

**SOCIAL NARRATIVE**



**Pete** the **Cat**®



**Watching a play is like watching TV or a movie, except people are on stage in front of us.**



They are called actors. They can see and hear me too. I can't turn the channel or turn the volume up and down.



# I am going to see a First Stage show at the Todd Wehr Theater.



I am going to see the show with

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# A play is made up of many interesting things.



Costumes



Scenery

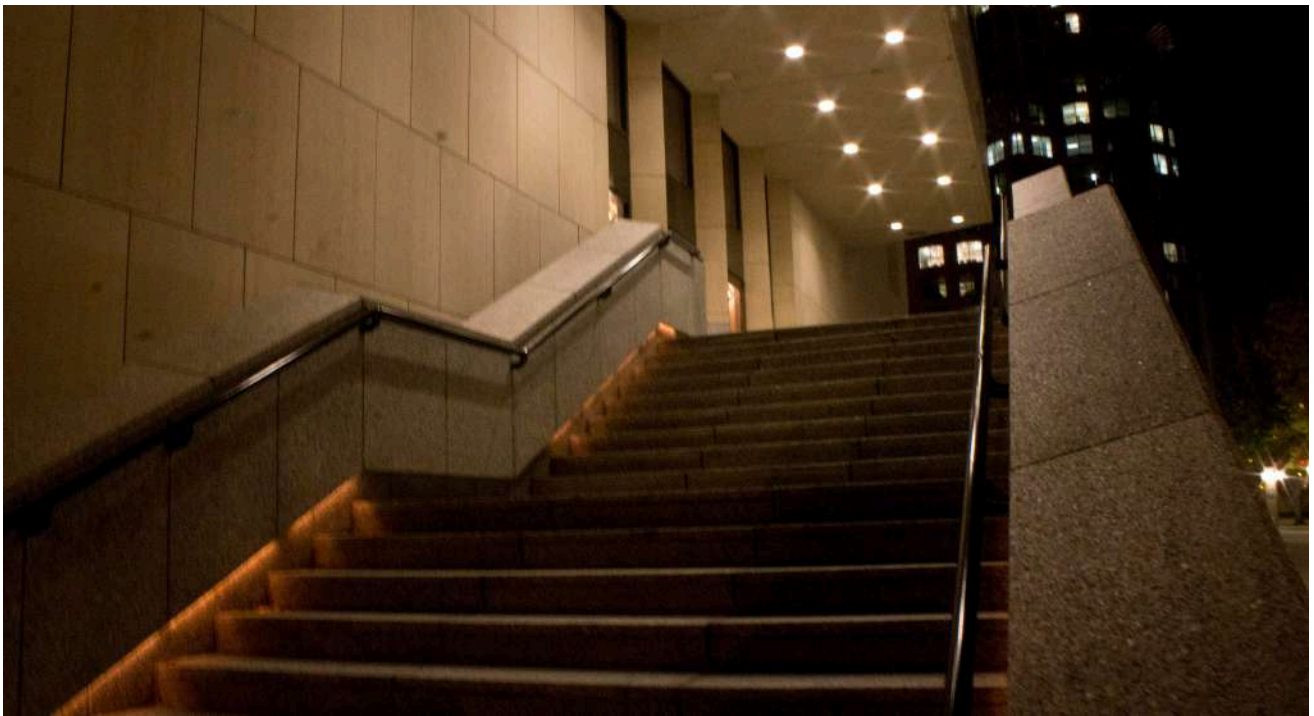


Sound



Lighting

**When we arrive at  
the theater, we will  
probably have to  
climb some stairs.**



There are stairs outside the building,  
and inside the building.



**We may need to wait in line to scan our tickets.**



When we are waiting, I can stay with my family or teacher.

# Someone will show us where to sit.



The audience area is for all of us.



The stage is for the actors only.

# When I am in the theater waiting for the show to start...



1. I can talk to my family or friends.
2. I can take a short break in the lobby.



# There will be a lot of people in theater and it may get noisy.

If it gets too loud:

1. I can bring headphones if I want.
2. I can put my hands over my ears.
3. I can leave the room and take a short break in the lobby.



I can come back when I am ready.

# During the show:

1. I can watch and listen to the actors quietly.
2. I can applaud if I like something.
3. I can hold things in my hand that make me feel comfortable.



# If I need to talk:

1. I can talk quietly to my family.
2. I can write down what I want to say.
3. I can leave the room.

# After the show there will be a "talkback."

## The talkback is a chance for me to ask questions.

1. I will raise my hand to show that I want to ask a question.
2. I will wait for the leader to call on me to ask my question.
3. I don't have to ask a question if I don't want.

