



Pete the Cat®

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## DEAR FIRST STAGE FRIENDS,

Meet Pete. He's one groovy, guitar-playing cat, who likes his music cool and his coffee sweet. When Pete moves in with the Biddles, Jimmy—the most organized second grader on earth—is unsure of this cat's antics and laid-back 'tude. But when he draws a blank in art class, Pete's the perfect pal to lead the mission to help Jimmy find his inspiration.

Board the VW bus for a trip around the globe with Pete, Jimmy and friends in this hilarious, toe-tapping musical!

Enjoy the show,



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# PLOT SUMMARY

Pete and his band are holding a groovy jam session in a backyard ("*Really Big Adventure*"). Everyone is having a cool time until the cat catcher sneaks up on Pete and catches him! As punishment, the cat catcher sentences Pete to a week of being a house cat for the Biddle family who is incredibly nervous (and excited!) to meet their new cat friend. When Pete shows up at their doorstep, the Biddles are surprised that Pete isn't an ordinary cat: he's a cat that talks! Everyone seems to be thrilled to have a rockstar for a cat, until they find out Olive, the youngest of the two Biddle kids, is allergic to cats. To keep the sneezes to a minimum, they have Pete stay with Jimmy, the oldest of the two Biddle kids, in his room.

Jimmy brings Pete up to his room and the two find out they could not be more opposite from each other—Pete loves noise and mess, and Jimmy likes to be tidy and quiet so that he can focus on his homework better. To help them navigate their differences, Jimmy sets some roommate rules ("*Happy Roommates*"). Pete teases Jimmy and changes the rules as they sing, but eventually, the two curl up and head to bed. The next morning, Jimmy and Pete roll into school ("*School!*") on Pete's skateboard and Jimmy feels embarrassed to be late. Luckily, Jimmy's teacher, Mrs. Creech, is a big fan of Pete and his band and immediately forgets Jimmy's tardiness. Mrs. Creech changes the class's math test into an art test, thanks to Pete. Jimmy and his class hadn't prepared for an art test! Pete steps in to help everyone feel ready and inspired to paint anything they want ("*Painting*"). Everyone seems to be enjoying the change of plans for the day—everyone except for Jimmy. Jimmy can't think of what to paint and so he copies one of his

classmate's paintings. Mrs. Creech and the rest of the class can't believe he copied! Mrs. Creech fails him on this project and tells him that he must paint an original painting by the next day or else he won't pass 2nd grade.

Jimmy is not handling this news well at all and when he gets home ("*Big Adventure Family Jam*"), his parents receive a phone call from Mrs. Creech about what happened. Jimmy runs and hides while his parents hear the shocking news. Pete calms down Jimmy's parents and reminds them that Jimmy needs support, not scolding, and they all go searching for Jimmy. While everyone is searching, Olive returns wearing a tutu and wedding veil and holding a bouquet. Olive proclaims that she loves Pete and wants to marry him ("*The Sneezing Song*")! Olive chases Pete all around as she confesses how much she loves him and her allergies. Pete dives behind the couch to hide from Olive ("*Happy Housecat*") before going back to looking for Jimmy, who has been hiding under the couch the entire time.

Jimmy is worrying about what to do about his art mistake when Pete slides underneath the couch, too. Pete calls out to the rest of the Biddles to tell them where he is. Jimmy has had it—Pete has ruined everything for him today—and Jimmy loses his temper as his parents try to get him out from under the couch ("*Under the Couch*"). At first, they try pulling him out. Then, they try convincing him that he is a painter. After that doesn't work, Jimmy asks if he could have some help from a friend and Pete reminds him that he is Jimmy's friend. Pete leads the Biddles in a hokey-pokey style song and dance and finally Jimmy gets out from under the couch.

# CONTENT ADVISORY



## **Best enjoyed by All Ages!**

*Every child is different and may or may not be ready for certain elements of each production.*

*Read more about this show's age recommendation below.*

First Stage's production of *Pete the Cat* is based on the *Pete the Cat* series of books by Kimberly and James Dean. The books are intended for ages 4-8.

All ages will be captivated by the familiar characters, vibrant set, and costumes and the fun music throughout.

The performance is expected to run under 60 minutes with no intermission – the perfect length for our younger audience members.

The show explores Jimmy Biddle, who is anxious about getting a pet cat, painting in art class, and more. Young people may feel anxious along with Jimmy but will learn how to handle their big feelings along the way.

