



Penny & Jelly Talent Show Kit



A guide to using the picture book
Penny & Jelly: The School Show
to help readers brainstorm their talents and
talent show organizers outreach to students!

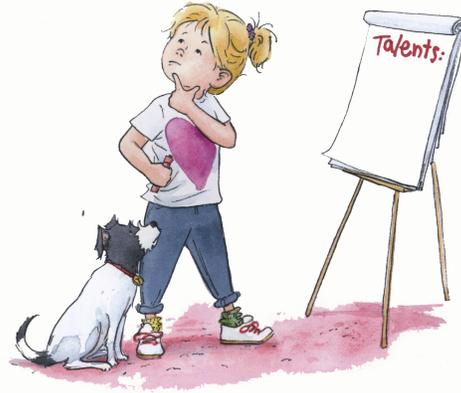
Penny & Jelly: Talent Show Kit

ABOUT THE KIT

While not every elementary school runs a talent show, every grade school student wonders and sometimes frets about his or her talents.

Can a read aloud and activity help readers brainstorm their talents for upcoming auditions or to simply boost their confidence?

In this picture book, Penny tries out (with a little help from her dog, Jelly) various talents—from dancing to unicycling, fashion designing to snake charming—all with disastrous results. She soon discovers, though, that her best talent has been at her side the whole time.



This kit will give you the materials to:

- Have students brainstorm their talents and how to showcase them.
- Provide your talent show organizer with a book-themed poster to announce the school talent show.
- Provide talent show organizer with a book-themed program cover to highlight your talented readers.

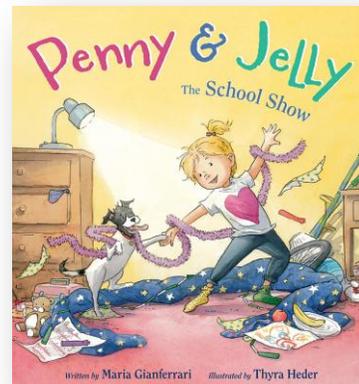
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ABOUT THE BOOK

Penny & Jelly: The School Show

By Maria Gianferrari
Illustrated by Thyra Heder
Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
ISBN-13: 9780544230149
Age Range: 4 - 9 Years

This young and funny picture book introduces the soon-to-be star of her school talent show: Penny. Despite her desire to knock everyone's socks off, Penny's having a tough time deciding on what talent she might have. With a little help from her dog, Jelly, Penny tries out various talents—from dancing to unicycling, fashion designing to snake charming—with disastrous results. That is, until she realizes that she and Jelly have a talent to share that's unlike any other.



"Penny and Jelly are sure to warm the hearts of both future talent-show contestants and readers who have similarly close canine friends."
—Kirkus Reviews

"Little ones anxious about finding a talent will be reassured by this heartening tale with a cozy conclusion: sometimes the best talent is friendship."
—Booklist

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR

Maria Gianferrari's work has appeared in various national children's magazines, and she was the winner of PEN New England's 2009 Susan P. Bloom Discovery Award. Besides the Penny & Jelly series, Maria is the author of the picture books **Coyote Moon** (Roaring Brook) and **Officer Katz and Houndini** (Aladdin), both releasing in 2016. Learn more at www.mariagianferrari.com.

Thyra Heder grew up in a family of artists and graduated from Brown University with a degree in art semiotics. She is the author and illustrator of the critically acclaimed picture books **Fraidyzoo** (Abrams) and **The Bear Report** (Abrams). Learn more at www.thyraheder.com.

Look for *Penny & Jelly: Slumber Under the Stars* by Maria & Thyra coming in 2016!

READ ALOUD & BRAINSTORM TALENTS

Can a read aloud and activity help readers brainstorm their talents for upcoming auditions or to simply boost their confidence?

___ Locate a copy of the picture book *Penny & Jelly: The School Show* by Maria Gianferrari and illustrated by Thyra Heder (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt).

___ Reproduce the "What's Your Talent?" sheet (page 4) for all of your readers.

___ After a reading, see how many talents your readers can remember Penny & Jelly trying.

___ Discuss Penny's worry that she has "untalentedness." Do your readers ever feel that way?

___ Explore how the things we like to do and the things that make us unique often contribute to our talents.

___ Brainstorm some talents with readers. Help them think beyond singing and dancing to more unique talents.

___ Have your readers fill out the "What's Your Talent?" sheet. Consider putting your readers into pairs to help generate ideas.

SHARE BOOK-THEMED TALENT SHOW

MATERIALS

We all benefit when books are incorporated into previously non-reading settings. If your school or community group is holding a talent show for children, consider sharing the "Talent Show Program Template" (page 5) and the "Talent Show Poster" (page 6) for a touch of literacy enrichment at the show.

If someone wants to add text to the templates, note that the fonts are CarrotFlower and ZemkeHandITCStd.

Need additional materials? Reach out to curiouscitybooks@gmail.com and we may be able to help!

Have we told you lately how talented you are?



What's Your Talent?

Think you have
"untalentedness"?
Think again.



Illustrations © Thyra Heder

What do you like to do?	How can you show that off?

What makes you unique?	How can you show that off?

Need talent show ideas? Read **PENNY & JELLY: THE SCHOOL SHOW** by Maria Gianferrari & illustrated by Thyra Heder (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt). PennyandJelly.com

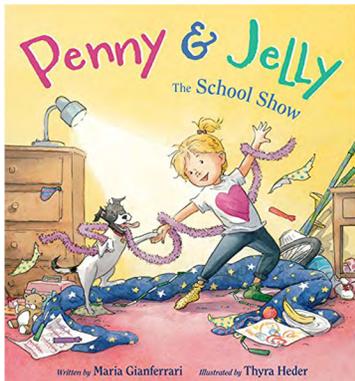
Talent Show



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Talent Show

Penny & Jelly inspired some of our readers to discover new talents.



A Picture Book Series
By Maria Gianferrari
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
PennyandJelly.com
Illustrations © Thyra Heder