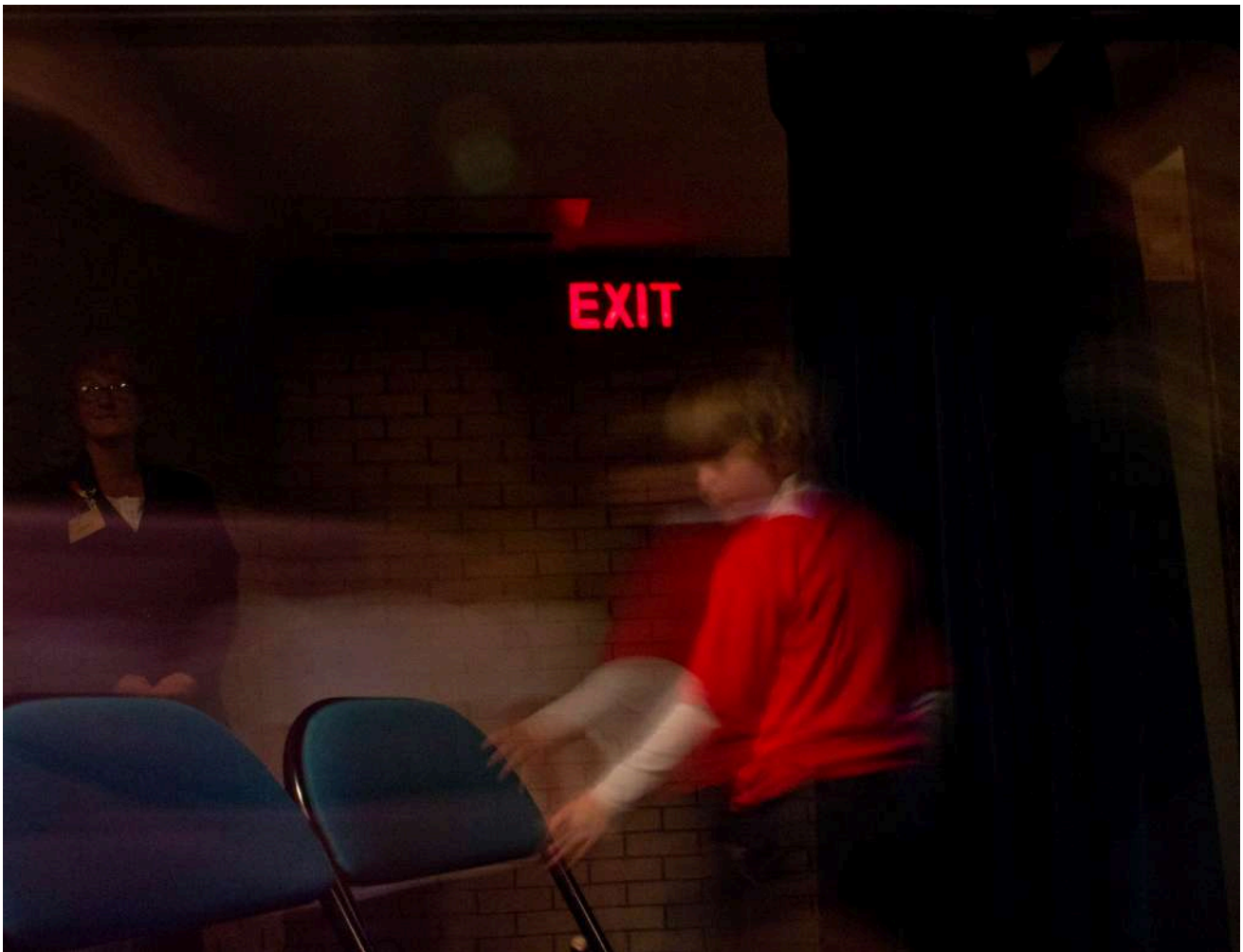


## I can ask different kinds of questions:

1. I can ask questions about the show.
2. I can ask questions about the scenery, costumes, lights, or sound.



**After the show is finished, I will leave the theater with my family.**





Pete the Cat is a road cat who becomes a house cat. The cat-catcher gives Pete a one-week sentence in the Biddle's family home for making too much noise in the backyard playing music after dark. Pete quickly becomes an integral part of the Biddle's family by supporting Jimmy as he strives to pass his art test or risk repeating the second grade. The actor playing Pete the Cat is wearing cat ears and a tail to enhance his cat character. There will not be any live cats or puppets on stage.