There will be flashing lights, larger than life scenery, and loud rock music and sounds that may be overwhelming for those with sensory sensitivities. We offer Sensory Friendly Performances and Sensory Kits for patrons who may need them.

# PRE-SHOW QUESTIONS



1. *Pete the Cat* is based on a popular series of books by Kimberly and James Dean. Have you read or heard about any of Pete's adventures? If so, which of these stories is your favorite and why?
2. Jimmy Biddle is afraid to paint because he thinks he might not be good enough. Have you ever felt afraid to try something new because you were worried you might not be the best at it? Describe how it felt when you decided to be brave and try anyway!
3. Pete is a talking cat, who is also a rockstar, which is a pleasant surprise to the Biddle family! If you had a talking pet, what would you talk to them about?
4. Jimmy and Pete take a cool trip to some amazing destinations on the VW bus. If you could travel anywhere, real or imaginary, where would you want to go?

# THE BUILDING BLOCKS TO A CAT NAMED PETE

## A GEOMETRY ART PROJECT

Jimmy needs to create the best, most beautiful painting ever so that he can graduate from the 2nd grade! After putting on the magic sunglasses, he paints a picture of Pete that earns him an A+++.

Let's make our own paintings of Pete! Follow the steps below to create a collage of Pete.

### MATERIALS

- Shape Cut Out Pattern
- Construction Paper in the Following Colors:  
Blue, White, Yellow, Black, and a Color of Your Choosing
- Pencil/Marker
- Scissors
- Glue
- *Optional:*
  - White Paper
  - Coloring supplies (colored pencils, markers, crayons, paint and paint brush)

### DIRECTIONS

1. Print out a copy of the Shape Cut-Out Pattern. You can find this page after the directions for this project. Cut out the shapes on the pattern.
2. Place the pattern pieces onto the construction paper as noted below. Carefully trace around each pattern piece using pencil or marker. Then, cut out the traced shapes on the construction paper.
  - Blue Paper: Rhombus (Cut 2) and Square
  - Yellow Paper: Circle A (Cut 2)
  - Black Paper: Circle B (Cut 2)
  - White Paper: Circle C (Cut 2) and Triangle
3. Once you have all of your construction paper shapes cut out, arrange them to create Pete's face. To challenge yourself: try to arrange the pieces yourself before looking at the pictures below.
4. When you're happy with how you've arranged your shapes, begin to glue them down onto the remaining piece of construction paper—this paper will be the background! Once they're all glued down, you've created your own painting of Pete the Cat!

