



Study Buddy™

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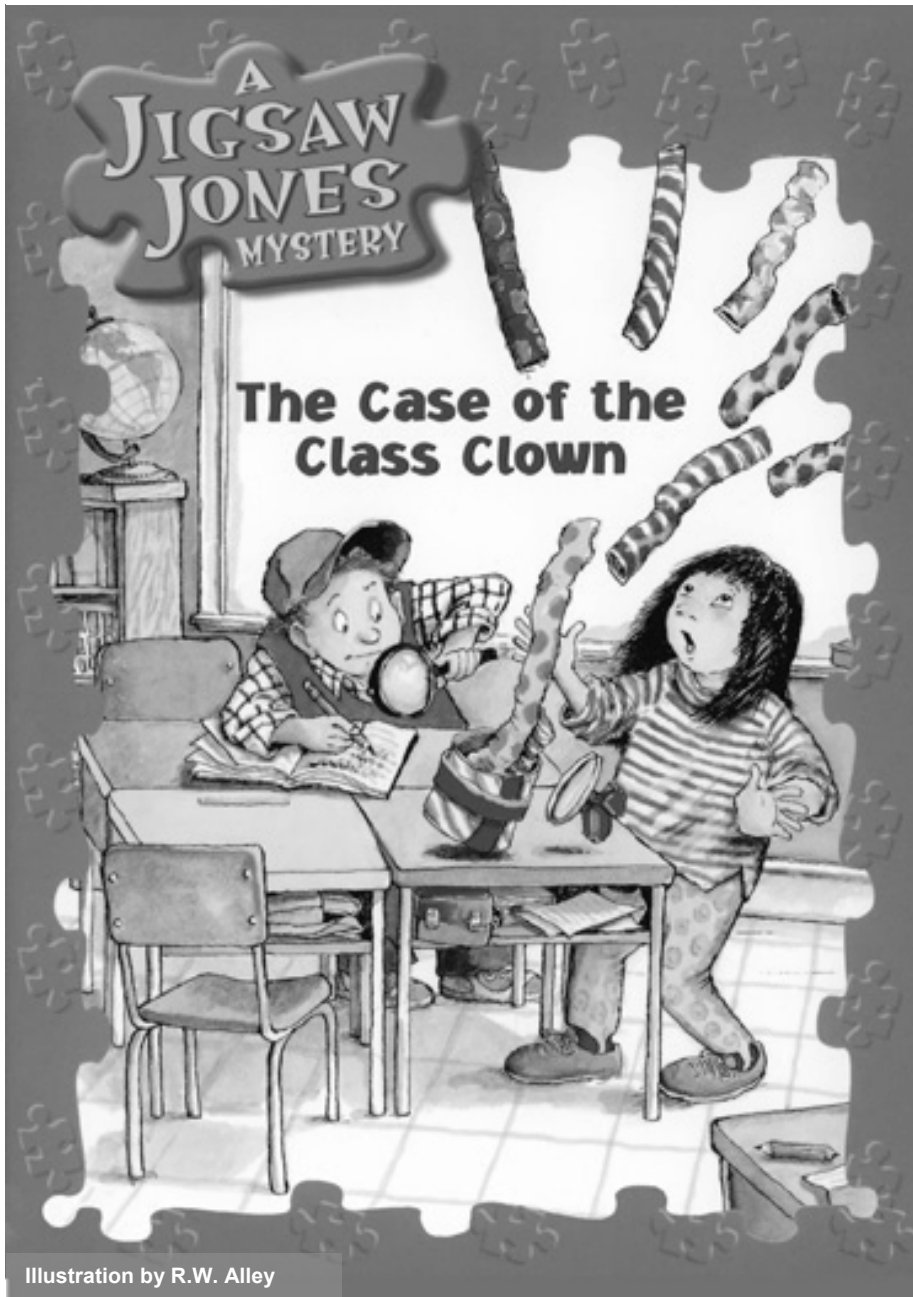


Illustration by R.W. Alley

A ONE-ACT MUSICAL BASED ON THE BOOK BY JAMES PRELLER

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JIGSAW JONES

The Case of the Class Clown

Gary W. Blackman
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Founding Co-Directors

Greg Gunning
Artistic Director

Adaptation, Direction and Lyrics by
Greg Gunning

Music and Orchestrations by
Richard DeRosa

Costume Design and Construction by
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JIGSAW JONES
Study Buddy
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Based on the book *JIGSAW JONES: The Case of the Class Clown* by James Preller. Illustrated by Jamie Smith, R. W. Alley. Published by Demco Media, 2002. Presented under an exclusive agreement. All rights reserved.

