



ArtsPower STUDY BUDDY ©

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ArtsPower National Touring Theatre

Gary W. Blackman
Mark A. Blackman
Executive Producers

Nugget & Fang

Based on the book by
Tammi Sauer and
illustrated by Michael Slack

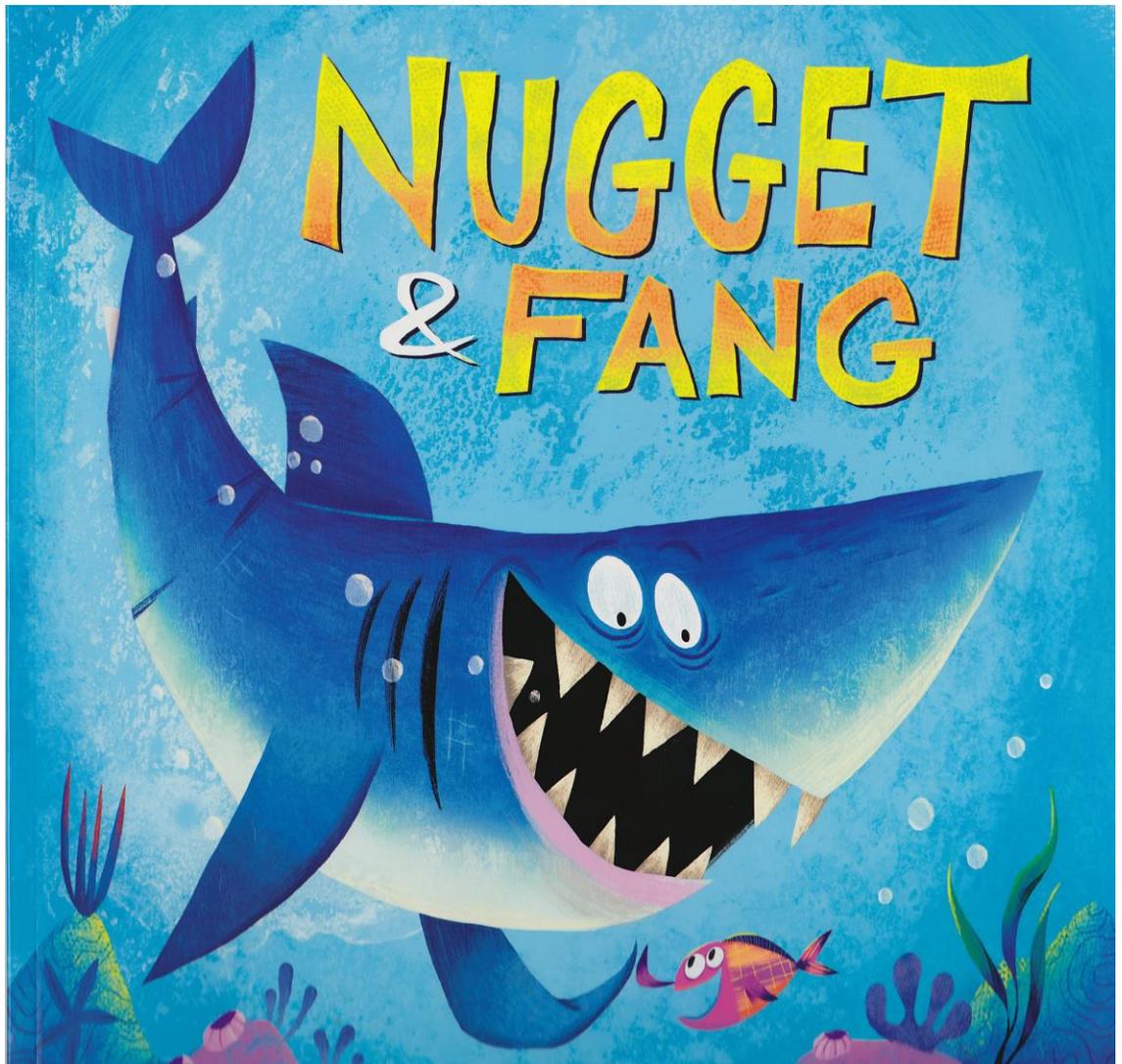
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Script by Greg Gunning
Music by Richard DeRosa
Lyrics by Greg Gunning

Costumes Design and
Construction by
Fred Sorrentino

Set illustrations by
Dan Helzer/Blitz Design

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**An ArtsPower musical based on the book by Tammi Sauer
with illustrations by Michael Slack.**

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What Happens in *Nugget & Fang*?

ArtsPower’s under-the-sea musical tells the story of Nugget, a minnow, and Fang, a shark, who are best friends. In fact, they love to play together and spend most of their time with one another. These two pals truly enjoy each other’s company – until Nugget’s first day at Miss Mini’s Minnow School.

At Miss Mini’s Minnows School, Nugget learns that minnows are supposed to be afraid of sharks because they are scary and like to eat other fish. Although Nugget knows in his heart that Fang is the nicest of sharks and would never hurt another fish, his teachers and fellow students are certain that since Fang is a shark, he is not to be trusted.

