



Sadie's Spectacular Saturday

Bright Star Touring Theatre Study Guide



About the show:

Sadie the Caterpillar is excited about her first day at her new school, Willow Elementary. She packs her new notebook, her sharpened pencils, and a delicious lunch of organic birch leaf, and she's off to school! But she soon discovers it's not easy being the new bug in town. Before Sadie can even get through the school door, she finds herself the target of a bullying cockroach, Roachie!

Luckily, Sadie gets some excellent advice from a friendly sunflower and a loving ladybug. Empowered with the suggestions from her friends, she returns to school and talks with Roachie. Surprisingly, she finds that instead of a bully, she's able to make a new friend! And when the weekend comes, Sadie finds that she's changed into a beautiful butterfly - and she's transformed much more than just herself!

In the Bright Star production of *Sadie's Spectacular Saturday*, Sadie discovers what it was like to be bullied firsthand. Even though Roachie didn't even know Sadie he still decided that he was going to be mean and bully her. Bullying happens when someone hurts or scares another person on purpose and the person being bullied has a hard time defending himself or herself. Usually, bullying happens over and over. Countless instances of bullying come from people being unfamiliar, nervous, or simply uncomfortable. After all, it sometimes seems easier to make a joke about something than truly try to understand it. Whatever the reason, bullying is something we all need to think about. Whether we've done it ourselves ... or whether friends or other people we know are doing it ... we all need to recognize that bullying has a terrible effect. In order to reduce the prevalence of bullying, a change in the climate of the school and its exceptions for student behavior must occur. And even though the curtain closes on the production of *Sadie's Spectacular Saturday*, there should be no "end" for stopping bullying in your school!

About Our Production:

This production is a touring show with Bright Star Theatre. During its run, this production may be seen by audiences in as many as 15 different states! Professional actors join Bright Star from across the United States to tour our shows. In a typical week, they'll perform in 10-13 venues for all kinds of audiences. Our actors travel the country in minivans, averaging 800-1000 miles of driving *per week*, and they have performed for as many as 10,000 people *in one week*! After the show, our actors are available for you to ask questions about this production and their lives as actors - it's one of the most exciting parts of the Bright Star experience! Make sure to raise your hand, and we hope you'll have a chance to have your question answered!



Words to Know:

Theatre is a form of storytelling that has been entertaining people for thousands of years. Theatre has its own kind of language. Here are some terms that actors, directors, and other “theatre people” use all the time!

Audition: A hopeful actor will either read, sing or dance (or sometimes all three!) in order for the director to decide which actor she wants to cast in a particular role.

Director: The director reads the script, and tells the actors where they should go and what they should do. Each director has a different way of telling a story from every other director, and this means that each play will be unique from every other play!

Set: All of the scenery on the stage is part of what is called the “set.” It helps to paint a picture of where the story takes place, so it is easier for the audience to follow the play. For *Sadie’s Spectacular Saturday*, our actors use a backdrop, which is the colorful painted background.

Costumes: All of the clothes that are worn onstage by the actors are costumes. *Sadie’s* caterpillar costume uses more than 50 square feet of fabric and the curves are made from hula hoops!

Props: Anything that an actor carries during the show is a prop. Can you remember any of the props used by the actors in this play?

Rehearsal: Once the cast of the play is set, everyone on the show needs to practice to get ready for the show. This can take weeks, and that gives time for the sets and costumes to be built, and for the actors to learn their lines.

Actors: These are the people that you see on stage. They each have a character to play, and they spend a long time rehearsing before they perform. They have to learn where they should walk, when they should talk, and how their characters should act. It’s a lot of work!

and of course -

Audience: Perhaps the most important element in the show! The audience consists of the people who come out to watch the play. You were our audience for *Sadie’s Spectacular Saturday*!

Seeing the Play:

Attending the theatre is very different than going to the movies or watching television. For one thing, the actors are real people who can hear and see everything that’s happening in the audience. It’s important to know a few rules before seeing a play:

- ★ Please be quiet and respectful during the performance so that those around you can hear what’s happening.
- ★ If something’s funny, it’s okay to laugh!
- ★ If you like the play, be sure to clap at the end.

What else can you add to the list?