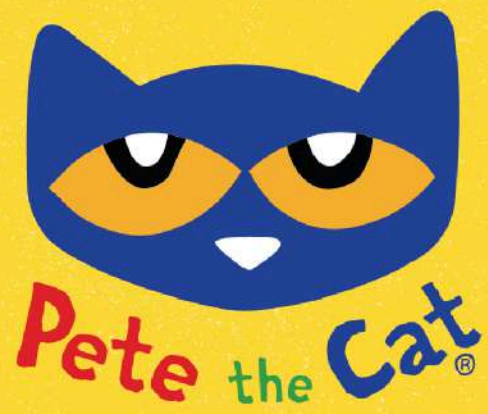


## Meet the "Cool" Cast

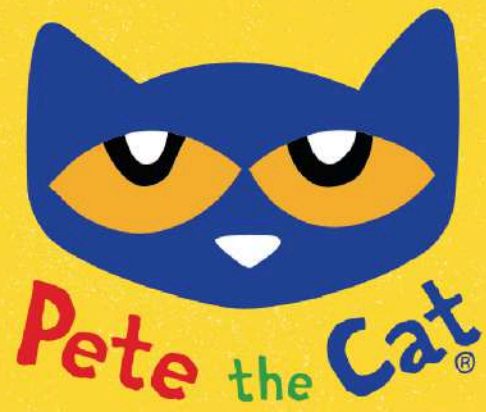
These are the actors you will see at the Sensory Friendly Performance on Saturday, October 26 at 3:30 PM.

Visit [firststage.org](http://firststage.org) to view the full "Cool" Cast performance schedule.



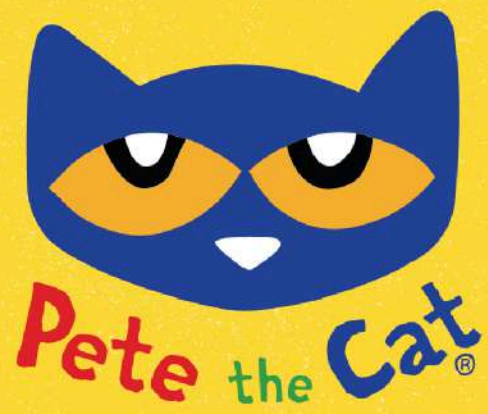


Hi, my name is Ryan Stepanski, and I play Jimmy Biddle.



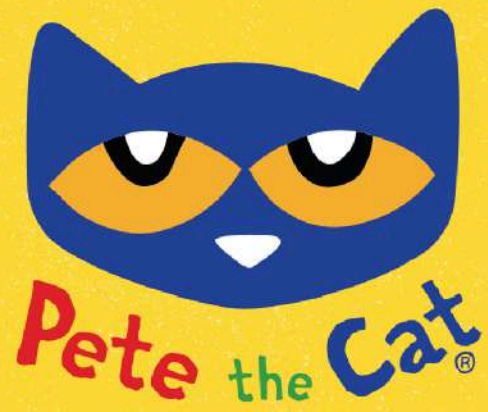
Hi, my name is Allyson Lindberg, and I play Olive Biddle.



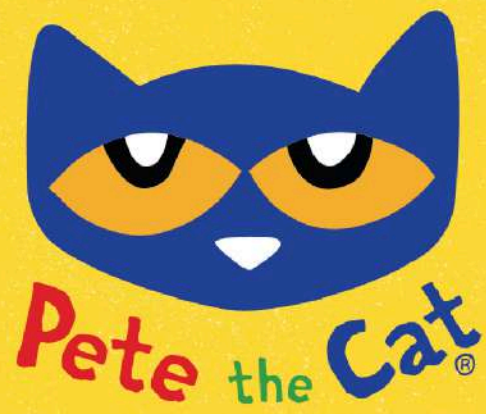


Hi, my name is William Swoboda, and I play Grumpy Toad.



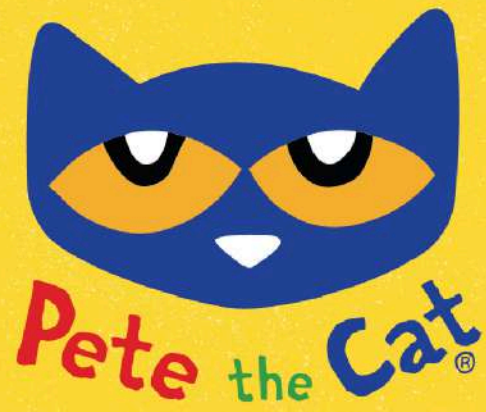


Hi, my name is Jessimia Page, and I play Gus the Platypus.