To regain Nugget’s trust, Fang tries to show Nugget and his classmates that he really is a nice guy and would never be a threat to them. But nothing works. One day, when Fang is swimming, sad and unnoticed in deep waters, he sees Nugget and his minnow friends caught up in some big trouble and one very big fisherman’s net!

Holy mackerel! Can Fang save Nugget and the other minnows who are caught in the net?



When You Drop Anchor at a Performance

In order to be a good audience member, remember to:

- Listen quietly.
- Pay attention to the things the actors say and do — some things might make you happy and some might be funny. Feel free to laugh at things you think are funny!
- Sit quietly and do not talk during the performance, unless you are requested to do so by the actors onstage.
- If you enjoy the play, you can applaud after musical numbers and at the end.

Teacher Information

This study guide is designed to help you and your students prepare for, enjoy, and discuss ArtsPower’s musical play, ***Nugget & Fang***, before and after the performance. You may reproduce and distribute this Study Buddy to your students.

To purchase any of the NUGGET & FANG books on Amazon, click [here](https://www.amazon.com/Nugget-Fang-Friends-Forever-Snack/dp/0547852851).

<https://www.amazon.com/Nugget-Fang-Friends-Forever-Snack/dp/0547852851>



What Is a Musical?

A **musical** is a story told through spoken words and songs by live actors onstage. The spoken words are called **lines**. The words that are sung are called **lyrics**. The music that was composed just for this show is called the show's **soundtrack**. For this performance, the soundtrack has been recorded onto an iPad which is operated by the stage manager.

The musical ***Nugget & Fang*** features four professional actors who play some of the characters found in the book. The actors wear **costumes** and perform in front of their **set**.

Because reading a book is different than seeing a live performance on stage, the **playwright**, or the person who writes the lines that the actors speak, must change parts of the story or bring new qualities to the characters that are not found in the book. In other words, the playwright **adapts** the book into a musical play, or changes parts of it to turn the words on the page into a live performance.



ArtsPower National Touring Theatre

ArtsPower is a theatre company that creates musical and dramatic theatre productions, based on books for young readers, and tours them for young and family audiences throughout the nation.

The four actors and one stage manager:

- present performances in regional theatres, cultural centers, university auditoriums, and schools all over the United States.
- pack the set, costumes, and sound equipment in their van.
- set up and break down the show.
- take care of costumes and props (objects that are handled by the actors).
- stay in hotels when they travel.
- sometimes present up to 9 performances in a week.



LEARNING ACTIVITY

DISCUSS!

Why is ArtsPower called a national touring theatre?

If you were an actor, do you think you would like to travel to different places to perform?

Do you think audiences from different parts of the country respond to the performance in the same or in different ways? If so, why?



Creating Theatre

Creating a musical theatre production like *Nugget & Fang* takes a lot of time and creative energy from a group of people. Many people work together to make the changes and additions it takes to turn the book into an hour-long musical.

- The **playwright** writes lines that the actors speak.
- The **composer** writes the music.
- The **lyricist** writes the words to the songs that the actors sing.
- The **actors** perform the show.
- The **designers** create sets, costumes, and lighting.
- The **director** rehearses the actors and makes decisions about what happens on stage during the show.
- The **stage manager** oversees all backstage elements of a show.
- The **producers** raise the money to create and manage all aspects of the production and its tour throughout the United States and Canada.

The Creative Team for *Nugget & Fang*



GREG GUNNING (Playwright, Co-Lyricist, and Director) is ArtsPower’s Artistic Director and has written or co-written the scripts to all of ArtsPower’s theatre productions. Greg’s script for ArtsPower’s *Lily’s Crossing*, based on the Newbery Honor book by Patricia Reilly Giff, is included in Penguin Books’ “The Signet Book of Short Plays.”



RICHARD DEROSA (Co-Composer and Co-Orchestrator) is presently Associate Professor and Director of Jazz Composition and Arranging Studies at the University of North Texas. Richard has composed and orchestrated the scores to all but three ArtsPower productions. jazz.unt.edu/derosa



TAMMI SAUER (Author) graduated from Kansas State University with a B.S. in Elementary Education. She is currently a full-time picture book author. In addition to writing, Tammi loves to read, ski, spend time with her family and friends, go to movies, and eat out as often as possible. She lives in Edmond, Oklahoma with her husband Ron and their two children, Julia and Mason. www.tammisauer.com



GARY (left) and MARK BLACKMAN (Producers & ArtsPower’s Founding Co-Directors) founded ArtsPower in 1985. The Blackmans are graduates of Columbia College, Columbia University and Florida State University’s College of Music. In their former lives as musicians, each was named as an “Outstanding Jazz Soloist” in Downbeat magazine’s Student Recording Awards. In their present lives, Gary serves as ArtsPower’s Managing Director while Mark is Director of Development and Marketing. Gary has served as a board member on the New Jersey State Council on the Arts since 2014. Although the Blackmans look very much alike, they have, in fact, been seen together.



