



**FIRST STAGE**  
**THEATER IN EDUCATION**  
**AT HOME**



## DEAR FAMILIES AND TEACHERS,

Welcome to First Stage's online Education resource page. Every Tuesday, First Stage's Education Department will upload new content based on past First Stage productions for families to explore together. Each week we will include games and activities meant to spark imagination and dramatic play in new and engaging ways. These resources are free for you to use, and we encourage you to share these activities with others who you think would like to play along! Share your dramatic play shots with us at **#FSathome**

# NATE THE GREAT

Junior Detective Nate the Great, considers himself one of the world's greatest detectives, even though he is only in grade school. With his keen observation skills and a belly always filled with his favorite food – pancakes – Nate proves there is not a case he can't solve. However, when Nate's best friend Annie's precious artwork goes missing, and Nate isn't able to find a clue in sight, he is suddenly stumped! Nate learns the best way to solve problems is to rely on the help of others. When Nate asks for help from his friends, he discovers he is able to be an ever better detective...and he has much more fun solving the cases.



Watch a video clip from First Stage's production of *Nate the Great* to learn more about this master kid detective, and check out some of Nate the Great's other adventures by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat at you're your local library.

## LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!

- Nate the Great takes his detective work very seriously. Do you have an activity that you are very passionate about? What is that activity? What makes it a special activity to you?
- A detective must be very observant, noticing people and things around them. Without looking around, try to recall these details in one room of your house, perhaps your living room: How many windows and doors are in your living room? How many chairs? Is there a vase? Are there any pet cages or beds? Are there pictures on the wall?
- Nate the Great learns to think outside of the box in order to crack the case. Have you ever had a problem that you struggled to solve at the beginning? What made it difficult? How did you resolve that problem?

# OBJECT FREEZE



**ACTOR TOOLS:** Body, Imagination

**TIME:** 5-10 minutes

**MATERIALS:** Small objects and Box

**NUMBER OF PLAYERS:** 2+

As a detective, Nate the Great knows that things may not always be what they seem. When Nate is searching for clues, he has to use his imagination to see ordinary objects differently. In this game, you'll use your imagination to transform ordinary objects into new ones, through the skill of pantomime. and see all sorts of things in different ways! Pantomime is when we use our bodies to act something out, without the help of words or props.

- Start by finding 3-5 small objects from around your house, and placing them in a box or basket. Try finding objects of different sizes and shapes to add to your box. Some fun suggestions for items include: a marker, a small broom, a bouncy ball, a fork, and a scarf.
- Place the box of items in front of the players. The first player will begin by removing one item from the box. The objective of this game is for players to use their imagination to come up with a new use for the item than otherwise intended. The player will pick up the item and begin pantomiming using this object in another way, while saying, "This is not a \_\_\_\_\_, it is a \_\_\_\_\_."
  - For example, if a marker is revealed, a player will not use the marker to draw, as it is intended to be used...instead, they may hold it on their forehead and say, "This is not a marker, it is a unicorn horn!"
  - Another player may take that same object of the marker and pretend it is a magic wand, by waving it around as if they are casting a spell, while saying, "This is not a marker, it is a magic wand!"
- After coming up with a few different ideas and uses for the first object, place it to the side, and have the next player pick a new item from the box. Come up with as many new and creative ideas for this next item as possible.
- Once you get really good at coming up with new ideas for ordinary objects, see if you can just pantomime the new idea and let the other players try to guess what it is!

# WHAT ARE YOU DOING?



**ACTOR TOOLS:** Body, Imagination

**TIME:** 5-10 minutes

**MATERIALS:** None!

**NUMBER OF PLAYERS:** 2+



To solve the case of his friend Annie's missing artwork, Nate the Great interviews as many people as he can, to see if they know information about the whereabouts of this art. He interrogates Annie's brother, neighbor, and even her dog - asking each of them what they were doing around the time when Annie's artwork went missing. Nate has to use his detective skills to determine whether these suspects were telling the truth...or not!

In this game, you will use your skills of pantomime and improvisation to create actions that are completely different than what you say you are doing... trying to stump the other players! Improvisation is speaking or performing without practicing or preparing ahead of time - it is thinking quick and "on your feet."