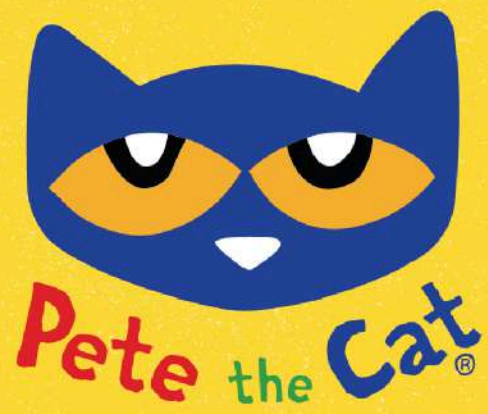
Hi, my name is Elias Totleben, and I play Barnaby / Astronaut.



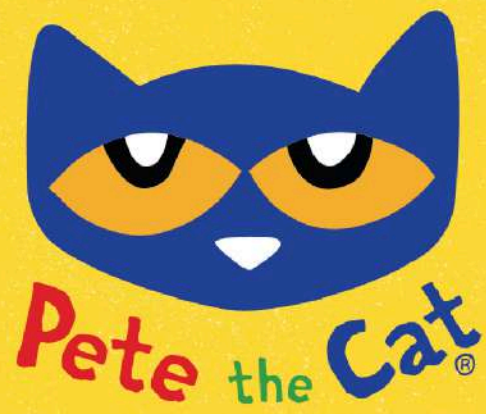


Hi, my name is Savannah Carlson, and I play Eloise /  
Mona Lisa.



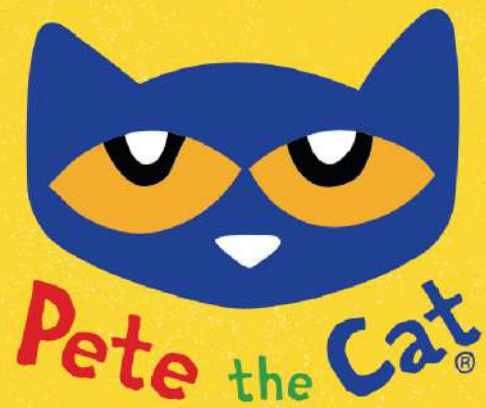


Hi, my name is Ethan Smith, and I play Pete the Cat.



Hi, my name is Tori Watson and I play Mom / Mrs.  
Creech / Roadie.





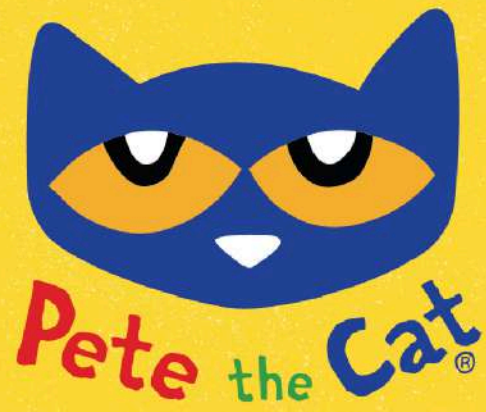
Hi, my name is Todd Denning and I play Dad / Cat Catcher / Roadie / Shark.



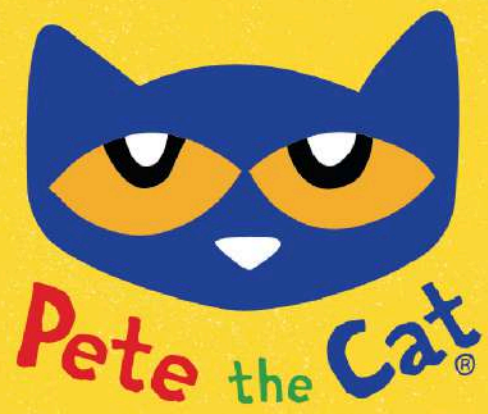
## Meet the "Groovy" Cast

Visit [firststage.org](http://firststage.org) to view the full "Groovy" Cast performance schedule.



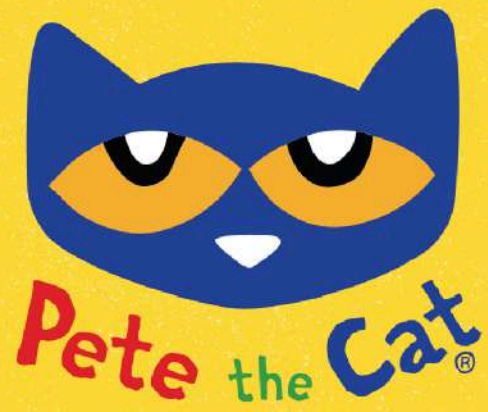


Hi, my name is Ramon Andrade Escobedo, and I play Jimmy Biddle.