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THE STORY OF JIGSAW JONES

Teacher Information

ArtsPower is excited to offer you this study guide to assist you and your students in preparing for the performance of **JIGSAW JONES**.

You will find background information about the production as well as definitions of terms, cross-curricular, pre- and post-performance activities, and resources to guide further study and discussion about the content and themes of the production.



The Characters

- **Jigsaw (Theodore) Jones**, a young amateur detective
- **Mila**, Jigsaw's female assistant
- **Ralphie Jordan**, Jigsaw's best friend
- **Helen Zuckerman**, Jigsaw's studious classmate (who also *doubles* in the play as Athena Lorenzo)
- **Athena Lorenzo**, Jigsaw's classmate and client

Plot Summary

Athena Lorenzo has been slimed and she doesn't think it's very funny. One of her classmates in Mrs. Gleason's class has been playing practical jokes. Junior sleuth **Theodore "Jigsaw" Jones** knows that he and his trusty assistant, **Mila**, can crack the case. When the prime suspect turns out to be **Ralphie Jordan**, Jigsaw's best friend, their investigation becomes very sticky. Can Jigsaw solve the mystery by finding the real culprit without losing a true friend?

More About the Musical

ArtsPower's musical, **JIGSAW JONES**, features a cast of four professional actors, one of whom "doubles" or plays two roles in the show. There are seven musical numbers in the show. The actors sing live to a professionally-written and -recorded orchestration on CD that is operated by a stage manager who is also responsible for making sure the show and the tour run smoothly.

Greg Gunning, ArtsPower's Artistic Director, adapted the book into a musical, wrote the lyrics, and directed the show's world premiere. Composer Richard DeRosa wrote, orchestrated, and recorded the soundtrack.





Pieces of the Puzzle

The Author



James Preller

Author **James Preller**, a self-proclaimed “kid who never grew up,” is the author of the **JIGSAW JONES** series of books. Born in 1961, James grew up in Wantagh, Long Island drawing pictures and making homemade comic books that he sold to friends.

James has written over 80 books but is probably best known for writing the **JIGSAW JONES** mystery series. Currently, he is finishing a book entitled “Bystander,” which deals with bullying in middle school. James lives in Delmar, New York with his wife Lisa, their three children, two cats, and a dog named Daisy.

Key Evidence

In 2008, ArtsPower decided to create a musical based on James Preller’s book, **JIGSAW JONES: The Case of the Class Clown**. The show opened in October 2009. James not only agreed to let ArtsPower produce the musical but also allowed the playwright to make some changes and additions in order to adapt the book for the stage.

Here are the key people who are involved in creating a professional musical theatre production:

- The **playwright** writes the dialogue and lyrics.
- The **composer** writes the music.
- The **orchestrator** adapts the composer’s music for orchestral instruments so that it can be recorded accompaniment for singing and a “sound track” for scenes and scene changes.
- The **actors** audition for parts and memorize lines and songs. In ArtsPower productions, they are also responsible for moving sets and props during the show.
- The **designers** create sets, costumes, and lighting.
- The **director** creates an overall “vision” for the show, rehearses the actors, and makes artistic decisions about the production.
- The **stage manager** oversees all of the “backstage” elements of the production, drives the company van, and is responsible for the safety and well-being of the actors. The stage manager is also the primary point of contact for those people who present the show in their theatre or school.
- The **producers** manage all aspects of ArtsPower’s production, raise money, set and maintain budgets, and manage the entire organization.