Quick Tips:

IF YOU ARE BEING BULLIED:

1. Always tell an adult. *Sometimes it can be hard to talk with an adult about serious things, so find an adult that you trust - your parents, your teacher, your school counselor, your coach, your neighbor.*
2. Stay in a group. *If you spend more time with other kids, you’ll have others around to help you if you get into a difficult situation!*
3. If it feels safe, try to stand up to the person who is bullying you. *Keep it simple. You might just say, “Cut it out!”, and then walk away.*
4. If you are being bullied online, don’t reply. Instead, be sure to tell a family member or another adult you trust. *If possible, block any more communications from this person.*
5. Join clubs or take part in other activities where you’ll meet other kids! *You can meet other kids who share your interests and you might make some good friends!*

IF YOU WITNESS SOMEONE ELSE BEING BULLIED:

1. Report the bullying to an adult. *It’s not tattling – you’re helping someone out.*
2. Support someone who is being bullied. *Sometimes the best thing you can do is be a friend.*
3. Stand up to the person who doing the bullying. *Just be sure you don’t bully them back!*

These tips courtesy of Stop Bullying Now!, a campaign supported by the US Department of Health and Human Services. More information can be found at www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov.

Classroom Activities:

Insect Insight!

This activity incorporates science, research skills, visual arts, writing, and creative thinking!

1. Break students into small groups. Have each group choose a bug that was mentioned in the production (caterpillar, cockroach, ladybug, silverfish, preying mantis, centipede, grasshopper). Have them explore the diet, habits and daily routines of their insect. The list of questions you can pose is endless. For example: How long does a caterpillar live before it becomes a butterfly? How long does it take to transform into a butterfly? Do roaches really eat postage stamp glue? What's the life span of these various bugs?
2. Discuss all the things that make a play possible. Have each group think about how costumes, props, and the set could help bring their presentations to life. If there's time, try to create some of these props or costume pieces from everyday items!
3. Time for performance! Have each group give their presentation to the class. But before you begin the presentations, have students warm up their voices with a nature-based tongue twister (actors do this all the time!) like:
"Friendly fleas and fire flies" -or-
"Six slippery snails slid slowly seaward"
Remind the other students about being good audience members while they watch their friends onstage!

Create a Campaign!

This activity incorporates creative thinking, visual arts, writing, and performance!

1. Break students into small groups. Have students pull out the paper and the crayons or colored pencils.
2. Next, have students create posters with their own anti-bullying slogans. Be creative!
3. Then, have each group write a poem that includes their slogan. Yes, rap counts!
4. Have each group present their poster and poems to the rest of the class. Talk about why the students made their specific choices.

Additional Resources:

These websites can provide incredible support with bully awareness, prevention, and intervention!

www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services site - includes Tip Sheets, Webisodes, and games

www.kidshealth.org

Info for parents and kids on recognizing and dealing with bullies

www.aap.org/healthtopics/violprev.cfm

American Academy of Pediatrics site

www.tolerance.org

Teaching kits and activities for teaching tolerance in the classroom

Questions for Discussion:

1. Who was bullied in the play? Who did the bullying? What are some good ways to handle being picked on by a bully? Are there things you shouldn't do if you are being bullied? What ways could your school help someone who is being bullied?
2. Think about this statement: *Diversity is the one true thing we all have in common.* What does that mean?
3. How does it feel to be picked on for something like the way you look or dress? What kind of emotions go along with being targeted by a bully?
4. How are you different from the other students in your class? How are you alike?

Write your own review!

Your assignment is to write a review of *Sadie's Spectacular Saturday*. If you were writing a review for a newspaper, here are some items that you would need to include:

- ★ Your reader may not have seen the performance. Start by placing your reader in the middle of the action by describing some of the high points.
- ★ Was there a scene or character that you especially liked? Write about what made that character or scene special to you.
- ★ Most reviews comment on the acting, the direction, the sets, the script, and the costumes. Choose at least three from the list to include in your review

Create a headline for your review: _____

Byline (your name): _____

**It would be a great honor if your class sent us pictures, drawings and writings about our play!
We cannot thank you enough for them - and neither can our performers!**



**Bright Star Touring Theatre
National Touring Division
136 Round Top Road
Asheville, NC 28803
www.brightstartheatre.com**