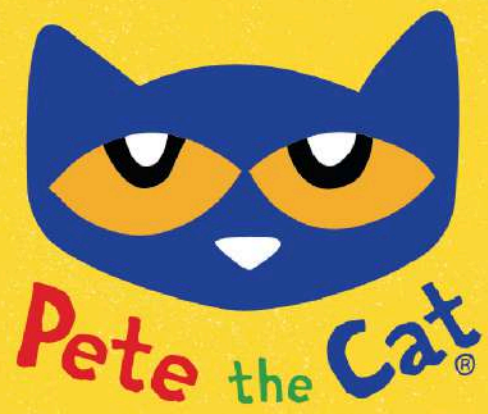


Hi, my name is Jillian Vogedes, and I play Olive Biddle.



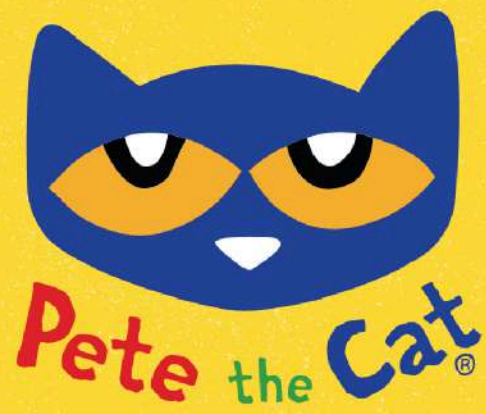


Hi, my name is Cole Sison, and I play Grumpy Toad.

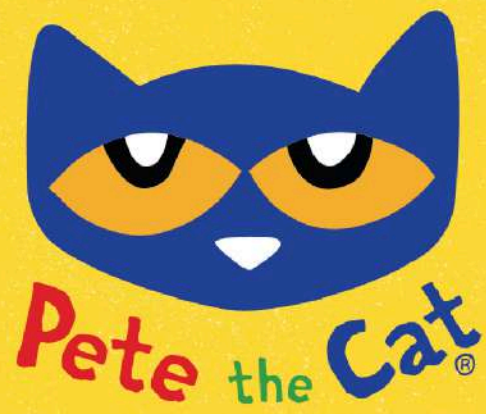


Hi, my name is Elliot Lippman, and I play Gus the Platypus.



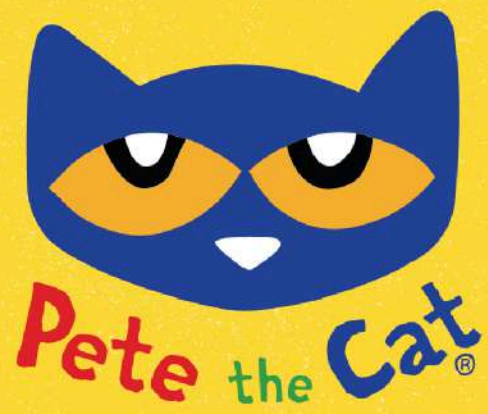


Hi, my name is Julius Newman, and I play Barnaby / Astronaut.



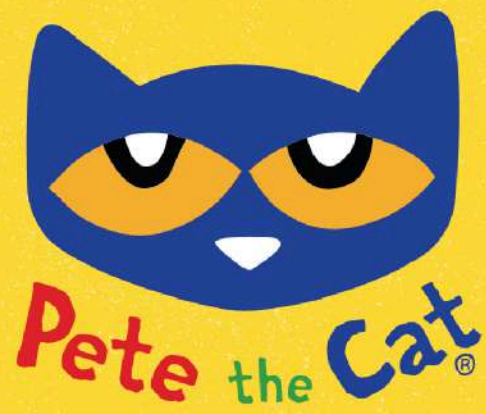
Hi, my name is Jule Schloemer, and I play Eloise /  
Mona Lisa.



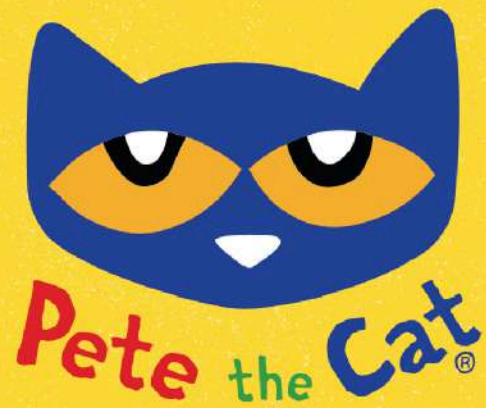


Hi, my name is Ethan Smith, and I play Pete the Cat.





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Creech / Roadie.



Hi, my name is Todd Denning and I play Dad / Cat Catcher / Roadie / Shark.

