

# DIG INTO IN MY GRANNY'S GARDEN

HOME GUIDE FOR THE HOMESTEAD!



Alliance  
Theatre

kathy & ken  
bernhardt **THEATRE FOR THE  
VERY YOUNG**

# READ ALOUD

Listen and watch as Zaron and Pearl read aloud *In My Granny's Garden*, the book they wrote with illustrations by Radcliffe Bailey.



Thanks to Brownieland Pictures for capturing this read aloud.

**BROWNIELAND**  
PICTURES

The Alliance Theatre made the book into a play for the Kathy and Ken Bernhardt Theatre for the Very Young. You can watch it here!



Riley Schatz, Brittani Minnieweather, and Caleb Baumann in the Alliance Theatre's Kathy and Ken Bernhardt Theatre for the Very Young 2019/20 production of *In My Granny's Garden*. Photo by Sara Keith.

# FAMILY STORYTELLING

Sharing stories is the best way to stay connected, even when we are miles apart! Celebrate your family history by collecting and retelling stories through the following exercise.

1. Call or video chat with the oldest member of your family. This could be your grandparent, great-grandparent, aunt, uncle, who knows! Ask them the following questions:
  - When you were my age, what did you do all day?
  - Tell me about your favorite day from your childhood. Who was there? What did you do? What made it special?
2. Record this conversation by either voice recording, taking notes, drawing a picture, or something even more creative and brilliant.
3. Picture your family member telling this story. What would they be wearing? Go to your closet and pick out an outfit you think they might wear and try it on.
4. Imagine this family member as a superhero! What is their superpower? It could be anything in the world of your imagination.
5. It's time to share! Ask the family in your home to gather around for a story, and maybe they can film it, so you have a copy forever. Starting with the words "My \_\_\_\_\_ is a superhero..." explain how your family member is a superhero. Next, dig deep into your memory and try retelling their story as if you were pretending to be them. Try on a voice to sound more like them. Would they be standing or sitting for their story? Do they speak slowly or really fast?

**Share your recording by posting to social media using #atgrannysgarden or email us at [atedu@alliancetheatre.org](mailto:atedu@alliancetheatre.org) to be featured online! We can't wait to hear your story.**

Brittani Minnieweather in the Alliance Theatre's Kathy and Ken Bernhardt Theatre for the Very Young 2019/20 production of *In My Granny's Garden*. Photo by Sara Keith.



# TOOLS OF THE ACTOR

## BODY

### Statues in the Garden

*For focus, movement and characterization*

What is a statue?

1. It is still. It doesn't move or talk.
2. It is strong.

One person is the gardener. The remaining people are topiaries in the garden. These plant-statues are magical and move whenever the gardener's back is turned to them. The gardener moves around the garden, doing "gardening chores" and tending to the plants. If you are a topiary, try making different shapes with your body and using different levels. Whenever the gardener sees someone moving, the person who has been caught must leave the garden!



Caleb Baumann and Brittani Minnieweather in the Alliance Theatre's Kathy and Ken Bernhardt Theatre for the Very Young 2019/20 production of *In My Granny's Garden*. Photo by Sara Keith.

## VOICE

### Rutabaga

*For articulation and vocal color*

Speaking only the word "rutabaga," use the word to express a variety of emotions. Choose an emotion and then say "rutabaga," making the word sound like the emotion. Repeat this process until you have tried a variety of emotions.

Emotion examples: happy, bored, confused, surprised, loving, brave, sleepy, offended, lost, excited, nervous, searching, shy, disappointed, angry, frustrated, impatient, pleased.

# TOOLS OF THE ACTOR



Caleb Baumann in the Alliance Theatre's Kathy and Ken Bernhardt Theatre for the Very Young 2019/20 production of *In My Granny's Garden*. Photo by Sara Keith.

## IMAGINATION

### Grow in your Garden

*For focus, story development, and warming up imagination*

Pick something you would like to grow in your garden. It could be ANYTHING, even something silly! We can imagine we are growing into something really special. You will start as a very small seed, grow slowly with sunshine, water, and love, then blossom into something amazing.

Grown-ups, lead your little seeds through the prompts below. Extra directions are in the ( ).

1. Imagine you are a tiny seed that is planted in the garden, so make your body very small. (Squeeze them gently in a big hug)
2. A raincloud comes and sprinkles water on you, and you grow a little bit. How does your special something grow? (Tap all of your fingers across their backs to simulate rain)
3. The sun shines bright on you, and you grow a little bit more. (Rub their arms gently to feel warmth)
4. Your favorite gardener blows you a kiss, and you grow as tall as you can! (Blow a kiss!)
5. You've grown into something amazing! How does this new member of the garden dance? (Dance party time! Change up the music and dance it out!)