Lyrics and Lines

Because *Nugget & Fang* is a musical, the story is told through spoken words and songs. Spoken words are called lines. The musical's lines tell the audience about the characters and the story. Words that are sung as part of a song are called lyrics. Actors work with the director to speak or "deliver" their lines and lyrics with expression.

Lyrics

There is no musical without music and lyrics. Lyrics are the words to the songs. Greg Gunning wrote both the lines the actors say and the lyrics they sing in *Nugget & Fang*.

- ♪ What do these lyrics from the song, "A Friend Is a Friend," tell you about what a friend is?
- ♪ Can anyone be a friend?
- ♪ What do you like about your friends?

YOUR FRIENDS COULD BE, WELL – ANYONE.
ON FATE IT ALL DEPENDS.
BUT OH – THE WORLD MAY DISAPPROVE
AND SAY YOU CAN'T BE FRIENDS.

BUT WHY LET OTHERS TELL YOU
WHO YOUR FRIENDS SHOULD BE?
GET TO KNOW THEM FOR WHO THEY ARE
INDIVIDUALLY.

SO ALTHOUGH YOU KNOW YOUR FRIEND MIGHT
BE QUITE DIFFERENT THAN YOU,
REMEMBER THIS –
A FRIEND IS A FRIEND – NO MATTER WHO.

Lines

The words spoken or "delivered" by the actors are written by the playwright, Greg Gunning. Each actor must memorize the script or "lines" for his or her own character. They must also be familiar with the lines of the other characters, too.

Here is what the first page of the *Nugget & Fang* script looks like:

NUGGET

(running in – ahead of Fang) (entering) (happily & playfully shouting, bragging, laughing)

Hey Fang, come on! Bet you can't catch me! Hurry up, slowpoke! I'm way ahead of you as usual! Man, are you slow. Bet I could beat you in a race any day... Knucklehead, you can't fool me. Hey, hold it - what am I doing? Forget it. I don't need to prove I can catch you – I'm still the fastest in the whole ocean! (*freezes*)

FANG

(running in behind Nugget) (entering) (happily & playfully shouting, bragging, laughing) (spoken simultaneously with Nugget)

Oh yeah! You can't get away from me! I got ya covered! Look out – always right behind ya! No way could you ever swim faster than me!... Hey wait – stop! Now we'll see who's the fastest and the smartest! Uh-oh, look out! This guy is the best! Give it up all you fishes out there! I'm the best under the waves! Yeah! (*freezes.*)



All About *Nugget & Fang*

ArtsPower’s *Nugget & Fang* is adapted from the book of the same title by author Tammi Sauer and illustrator Michael Slack. “Adapted” means that ArtsPower based its show on the book, turning the printed words in the book to dialogue spoken by actors who play the characters from the book, including Nugget and Fang.

Greg Gunning, the person who wrote the dialogue and lyrics for *Nugget & Fang*, first read the book and worked with author Tammi Sauer in creating the first-ever musical theatre production called *Nugget & Fang*. Greg had to imagine what the characters from the book would look like as real people, what they would say in addition to their dialogue in the book, and how the set and costumes would work to help the audience think the show is taking place under the sea.



LEARNING ACTIVITY

(Discuss the following **before** the performance):

- What are the differences between a shark and a minnow?
- Can they be friends even with their differences?
- Is it easy to get along with people who might be different than you?
- After reading the book *Nugget & Fang*, why do you think Nugget decided not to show Fang friendship?
- When you see the performance, there will be differences between it and the book. Try to remember these differences while you watch the performance.

(Discuss the following **after** the performance):

- Did you enjoy the performance? Why or why not?
- Why were Nugget and Fang such good friends?
- What happened to Nugget when he went to school so he might feel scared of Fang?
- Would you have behaved like Nugget and listened to what your classmates said about your friend?
- Why did Nugget’s minnow classmates finally realize that Fang was really a nice shark?
- What do you do to show your friends that you care about them?

The *Nugget & Fang* Set



The set designer builds a small, foam core model of the set (some of the pieces are included above) so he can determine how the individual pieces will look and where they should be placed on stage. He then gives the model and his plans to the set builder who creates set pieces that are 6 to 8 feet high. The entire set is portable and travels in a large van with the actors and stage manager.



Let Us Know What You Think!

After you see ***Nugget & Fang***, use the space below to write to us OR send us a picture showing your favorite part of the performance. Please send them to **ArtsPower, 9 Sand Park Road, Suite 6, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009**. You may also visit us online at <http://www.artspower.org> and click on "Contact Us."

Your school _____

School's city and state _____

Date _____

Dear ArtsPower,

I saw ***Nugget & Fang*** at: _____

Here's what I enjoyed about the performance: _____

Here's why: _____

Here's what I would change about the performance: _____

Here's why: _____

From,

Your Name: _____