# What Happens in the Play?

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(Notice the words underlined and bolded. Those are the times the actors and sound might get loud; you may want to cover your ears.)

## Animal Square Garden (Backyard):

The audience is welcome to the play with an introduction of Pete the Cat and his band playing the song "Really Big Adventure" in "Animal Square Garden," the back yard. Gus, one of Pete's band members, questions if they should be in the backyard playing music after dark. Pete tells Gus not to ruin his jam. Grumpy, another one of Pete's band members, sides with Pete by confirming every backyard is Pete's yard. Gus is concerned that the cat-catcher will catch Pete making noise after bedtime. Pete responds, "nobody's caught me yet."

The cat-catcher shows up behind Pete as he is jamming playing his guitar. The band becomes quiet and tries to signal Pete of the cat-catcher's presence. Pete doesn't notice. He continues to jam with his guitar until he hears the cat-catcher call his name as Gus yells out "the cat-catcher." The audience hears sirens. The band scrambles as a crazy chase ensues. The cat catcher catches Pete by the tail and assigns him to one week in a house for making too much noise at night in the backyard. "They're going to turn Pete into a housecat. I can't watch," says Grumpy Toad. Pete encourages his friends not to worry and ensures they will be jamming together again soon. The cat-catcher takes Pete away. The cat-catcher sentenced Pete to spend one week with the Biddle Family. Pete is resistant to being a house cat.



# What Happens in the Play?

## The Biddle Family House:

Jimmy enters the living room of the house carrying a gigantic stack of books. It is the last week of second grade and Jimmy has a lot of tests this week. The house is perfectly quiet, perfectly clean, and perfect for studying. Before Jimmy can put his books down, the rest of the Biddle family (Dad, Mom, and Olives) enter, carrying grocery bags filled with 200 cans of tuna in preparation for Pete the Cats arrival. Olive is excited about getting a new cat and informs her brother Jimmy about Pete the Cats arrival today. Dad and Jimmy are worried about getting a new cat. Mom tells "them not to worry and suggests they pretend they are cat-sitting for a friend."

The family squeeze together to make a perfect family portrait and look their very best for the arrival of Pete the Cat. They begin singing "Big Adventure." As they sing the song, Pete arrives outside of the door and knocks. "The Biddle moves as a family clump to the door. The door swings open as the Biddle family stands there, very square, grinning. "Hi," says Pete. The Biddle family does not let Pete in. Instead, they close the door, leaving Pete outside, while Jimmy consults his book of cat facts. Pete knocks at the door again. "Hi again," says Jimmy. "You're expecting a cat "I think that's me..." "Cats don't talk," says Olive. "Meow," says Pete. "Oh, he is a cat! You must be Pete, says Mom. "Meow, meow, meow..., says Pete.

"Is that a guitar?" asked Dad. Pete gives dad the guitar, and dad rocks out. The rest of the Biddle family joins in the Jam session. Pete offers his tail as a microphone. Mom and Dad giggle and dance. The family sings and dances as they become more familiar with Pete while riffing a new family jam. They all embrace Pete in a clump, the song buttons, but then Olive sneezes.

Olive is allergic to cats. "We have to send the cat back" says, mom. "Where does he go if we send him back," ask Jimmy. "The pound. Arthur if she's allergic, we should really send him back" says mom. "He can stay in Jimmy's room," says dad. "My room. Oh dear," says Jimmy.

# What Happens in the Play?

## Jimmy's Room:

Jimmy shows Pete his room. Pete recognizes that Jimmy is neat and tidy, which is opposite of him. Pete compliments Jimmy's room for being so clean and he shares that he lived on a bus before moving into the Biddle's home. Pete notices the cool rocket on a shelf and picks it up to investigate it further. Jimmy tells Pete to be careful with the rocket because it took him three months to make it. Jimmy points to where the rocket must go and where Pete must put his shoes.

Pete asks Jimmy where can he Jam (make music). Pete plays an elaborate air guitar, air drumming, and other instruments solo. Jimmy lets Pete know this is bedtime and playing music is not allowed. Jimmy leaves to go and get Pete a pillow.

Olive pokes her head in to say goodnight to Pete and offers him a hug. Pete's philosophy is never saying no to hugs. A musical fanfare accompanies Pete's philosophy as they hug, and Olive sneezes, indicating she is allergic to cats.

Jimmy returns to seeing Olive in his room. He refers to the handwritten sign hanging on the door which says, "No girls allowed." Pete has broken rule number two. Jimmy makes Pete aware of the expectations (rules) for his room. Jimmy sings "Happy Roommates." If Pete follows the rules, they will be happy roommates. Making sure Pete understands the rules, Jimmy challenges Pete to restate the rules back to him. Peter tries his best to restate Jimmy's rules but repeats them back in the wrong order. After the song, Pete and Jimmy go to sleep.