# THE BUILDING BLOCKS TO A CAT NAMED PETE

## A GEOMETRY ART PROJECT

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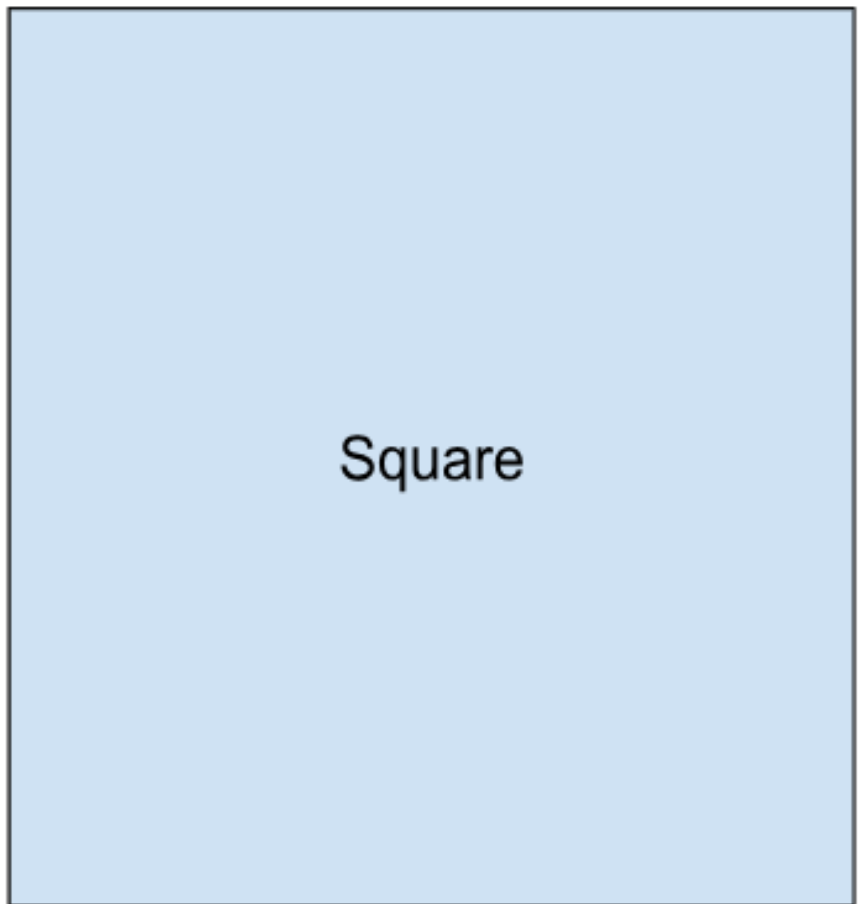
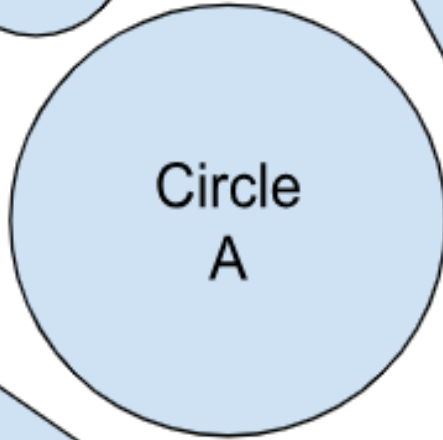
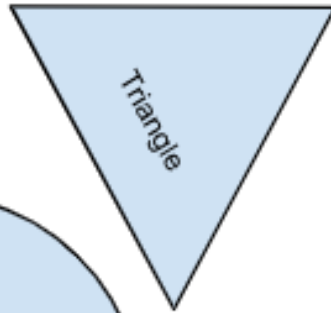
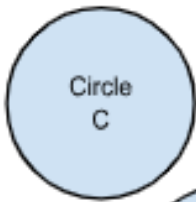
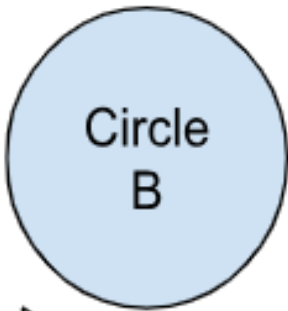
For extra challenges, you can try this project again but...

### **Create your own shapes!**

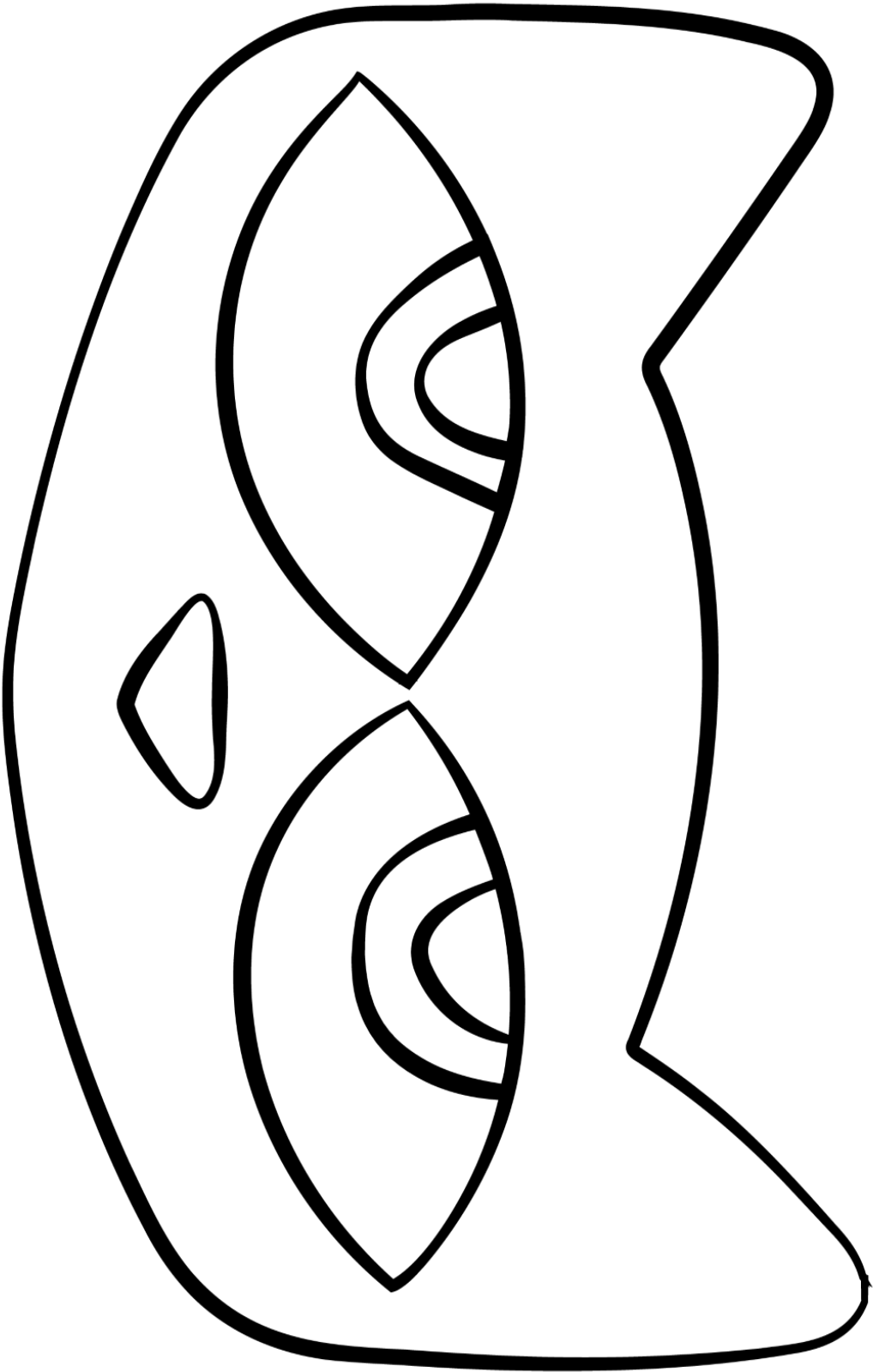
1. Using the outline of Pete, draw out what shapes you see. Then, cut out those shapes to act as your own pattern pieces.
2. Follow the original directions again, starting from step 2.