- Start with two players standing side by side. The first player will start pantomiming an action - this action can be anything, like blowing bubbles, combing your hair, or doing jumping jacks! After this action has been initiated, the second player will ask, "What are you doing?"

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# WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

- This is where the game gets tricky, and very fun! Instead of saying the action you are actually doing, the first player should respond by telling their partner they are doing a completely different action! When the second player hears this completely different action, they will start pantomiming that action.
  - For example, the first player might begin by doing jumping jacks. As they continue to do jumping jacks, the second player will ask them *"What are you doing?"* While the first player continues to do the jumping jacks, they will respond by telling the second player they are doing something completely different. They might say, *"I am brushing my teeth."* When the second player hears this, they must begin pantomiming brushing their teeth, and the first player will stop their action of jumping jacks. From here, the first player will now ask the second player, *"What are you doing?"* and again, the second player will have to say they are doing something completely different than what they are actually doing.
- If you have two players, you and your partner can continue seeing how long you can go back and forth with What Are You Doing? without messing up by either saying you are doing exactly what you are doing, or drawing a blank and saying "I don't know!"
- If you have more than two players, you can either play What Are You Doing in a circle, so the person to the left of the first player will ask *"What are you doing?"* to the first player, and move around the circle clockwise. Once you get really good at this game, you can play elimination-style. When a player messes up, they are out, and a new player takes their place - the player who stays in the game for the longest amount of time without messing up, wins!

# PURPLE PANCAKES

**ACTOR SKILLS:** Concentration, Cooperation

**TIME:** 15-30 minutes

**MATERIALS:** Pancake ingredients (*listed below*)

**NUMBER OF PLAYERS:** 2+, and make sure one of the participants is an adult!

*Taken from: <https://www.kidspot.com.au/kitchen/recipes/purple-pancakes-recipe/63nrwr6c>*

## INGREDIENTS

2 cups plain flour

3 teaspoons baking powder

2 tablespoons sugar

2 eggs, lightly beaten

750mL buttermilk

75g unsalted butter, melted

1 cup blueberries, pureed

Extra unsalted butter for greasing pan

Extra berries, yogurt, syrup, and honey, to serve



Nate loves pancakes the most - they make him feel warm and full, and help give him the energy to stay focused on his cases. Nate always thought his mom made the best pancakes, and when his friend Rosalind offered him purple pancakes, he did not know what to do! He had never tried purple pancakes, but he loved them once he gave them a taste! Try making your very own purple pancakes right at home.

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# PURPLE PANCAKES

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## DIRECTIONS

1. Stir the flour, baking powder and sugar together in a bowl. Add the eggs, buttermilk, melted butter, and pureed blueberries, and whisk to combine.
2. Heat a large non-stick frypan over medium heat and melt ¼ teaspoon of the extra butter. Pour 1/3 cup (I use my measuring cup) of pancake batter into the pan and cook for 2-3 minutes until bubbles appear on the surface. Turn the pancake over gently (I don't have the flipping-in-the-air skill perfected yet...) and cook for another minute.
3. Transfer your cooked purple pancakes to a plate and keep warm (oven at 120 degrees C) while cooking the rest of the pancakes.
4. Serve with extra berries and yogurt, and drizzle with honey or syrup, as you prefer. Enjoy your purple pancakes!



# ART MATTERS

**ACTOR SKILLS:** Concentration, Cooperation

**TIME:** 30+ minutes

**MATERIALS:** Art supplies such as paper, paints, crayons, markers, pens, pencils, glue, scissors, etc.

**NUMBER OF PLAYERS:** 2+



Nate the Great learns that art matters from his friend, Annie. Creating and sharing art is a wonderful way to express oneself, to learn more about others, and to grow stronger as a family or a community.

Create a family art gallery of work created by each member of your family by starting with everyone making their own unique pieces of art. Encourage everyone to explore topics of their choice and make sure there is a variety of materials for them to use to create their art. Then, host a sharing! Have each family member present their art to the others - answering the following questions as they do, adding further questions if needed.

1. What do you call this work of art?
2. What materials did you use to make it?
3. What inspired you to create this work of art?
4. Why is this work of art important to you?
5. What sort of impact can this work of art have on others?

Enjoy spending time making and sharing together, and don't forget to share your Gallery Night photos with First Stage!



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