

ENRICHMENT GUIDE



Pete the Cat®

THEATRE FOR A
NEW AUDIENCE

Engaging young audiences
through live performances.



IN RESIDENCE AT

NORTH
SHORE
CENTER
FOR THE
PROFESSIONAL
ARTS

Skokie, IL

Dear Next Page Friends,

We're so excited to welcome young audiences into the world of **Pete the Cat**! This guide is designed to help you make the most of your theatre experience, both before and after your visit.

Inside, you'll find **discussion questions, activities, and creative ideas** to help explore the themes of the show and extend the adventure beyond the stage. We hope these resources help you connect the world of Pete the Cat to everyday experiences, while supporting the **Illinois Learning Standards**.

Thank you for being a part of the Next Page experience. We can't wait to welcome you to the theatre!

Enjoy the show,

Andrew Swanson

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About the Show

Based on the beloved books by Kimberly and James Dean, *Pete the Cat* is a fun, groovy, feel-good musical about creativity, friendship, and keeping a positive outlook when things don't go as planned.

When Pete, a cool and laid-back cat, moves in with the Biddle family, second grader Jimmy isn't sure what to make of his new rule-bending roommate. But when Jimmy finds himself stuck and uninspired in art class, Pete helps him discover that creativity can come from trying something new and looking at the world in a different way. Join Jimmy and Pete on an unforgettable adventure that takes them all the way to Paris and back in a VW Bus!

Themes:

- ✓ Confidence and self-expression
- ✓ Friendship and kindness
- ✓ Handling change and mistakes
- ✓ Creativity and imagination
- ✓ Finding the positive



Before the Show

Use these questions to spark conversation before your theatre experience.

1

Have you read any *Pete the Cat* books?
What do you like about them?

2

What makes someone a good friend? How can you show someone that you care about them?

3

Have you ever wanted to try something new but were worried you wouldn't be good at it?

4

Pete the Cat is a rockstar who is a member of his very own band. If you had a band, what would you name it?
What would your most popular song be about?

5

If your pet could talk, what would you ask them? What do you think they would want to talk about?

Activity: Pete's Passport

Pete and his friends are always ready for an adventure! Imagine you're traveling around the globe with Pete. Fill in your Passport with the details of your trip.



DESTINATION

Where are you going?
Write or draw the place.



SOUVENIR

What would you bring home
to remember your trip?



SOMETHING I WOULD TRY

What is a food, activity, or
experience you'd like to try?



TRAVEL BUDDIES

Write or draw the people
(or animals) you would bring.

Activity:

What Inspires You?

In the show, Jimmy needs inspiration to create the perfect painting. Think about the places, people, things, or experiences that make you feel inspired. It could be something you see in nature, a place you love, your favorite music, or a dream you have.

Draw a picture of something that inspires you!



Activity: Grumpy Toad Slime

Materials:

- 5 oz. white glue
- 1 tbsp. contact or saline solution
- ½ cup water
- Food coloring
- ½ tsp. baking soda
- Bowl

- 1 Mix the glue and water.** Add the white glue and water to a bowl and stir until well combined.
- 2 Add some color!** Add a few drops of food coloring and mix.
- 3 Add the baking soda.** Stir until fully incorporated.
- 4 Add the saline solution.** Pour in the contact or saline solution and stir quickly. The mixture will begin to clump together.
- 5 Knead the slime.** Once the mixture has formed, use your hands to knead it until it comes together. It may be a little sticky at first.
- 6 Adjust the texture.** If the slime is too sticky, add a small amount of baking soda. If it's too thick or difficult to stretch, add a little more contact or saline solution.
- 7 Store and enjoy!** Keep your slime in an airtight container. For best results, use within about three days.



After the Show

Use these questions to reflect on your experience.

1

Why do you think Jimmy copied the painting? Why do you think it was hard for him to come up with a painting of his own?

2

What are some ways Pete helped Jimmy? How did their friendship change from the start of the play to the end?

3

Jimmy likes rules. Pete doesn't. What do you think is better? Why might rules be helpful? Why might they be hard sometimes?

4

If you could travel anywhere in your own VW Bus, real or imaginary, where would you go?

5

Pete, Olive, and Jimmy go to Paris to find the magic sunglasses. If you put on the magic sunglasses, what do you think you would see?

Recommended Reading

Keep the adventure going! Discover more stories featuring Pete the Cat and other beloved characters.

- ✓ *Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes*
- ✓ *Pete the Cat: Too Cool for School*
- ✓ *Pete the Cat and His Magic Sunglasses*
- ✓ *Pete the Cat and His Groovy Imagination*

More Fun to Explore:

- *Elephant & Piggie* — Mo Willems
- *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* — Mo Willems
- *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* — Laura Numeroff
- *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* — Eric Carle

