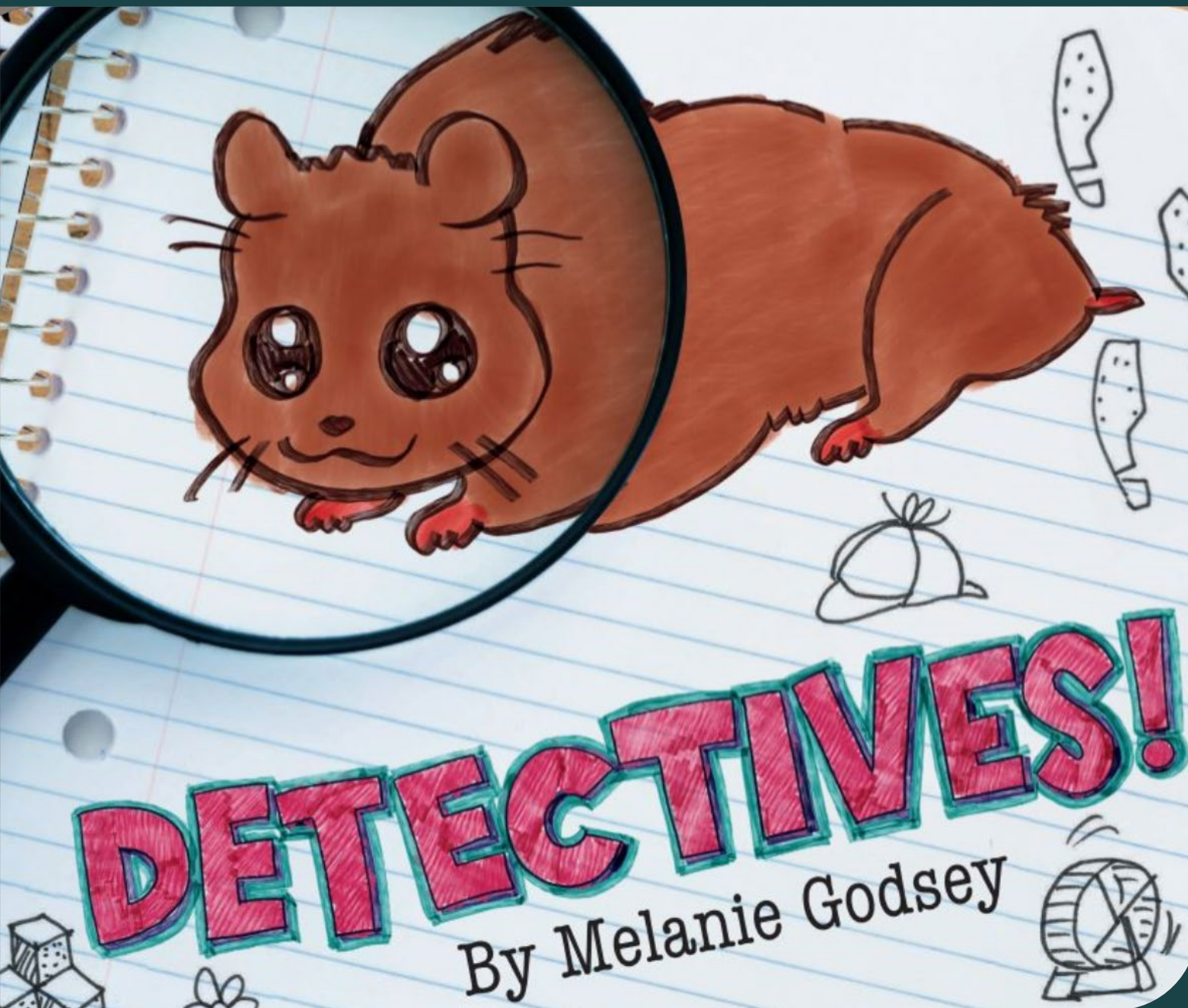




Teacher's Guide Slide Show Template

Prepared for the 2026–2027 school year
by Karissa Chin



TAPROOT
THEATRE
ROAD COMPANY

About the Play

Characters

- **Reese:** New to class, curious, intellectual. Met Taylor last summer.
- **Taylor:** Amiable, friends with everyone, fun
- **Andy:** Struggling, insecure, funny
- **Ash:** Quiet, observant, confident
- **Teacher/Playground Monitor/Librarian:** Employees at the school. Played by the same actor.