Learning Activity

Before the show

1. Read the book and discuss its plot, characters, and themes (friendship, perseverance, conflict resolution, and problem solving).
2. Talk about how the musical you will see might be a bit different than the book. Can the students identify possible differences between a book and a stage play?
3. Discuss how we sometimes judge other people. Are there people to whom we are more loyal – family members or friends, for example – and might give “the benefit of the doubt” if a problem arises?



JIGSAW JONES

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Any questions? Call us toll-free
at 1.888.278.7769



Leave No Stone Unturned

Decoding the Language

You will hear some of the following words during the play. They are important terms that detectives use in doing their work to solve cases. Review them before reading "How Detectives Do Their Work" in the next column.

Case – a situation that needs action to be taken

Client – someone who hires a detective

Clue – a hint that helps a person solve a mystery

Conclusion – a final decision

Detective – a person whose business is solving crimes by identifying the truth in a case and gathering information that is not easy to get

Evidence – things that help reveal the truth in a case including materials and conversations with witnesses

Investigation – the study and examination of a case

Prank – a playful or mischievous act

Research – careful study and discovery for the purpose of gaining more knowledge about something

Suspect – someone who is thought to be involved in a crime

Undercover – acting in secret, like a spy

Witness – someone who sees something and is able to report on it

How Detectives Do Their Work

When real **detectives** do criminal investigations, they must use their skills and training to figure out what happened in the **case**. They do this by:

1. **Looking at the evidence:** What is there that the detective can see? Are there things he/she cannot see that might be important to the investigation?
2. **Interviewing suspects:** Who are the people considered to be suspects in the case? Were there any **witnesses** who saw what happened? Have the witnesses spoken to anyone else about the case? If so, what did they say?
3. **Doing research:** Perhaps the crime scene can provide more **clues** that will help the detective figure out what happened there. Maybe the detective has to go **undercover** to better observe the crime scene or the **suspects** believed to be involved.
4. **Coming to a conclusion:** Based on the facts discovered during the investigation, the detective can make a final judgment about what he/she thought happened.

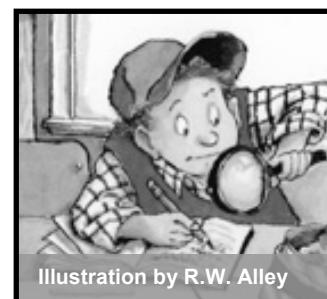


Illustration by R.W. Alley



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JIGSAW JONES

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Reproducible Student Activity Page

UNCOVERING the Mystery



Real detectives do many things to try to solve a case. Jigsaw and his friend Mila use some of the same techniques – like collecting evidence, interviewing suspects, and doing surveillance – that real detectives might use when they do their investigations. **Surveillance** means that Jigsaw and Mila keep an eye on people who they think might have something to do with the case.

Here are some lines of dialogue from **JIGSAW JONES** that describe what Jigsaw and Mila talk about in trying to solve the case. Try speaking the lines as if you were a real detective trying to uncover a mystery. Feel free to use your favorite detective voice!

JIGSAW JONES

Now – in solving crimes, detectives need stuff like... my detective journal. In here, I write down: the name of the case, suspects, clues... Oh, and this, my "Detective Kit". In here are all sorts of cool things. . .

JIGSAW JONES

I needed to let Mila know so I gave her a secret coded message after school. I used substitution code – you know - substitute a number for a letter of the alphabet – like the number one is "A" – number two is "B". Mila loved coded messages.

JIGSAW

Okay – let's start with the clues.

MILA

Athena's gym socks.

JIGSAW

Whoever did this had to be able to get into her gym bag.

MILA

Right.

JIGSAW

And where's our stuff stored?

MILA

The cubbies in the cloak room.

JIGSAW

Right.

MILA

But no one's allowed back there alone.

JIGSAW

Except the person assigned to neatness of the cubbies.

MILA

That's right!

JIGSAW

So we need to find out who's been assigned 'cubby patrol' this week.

MILA

I can do that.