# PUPPETRY

You will need:

- Crayons or markers
- Craft stick or chopstick
- Tape
- Scissors

Directions:

1. Print out the sun and moon templates (next page).
2. Decorate your sun and moon with crayons or markers.
3. Cut out the decorated sun and moon.
4. Tape a craft stick or chopstick to the back of the sun and moon so that you can hold them up like a mask.

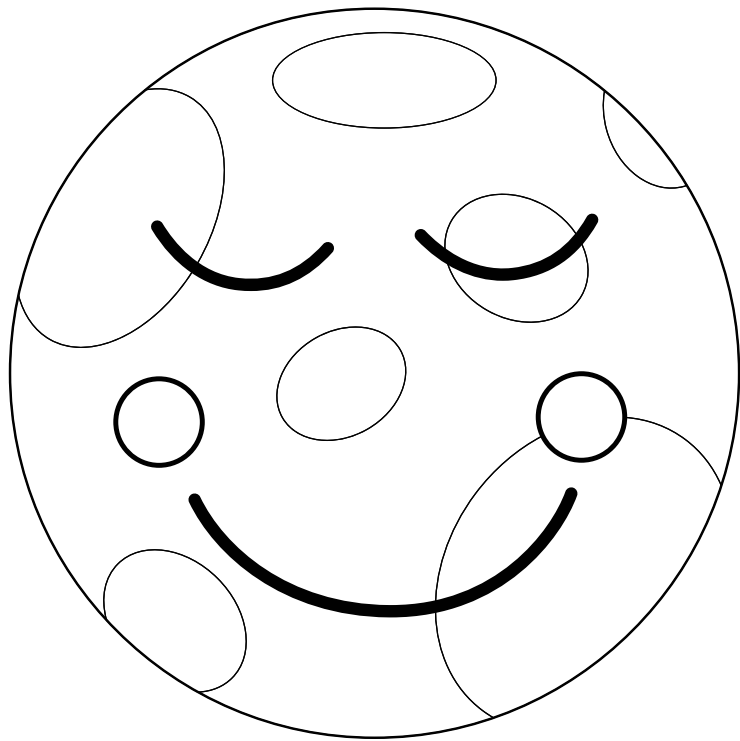
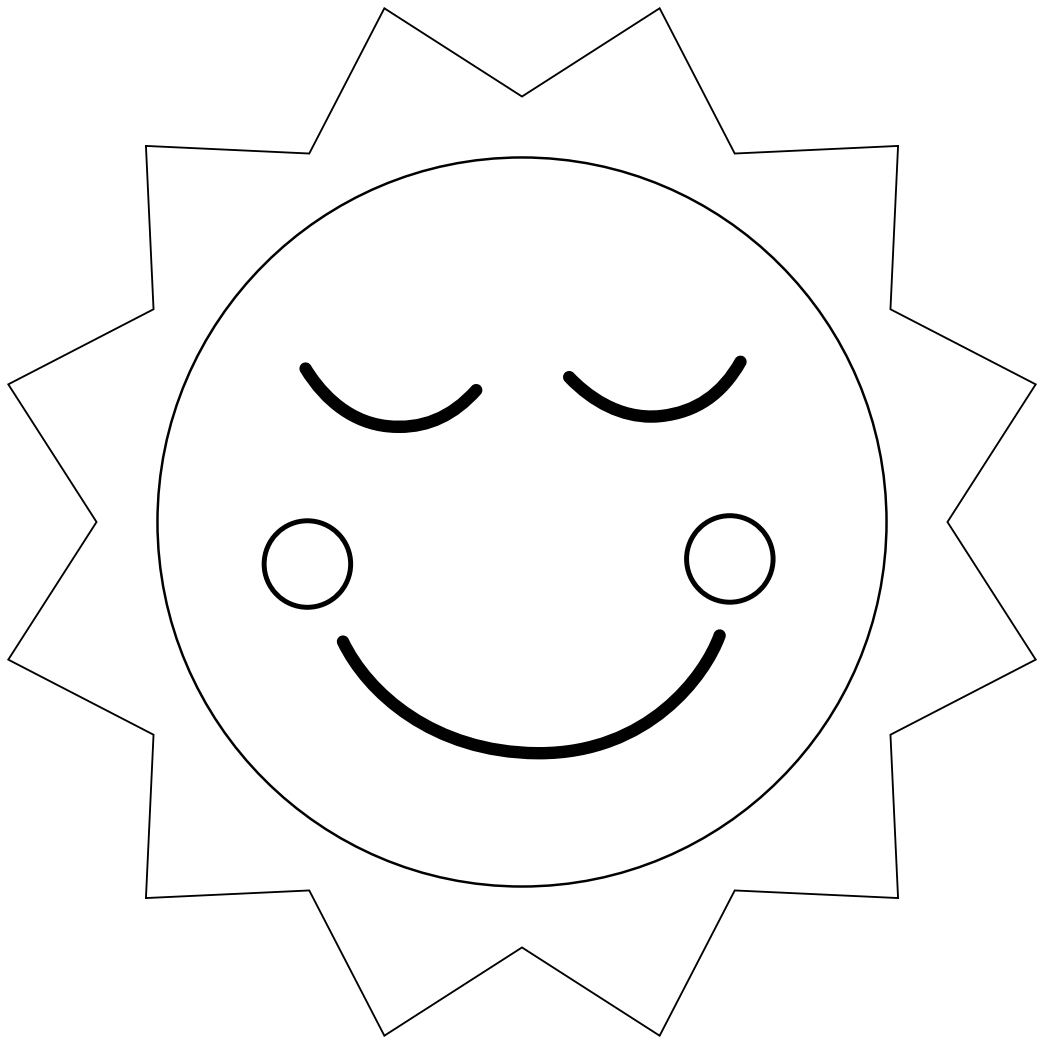
## Celebrate the Sun and Moon