Synopsis

- After Houdini the hamster disappears and the teacher's treasured magic kit is stolen, a group of students use keen observation and clever deduction to solve the mystery. But as the clues start to fall into place, friendships are tested and something even more troubling is uncovered: bullying. Cracking the case will take more than just detective skills... it means becoming an upstander.



About the Road Company



A team of performing artists who travel to schools to perform plays about bullying prevention all throughout the state of Washington.

When they are not performing in schools, you can find their mark on stages throughout the Pacific Northwest singing, choreographing, dancing, teaching, learning, playwriting, set painting and more.



Audience Etiquette

- **Please don't talk and keep noise to a minimum during the performance.** It steals focus from what is happening on stage and is distracting to the performers and other audience members.
- **Please react respectfully.** It's okay to laugh if something strikes you as funny. It's also okay to cry if something makes you sad. These are examples of appropriate responses. However, whistling at the actors or shouting comments are considered inappropriate responses.
- **Please listen, engage, and enjoy!** Live theatre is different from film and television because it is based on a relationship between the actors and the audience. Therefore, each performance of the same play is very unique because it is heavily influenced by the responses and interest of the audience. The best thing an you can do is to listen and get involved in the story.



Discussion Etiquette

- Respect what others say without passing judgment.
- All things said within the group should remain confidential. Speak in general terms, as opposed to specific, when talking about personal or uncomfortable facts.
- Only speak if you feel comfortable doing so.



Pre-show Discussion Questions



- Can you define bullying? What are some examples of bullying?
- Have you ever seen someone get bullied (picked on unfairly) before, or have you ever been bullied yourself? How did that make you feel?
- What does it mean to respect others? How can you respect someone you don't get along with, or who is different from yourself?
- What should you do when you see someone being bullied? How do you know if the situation is safe for you to help?
- Have you ever been in a situation where one of your friends wasn't treating another one of your friends well? Is that situation more complicated when you are friends with both of them? What is the best way to handle that kind of situation?
- Do you think bullying is a problem at our school? Why or why not?



Enjoy the Show!

Post-show Discussion Questions



- Which parts of the play did you like the best? Were there parts that made you think more than others? Were there things in the play that surprised you?
- Which characters did you like best and which characters did you not like, and why? Who did you identify with? Should any of the characters have made different choices?
- What is bullying? What is cyberbullying?
- What are some examples of bullying you noticed from the play? What are some examples you've seen in the real world?



Post-show Discussion Questions

Continued



- What are the negative effects of bullying? What are the negative effects of bullying for the student who is being bullied? What are the negative effects of bullying for the student doing the bullying?
- What should you do when you see someone getting bullied?
- How can you connect with someone who seems different than you? How can we celebrate our differences?
- What can we do to help stop bullying in our school?



Glossary

- **Bullying:** Bullying is one-sided and unfair. It happens when someone who is more powerful, physically or socially, repeatedly hurts, scares, threatens or leaves out another person on purpose.
- **Bystander:** Someone who witnesses bullying behavior.
- **Upstander:** A positive bystander who witnesses bullying behavior and helps the student being bullied, either by intervening in the situation or by reporting the behavior to an adult.
- **Tattling:** Telling on someone just to get them in trouble or to get revenge.
- **Reporting:** Reporting (telling on) someone to keep you or someone else safe.
- **Recognize, Report, Refuse:** When faced with a bullying situation, it is important to *recognize* that the behavior is a bullying behavior, *report* the behavior to a trusted adult who can help you *refuse* the behavior by staying calm and confident when asking them to stop. The recognizing, reporting, and refusing method focuses on safe ways to keep someone/yourself from getting hurt.



Post-show Activity

Grades K-2



Draw a picture of the most memorable moment or scene from the performance. Share your picture with the group. Describe the scene, and why it was your favorite moment or how it made you feel.



Post-show Activity

Grades 3-5



In the play, Taylor confronts Andy about their bullying behavior. Act out a scene in which Reese confronts Andy about their behavior instead. How do both characters feel and how do their feelings affect their actions?

- Afterwards, discuss what happened in the scene and how everyone's choices affected the outcome. Are there good and bad ways to have this kind of discussion?
- Try acting out the scene again after having that discussion to see if the actors can come to a useful conclusion.



Post-show Activity

Grades 3-5



Act out a scene in which the teacher goes to some of the other adults in the school (maybe the playground monitor or librarian, or maybe the principal, who doesn't appear in the play) and tries to get their help addressing the issue of student bullying. Are they able to find any solutions?