PROBLEM SOLVING & DECODING

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26



Using the code grid above, decode these three sentences:

20-1-11-5 13-5 15-21-20 20-15
 20-8-5 2-1-12-12-7-1-13-5.

9 12-15-22-5 12-5-13-15-14-1-4-5!

9 3-1-14 4-5-3-15-4-5
 13-5-19-19-1-7-5-19.



Answers on Page 7 of this Study Buddy.

Cool Stuff Out There

Books

- For ages 4-8: *Encyclopedia Brown Series* by Donald J. Sobol. Published by Puffin Books.
- For ages 4-8: *Scooby Doo Mysteries* by James Gelsey. Published by Scholastic Paperbacks,
- For ages 7-10: *Jigsaw Jones Mystery Series* by James Preller. Published by Scholastic. There are almost 40 books in the series.
- For ages 7-12: *Genius Deck Series* by Chronicle Books.

On-Line Spy Games

- <http://pbskids.org/historydetectives/games/eyespy/>
- <http://pbskids.org/arthur/games/effectivedetective/index.html>
- From the FBI website, games for grades K-5 and 6-12: <http://www.fbi.gov/kids/games/games.htm>

Indoor and Outdoor Detective Games

- <http://familyfun.go.com/games/indoor-outdoor-games/feature/junior-detective/junior-detective.html>
- <http://home.howstuffworks.com/detective-activities-for-kids.htm>
- Board game: Clue, Jr. by Hasbro



Be a Detective

How keen a detective can you be? Here are some riddles that require you to consider your evidence before you come to your conclusion.

- A man and his son were in a car accident. The man died, but the boy was taken to the hospital. When the boy went into surgery, the surgeon said, "I can't operate, for that's my son!" How is this possible?
- What sneaks through doors and windows without knocking? What heats an unlit stove? What gives the cat a snug place to rest?
- Billy turns off the light in his bedroom. The light switch is twenty feet from the bed, but he still manages to get into his bed before it is dark. How does he do it?

Answers on Page 7 of this Study Buddy.



BEHIND THE SCENES

ArtsPower

JIGSAW JONES is brought to you by ArtsPower National Touring Theatre, a nonprofit theatre company based in New Jersey. Why is ArtsPower called a national touring theatre?

The actors and a stage manager:

- present performances all over the United States and travel together in a large van with their luggage, sets, and sound system.
- pack the set, costumes, lights, and equipment in a van.
- take care of costumes and props.
- stay in hotels and eat all of their meals in restaurants when they travel.
- present as many as 10 performances in 10 different places in a week.

YOU: The Audience

No play is complete without the audience – you! Here are directions for playing your part:

- Watch closely.
- Think about how actors change their voices, body movements, and costumes when they double, or change characters.
- Listen carefully to the dialogue, lyrics, and music.
- Laugh or applaud if you enjoy the play.
- Remember that you and the actors are in the same room.
- Talking, whispering, or making noise during the performance is impolite and makes it hard for actors to do their best.
- Help other audience members with your quiet attention.



Learning Activity

After the Performance

How well did you play your role as an audience member?

Finish this sentence: During the performance, I (check all that apply):

- Watched closely
- Listened quietly and carefully
- Applauded at the right times

Other _____



Answers to Page 6

Decode These Messages:

Take me out to the ballgame.
I love lemonade. I can
decode messages.

Be a Detective: 1. The doctor
is the boy's mother. 2. The
sun. 3. He went to bed when
it was still light out.



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JIGSAW JONES

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Reproducible Student Activity Page

Write US a Letter!

After you see **JIGSAW JONES**, please write us a letter using the form below and/or draw us a picture on the back showing your favorite part(s) of the performance. You can also visit us at www.artspower.org. Click on "Contact Us." Thanks!



Webster Commons
271 Grove Avenue
Building A
Verona, NJ 07044

Your Name _____

School Name _____

School Address _____

School City, State and Zip _____

Dear ArtsPower:

I, _____, saw **JIGSAW JONES**

at _____
name of venue

Here's what I enjoyed about the performance: _____

Here's why: _____

Here's what I would change about the performance: _____

Here's why: _____