# What Happens in the Play?

## School:

"Alarm clock! Pete and Jimmy get their things and rush to school as music underscores. Jimmy is late for school. "In transition, Mrs. Creech marches in with students, Eloise and Barney, a prim, proper, studious group, preparing for a test." Today, the class is scheduled to take a math test.

Jimmy and Pete enter the class on a skateboard. "You're late," says Mrs. Creech. Jimmy explains that his parents had to take his sister to the doctor, so his cat had to walk him to school. He introduces Pete to Mrs. Creech. Mrs. Creech tells Pete she loves his band and invites him to stay for the math test. She decides since Pete is a guest, Pete can decide what kind of test they will have today. Pete's chooses to have an art test instead of the scheduled math test because art is his favorite subject. Jimmy and the rest of the students are confused because the art test was scheduled for Friday. Jimmy is disappointed because he studied for the math test and is not prepared to take an art test. The song "painting" is song by Pete. The students are provided with their pads and easels, and nobody knows what to do because they are unprepared.

"Mrs. Creech, no one's ready for an art test. What are we supposed to be painting?" ask Jimmy. "Anything," responds Mrs. Creech. "The students start painting, all but Jimmy, who is stuck, and doesn't know what colors to use." Everyone enjoys the painting test except for Jimmy, because he does not know what to paint. Jimmy asks Mrs. Creech if he can take a different test. Everyone is concentrating on their art test. The art test is almost over, and Jimmy does not have anything drawn on his art pad. Jimmy sees Eloise 's painting.

Mrs. Creech evaluates everyone's work. "Please put the finishing touches on those masterpieces, very nice, Eloise," says Mrs. Creech. When she comes to Jimmy's art test, she realizes that he has copied Eloise's painting. Jimmy apologizes for copying and tries to explain. Mrs. Creech interrupts him and explains that the only way he can make up the art test is to bring an original painting he made. If Jimmy fails to create an original painting, he will have to repeat the second grade.



# What Happens in the Play?

## After School:

Jimmy starts walking. Pete must scramble to keep up with him. Pete tries to encourage Jimmy. "Why did you have to change it to an art test? I didn't study for an art test. I studied for a math test...", says Jimmy. Jimmy runs off. "This housecat stuff is tough," says Pete. Pete chases after Jimmy.

## Home:

**"Big Adventure Family Jam (transition)." The Biddle family is jamming with sniffers, pots, and pans.** The family updates Pete that Olive is allergic to cats and just needs to get a shot for her allergy. Olive is refusing to get a shot because she is afraid of shots. Mom asks about Jimmy's test day. Jimmy starts to tell her everything went great. Before he can complete his response, the telephone rings. It's Mrs. Creech calling to let Jimmy's parents know that he copied. The parents are surprised Jimmy copied. This is not like Jimmy at all. Jimmy runs off to another part of the house. The family and Pete go to look for him. **During the search for Jimmy, Olive appears singing "The Sneezing Song" and sharing how much she loves Pete. Pete tries to get away from her, she chases Pete the way little kids do cats. Pete dives behind the couch to hide. Olive continues rocking and exits in search of him. Pete emerges from his hiding place and exists to find a better hiding place from Olive. Jimmy enters over transition music, on his way to his hiding place.**

## Underneath the Couch:

Jimmy hides underneath the couch. He believes nobody will ever find him there. Then, Pete chooses to hide underneath the same couch too. Pete yells out to the rest of the family Jimmy is underneath the couch. Jimmy covers Pete's mouth. "Shush, I am trying to hide. First you ruin test day and now you tattle tell," says, Jimmy. Jimmy's parents pop their heads in and tries to motivate Jimmy to come from under the couch singing "Under the Couch." The parents explain they are not mad at Jimmy. They love him and want him to be brave and try. **Pete and Jimmy begin dancing taking baby steps to get away from the couch. They dance their way out from underneath the couch.**

# What Happens in the Play?

## Inspiration:

Jimmy is getting motivated to paint. Pete hands him a brush and he immediately freezes. Jimmy wants to paint the best painting ever. Pete suggests they take a ride on V.W. Bus to explore the most beautiful things ever. **The music flourishes as Pete summons the bus onto the stage. The bus honks hello. Jimmy wants to know if the bus is safe.** Peter assures Jimmy and lets him know that the bus will only start if he says something kind to it. **Jimmy tells the bus it is wonderful, and the bus roars up with a happy honk and gets going. Pete sings "It's a V.W. Bus."** **The bus takes Pete and Jimmy to five locations:**