*to the tune of Twinkle Twinkle*

Bright and golden is the sun,  
Rising when the night is done.  
Warming me from head to toe,  
Helping little seedlings grow,  
Bright and golden is the sun,  
Setting when the day is done.

Glowing with a soft white light  
Stars surround the moon at night.  
Shadows dance across its face,  
Way up high in outer space.  
Glowing with a soft white light  
Can you see the moon tonight?





# MUSIC

## Make a Recycled Guitar

Use recycled household items to make a guitar!

You will need:

- 1 cereal box or shoe box
- 1 recycled paper towel tube
- Scissors, craft knife or box cutter (optional)
- 8 rubber bands
- 2 crayons
- Small screwdriver (optional)

Directions:

1. Using the craft knife or scissors, cut a 3–4 inch circle in the center of one side of the cereal box to use as a sound hole. You can use a container top to trace a perfect circle or just freehand it.
2. Punch two sets of six holes in a straight line at each end of the box using the craft knife, scissors or small screwdriver, but do not make them too big. These holes should be close to the box edges and approximately 1/2 inch apart from each other to allow room for string vibration.
3. Now, using the craft knife, cut six V-shaped grooves into each crayon as shown. The rubber band will sit in these grooves when attached.



# MUSIC

4. Cut six rubber bands. Thread them through the small holes on one side of the box and tie knots from inside the box to keep them from pulling out. Then stretch each rubber band across to the matching hole on the other side and again, thread it through using a screwdriver. Secure each rubber band with another knot inside. Secure each rubber band with another knot inside.



5. Next, cut an X, roughly the size of the paper towel tube, at the unopened end of the box. Gently press the flaps inward and continue adjusting until the paper towel tube fits snug and tight.



# MUSIC

6. Then, secure the crayons in place with the two remaining rubber bands to lift the “strings” up from the box.



7. Now you're ready to rock on! Add some sparkle, or a fresh coat of your favorite color paint. Give it a strum and sing along with Betty Sue!



## You Are My Sunshine

You are my sunshine, my only sunshine.  
You make me happy when skies are gray.  
You'll never know dear, how much I love you.  
Please don't take my sunshine away

Riley Schatz in the Alliance Theatre's Kathy and Ken Bernhardt Theatre for the Very Young 2019/20 production of *In My Granny's Garden*.  
Photo by Sara Keith.



# MUSIC

## Make a Seed Shaker

You will need:

- Plastic eggs
- Dry rice or dry beans
- Masking tape or any other colorful tape
- Stickers (optional)

Directions:

1. Fill a plastic egg ½ way with dry rice or dry beans and close the egg.
2. Wrap tape around the seam to secure the egg from popping open
3. Decorate your egg with stickers, colorful washi tape, glitter, anything!



## Take a Seedling

*to the tune of Frere Jacques*

*Use this song as a call and response.*

*Shake your seeds to the beat!*

Take a seedling (take a seedling)

Plant in Spring (plant in Spring)

Sunshine, water and love (sunshine water and love)

Grow something (grow something)