### **Paint Pete!**

1. Follow steps 1-2 from the original directions.
2. Carefully, arrange the construction paper shapes on a piece of white paper to create Pete's face.
3. One piece at a time, trace lightly with a pencil around each shape on white paper. You may have to remove the other shapes to do this.
4. Once all of the shapes have been traced onto the white paper, outline Pete's face in with a darker, heavier pencil line. Feel free to round out the edges around the shapes to create a softer look to Pete's face.
5. Erase any lines that aren't needed to create Pete's face.
6. Color in your drawing of Pete the Cat using the coloring supply of your choosing!
7. Many artists use basic shapes like the pattern pieces we used as building blocks for their paintings. These basic shapes then make drawing the outline of their painting easier. Feel free to follow these same steps for other characters from Pete the Cat! You can even try this by drawing the basic shapes without tracing the construction paper shapes. This is called freehand sketching.







# GRUMPY TOAD SLIME!

## A SCIENCE ACTIVITY

Uh oh! Grumpy Toad is once again feeling just a little too grumpy. Can you help us make some slime to cheer them up? Follow the directions below to make your own groovy and gooey Grumpy Toad slime!

### MATERIALS

- 5oz White Glue
- ½ cup Water
- ½ tsp Baking Soda
- 1 tbsp Contact/Saline Solution
- Food coloring (optional)
- A bowl

### DIRECTIONS

1. Add White Glue and Water to your bowl and mix until they are thoroughly combined.
2. Add food coloring now to add a little pizzazz to your slime!
3. Add the Baking Soda to the mixture and stir.
4. Add the Contact/Saline solution to the mixture and stir quickly! The slime will start to clump together.
5. Once slime has solidified, start kneading it with your hands to continue mixing the ingredients. It'll be a little sticky at first but that is okay!
6. Is your slime still too sticky? Add a little more Baking Soda. Too thick and hard to pull? Add a little more Contact/Saline solution!
7. Store in an airtight container and enjoy for about three days! You did it!

# PETE THE CAT MAD LIB!

## A LANGUAGE ARTS ACTIVITY

Complete the Mad Lib to help tell a story about Pete trying on his costumes from his dress-up box! When you need to fill in an Adjective, those are DESCRIPTIVE words like; tall, sunny or slimy! When you need to fill in a Verb, those are ACTION words, like; run, play or cartwheel! When you need to fill in a Noun, those are PEOPLE, PLACES or THINGS like; Mom, New York City or basketball.