## Bottom of the Ocean:

Their first stop is the bottom of the ocean. Where an actor in a shark costume swims into the scene. **Additional actors take on other elements of the ocean. It's a friendly ocean. Jimmy recognizes things under the ocean he can paint.**

## The Moon:

**The bus honks and takes Jimmy and Pete to their next location on the moon.** The gravity from the moon causes them to bounce. While on the moon they observe an astronaut and the earth out in a distance. Jimmy realizes he can also paint the earth, but he is not sure if earth at a distance would be the right image to paint. **The bus honks "I got a million ideas."**

## Renaissance Period:

"Where to next, asked Jimmy?" "Let's find out," says Pete. The next location is the Renaissance period where they see the famous Mona Lisa painting. "Oh, it's perfect.... Someone already created the best, most beautiful painting... I can't do anything like that...No one can help me. Not even the stupid bus, says Jimmy.

## Home (Bathroom):

The bus senses Jimmy's negativity. **Suddenly, like the bus is breaking down, it honks and returns home because Jimmy called it stupid.** The bus drops Jimmy and Pete into the bathroom of the Biddle family's house where Olive is brushing her teeth. Jimmy apologizes to the bus and says he wants to give up.

# What Happens in the Play?

The bus honks telling Pete the Cat that "Jimmy needs the magic sunglasses."

Pete explains the magic sunglasses are in Paris France at the Jam Café on his friend Grumpy Toad's face. Let's go, says Jimmy. Jimmy gives the bus some love, the bus honks, and Jimmy, Pete, and Olive roar off to Paris France on the V. W. Bus. "The V. W. Bus" song continues.

Paris France:

"Magical Paris music is under the transition." They arrive in Paris France at the Jam Café. Pete does the secret knock. A hand emerges from the door with a note reading "No kids allowed." Pete did not think of this and is not sure how to get Jimmy and Olive inside of the Jam Café. Jimmy has a plan. He packed disguises. Jimmy pulls some silly disguises out of his suitcase. Olive puts on the mustache and Jimmy puts on the French hat and scarf. The disguises work. They enter the café the band is playing "Jam Transition." There is Grumpy Toad on guitar wearing magic sunglasses. Jimmy wonders how he can get those magic sunglasses. Pete introduces Jimmy and Olive to the band and asks Grumpy Toad if Jimmy can borrow the magic sunglasses.

Taking the sunglasses Pete puts on the glasses. Magic music plays as Pete looks at the world. Suddenly everything is beautiful to him, a magic world. Next Gus puts the glasses on. There is magic music as he views the world. "It looks like a dream," say Gus. Gus hands the glasses to Grumpy and they pass them back and forth. Then, they challenge Jimmy to perform a few actions: (hop on one foot, spin like a top, quake like a duck, and Jam like a pro) before giving him the magic glasses. Jimmy Jams like a pro and Grumpy and Gus bestow the magic sunglasses upon Jimmy.

Pete brings Jimmy the canvas and the paintbrush. Jimmy starts painting all the pictures from the various places that he explored on the V.W. Bus. As Jimmy rapturously paints, Pete removes the sunglasses from his face. "Hey, I need those," says Jimmy. "No, you don't. Guess what those sunglasses are not even magic," says Pete. "Look, I'm painting," says Jimmy. "All by yourself. Who needs sunglasses. says Pete."



# What Happens in the Play?

Jimmy looks at the room, his friends, and realizes he still feels cool and groovy. Jimmy dives back into painting as the band jams around him. He puts the last brushstrokes on the painting as the jam ends.

Jimmy thanks Pete and realizes Olive is not there. Pete the cat loses his cool, because he is worried about Olive. His friend teases him, but he does not care. His concern is Olive. Suddenly, Olive appears wearing a tutu and carrying one for Pete to wear as well. Pete puts on the tutu and gives Olive a hug. She beams. Jimmy joins in. Jimmy realizes he is going to be late for school, so he goes for the bus. Transition to second grade art class.

## **Second Grade Art Class:**

Jimmy runs into class with Pete and presents his painting. "A Cat Named Pete" is sung Mrs. Creech tell Jimmy this is the most beautiful painting, because he painted something he loved. Mrs. Creech exists. Olive runs in, revealing a bandage on her arm indicating that she received her shot for cat allergies. Olives snuggles in, brother-sister hug. Over the top of her head, Jimmy speaks to Pete. The whole family barges in and joins in the singing of "A Cat Named Pete."

End of Play.

## **V.W. Bus Reprise:**

After the bows, the actors reprise the end of the VW Bus. The cast, Jimmy, Olive, and Pete all overlap with mom and dad joining in.

The end.