One day, Pete the Cat woke up to a very \_\_\_\_\_ day. He \_\_\_\_\_-ed over  
Adjective Verb  
to his dress-up box and looked at all of his wonderful costumes. What would Pete be today? Pete  
looked at his \_\_\_\_\_ fire fighter costume. Pete loved to put on his \_\_\_\_\_  
Adjective Color  
fire fighter costume and pretend to put out roaring fires! However, Pete also loves his construction  
worker costume! It is so \_\_\_\_\_! Pete loves how \_\_\_\_\_ he feels when  
Adjective Emotion  
pretending to work on construction sites in his construction worker costume! But what about Pete's  
astronaut costume? Pete loves his astronaut costume! It's his favorite color, \_\_\_\_\_!  
Color  
Pete has been on so many space adventures in his astronaut costume! Just as Pete put on his  
astronaut costume, there was a knock at his door! It sounded like a \_\_\_\_\_. Pete  
Noun  
\_\_\_\_\_ -ed over to the door and opened it to find an Alien! The Alien was so funny  
Verb  
looking! The Alien was \_\_\_\_\_ like a \_\_\_\_\_. The Alien asked Pete if he had  
Adjective Noun  
any extra costumes for a costume party the Alien was attending on the planet \_\_\_\_\_.  
Planet  
Pete looked through his dress-up box and found the PERFECT costume for an Alien! Pete pulled  
out his \_\_\_\_\_ costume for his new Alien friend. The Alien LOVED the costume Pete  
Costume  
picked out for them and waved good-bye before boarding their \_\_\_\_\_ spaceship.  
Costume  
Pete took off his astronaut costume and decided today had been a long day and it's about time  
for a nice, long nap!

# POST SHOW QUESTIONS



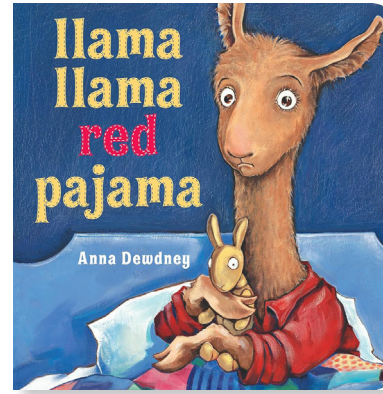
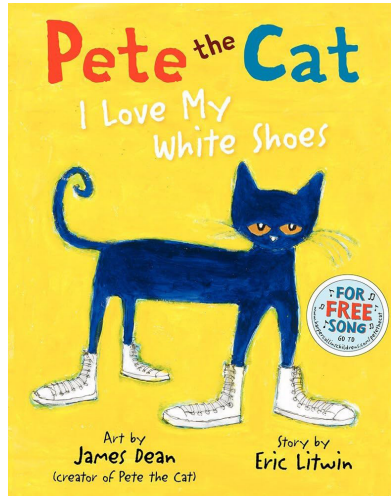
1. Pete takes Jimmy on a whirlwind adventure in the VW Bus to find different beautiful things to inspire Jimmy to create his own beautiful art. What are some beautiful things that would inspire you? What kinds of art could you make?
2. When Jimmy was hiding under the couch to avoid his family, Pete was able to help Jimmy to get out from under the couch by reminding him of his friendship and doing the hokey-pokey. These are some things you can do to calm down or process big feelings. What are some things that calm you down? How can you be like Pete and help your friends when they're feeling upset?
3. 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?
4. Pete, Olive, and Jimmy go to Paris to find the magic sunglasses to help Jimmy use his imagination. If you put on the magic sunglasses, what do you think you would see?

# WHO SAID IT?

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1. "Life takes courage; be brave!"
2. "My room is your room. Mi casa su casa. Meow is your ow."
3. "We're gonna sit on a cat!"
4. "Jimmy. You don't need to paint the Mona Lisa. You just gotta paint what you think is beautiful."
5. "I'll disappear like an old penny, a useless cheetoh, yeah, nobody will ever find me here."
6. "Olive wants a pet and a fish can't cuddle, so we're going to give this cat a try."
7. "Things are bleak, I know it's true, but face the world like heroes do and I bet you'll find you've got a painting in you."
8. "I love my allergies, Kitty be my main squeeze, I love to sneeze for you."
9. "Oh what a view. It's just like a dream. Everything's pretty as peaches and cream. It's like whoa, oh man, a magic world."
10. "I'm pumped! I'm pumped! Hwuh! I got my hips wigglin!"

# RECOMMENDED READING



**+ 67 more in the series!**

**+ 86 more in the series!**

