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Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!

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THE PLAYHOUSE

Getting to Know You:

The Cast of Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!

We asked the cast and director to tell us about their imaginary friends. We also wanted to know what their favorite books were when they were younger. Here's what they had to say!

Payton Boesch *(Elf Ellen)*
My imaginary friend's name was Sally and she went EVERYWHERE with me until I was probably 8 or 9 years old. She was my best friend and confidante but I also blamed her every time I got in trouble for something!
FAVORITE BOOK: *A Bad Case of Stripes* by David Shannon

Ruth Christie *(Lucille)* I did have an imaginary friend when I was younger. She was named after my older sister. Her name was 101 Deborahs. It was 100 and 1 different versions of my sister. Since she was always so busy, this way I always had her to hang out with.
FAVORITE BOOKS: *The Little Red Hen* by Paul Galdone and *A Light in the Attic* by Shel Silverstein

Anastasia Deace *(Ms. Toot)*
I have a stuffed monkey named Andy who I used to sleep with every night. I still have him, believe it or not!
FAVORITE BOOKS: *Magic Tree House* book series by Mary Pope Osborne

Jen Green *(Director)*
My imaginary friends were George and Sarah. Our favorite thing to do together was to hunt for caterpillars. I was convinced all my stuffed animals came alive at night when I was sleeping, like in *The Velveteen Rabbit*, so I was always very nice to them but especially to Ellie, my stuffed pink elephant.
FAVORITE BOOKS: *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* by Elizabeth George Speare and *Farmer Boy* by Laura Ingalls Wilder

Emmersyn Gustafson *(Junie B. Jones)* I had an imaginary friend. I named her Cherry. I used to go on adventures with her, but strangely I called her my daughter. It confused everyone else, but we had so much fun!
FAVORITE BOOKS: *Bad Dog, Marley* by John Grogan and *The Hardy Boys While the Clock Ticked* by Franklin W. Dixon

Harper Hagins *(Sheldon)*
I had an imaginary friend named Lucy and she was a fairy. I would pretend that she flew around the house and sprinkled everything with fairy dust. It was magical!
FAVORITE BOOK: *Magic Tree House Fact Tracker: Ghosts: A Nonfiction Companion to Magic Tree House Merlin Mission #14: A Good Night for Ghosts* by Mary Pope Osborne, Natalie Pope Boyce

Rachel Meyer *(Mrs. Scary)*
My sister and I created a whole world of imaginary characters and would spend hours taking them on grand adventures. We thought up an underground system of water slides that we could fly through in inner tubes or explore on wacky steamboats that had all our favorite things on it. The villain was the milkman and us kids would come up with wild antics to defeat him. My most memorable stuffed animal was a purple hippo called Hannah Splat! I have no idea where we got that name from but she went everywhere with us.
FAVORITE BOOKS: The Magician's Nephew by C.S. Lewis

Sergio Puente *(José/Grampa Miller/Philip Johnny Bob)*
I actually just talked to myself a lot. I would usually just play Legos and imagine Pokemon battles of epic proportions.
FAVORITE BOOK: *Wings of Fire: The Dragonet Prophecy* by Tui T. Sutherland

Jackson Ransom *(Herb)*
I don't remember having an imaginary friend but my mom tells stories about my sister's imaginary friend, Tulu. She said we would both play with and talk to Tulu!
FAVORITE BOOKS: *Junie B. Jones* book series by Barbara Park

Amaya Veldkamp *(May)*
My imaginary friend was "Albert" from the 1800s. He wore a tuxedo and had a moustache. In first grade I brought him to school. I accidentally left him in the art room, so I had to beg my teacher to go get him.
FAVORITE BOOKS: *Ivy & Bean* book series by Annie Barrows

What About You?

Maybe you already have an imaginary friend, or you could create one. What do they look like? **Draw a picture of them here.** What kind of adventures will you go on? Write a short scene about one of your adventures, then act it out. You can play both characters, or have a friend or sibling act it out with you!

More To Do!
Read *The Adventures of Beekle-The Unimaginary Friend* by Dan Santat for a story from the imaginary friend's point of view!

Meet the Author:

Barbara Park (b. 1947-d. 2013)

The following questions from kids just like you and answers from Barbara Park were excerpted from the June B. Jones website.

Did you always want to be an author? Being a writer was never even on my radar screen. As a kid, I wanted to be on The Mickey Mouse Club, but apparently that required some kind of talent. In college, I planned to teach high school history and political science. I was hoping I could make history seem a little funnier.

Is it hard trying to think like a kindergartner? I have absolutely no trouble thinking like a five-year-old. My family and friends will confirm this. I don't think that I've ever met a "grownup" who is as mature on the inside as he or she appears to be on the outside. But even if we don't admit it, sometimes adults still feel nervous, and scared, and embarrassed, and even just plain silly. Personally, just because I don't lean over and tickle the person next to me at a meeting, doesn't mean that I never have the urge.

What would you say if someone asked you, "How can I become an author?" I would say, 1) read, read, read, read; 2) write, write, write, write; 3) rewrite, rewrite, rewrite, rewrite; 4) and love what you're doing.

Are you funny in real life, like you are when you are writing Junie B.? I'm not sure my family thinks I'm as funny as I do. But I'm pretty sure they're wrong.

Meet the Playwright:

Allison Gregory

The following questions and answers are excerpted from interviews with Ms. Gregory.

What is your favorite part of the playwriting process? What is most challenging? I'm always excited about starting a new play. Creating a new world with fresh characters is a thrill because I get to make up the rules! I choose when and why they say what they say or do what they do, and the consequences.

When was the first time you heard about Junie B. Jones? What sparked the initiative to adapt the stories into plays? I was approached by the artistic director of a theatre, asking me if I knew the books. I'd never heard of them, so I went right out to the bookstore and asked the salesman if he'd ever heard of a book series about a kid named Junie B. He didn't say a word. He just pointed to something behind me. So I turned around and there was a life size cut-out of Junie B. Jones in living color, along with shelves and shelves of books with her name on them. That was my intro.

Why is it important for children to experience live professional theatre? Theatre is NOW; it's something that happens in real time as we're actually watching it. That's incredibly radical in this age of electronic everything. Theatre creates community by the very fact that we have to be there for it to happen; theatre needs witnesses; it requires an audience, it ask more of us than TV or film or videos. And it gives us more in terms of experience, empathy, and humanity.

SHOPPING SPREE

Congratulations! Just like Junie B., you have ten whole dollars to spend on gifts for your family. You have to spend all ten dollars without going over. Can you do it?

$1 TABLE

Bookmark
Candy bar
Coloring book
Tattoos (dinosaurs, dragons, kitty cats, pirates or swamp animals)

$2 TABLE

Crayons
Headband
Puzzle eraser
Toy car

$3 TABLE

Coffee mug
Fidget spinner
Glow in the dark barrettes
Scented markers

$4 TABLE

Doll
Picture frame
Slime kit
Stationery set

$5 TABLE

Headphones
Pony figurine
Squeeze-A-Burp
Superhero action figure

GIFT LIST

List what you would like to buy and add them up. Did you get ten dollars? Try different combinations to perfect your adding skills.

	$
	$
	$
	$
	$
	$
	$
	$
	$
	$
TOTAL:	$

>> **Make your own Burp Bottle!** Use the link to download instructions. As always, make sure an adult is with you whenever you are online. They can help you make your Burp Bottle, too!

Indigenous People's Day and Columbus Day

In this play, Junie B. and her classmates put on a Columbus Day play (presented in a flashback). Columbus Day, on the second Monday in October, was traditionally set aside to learn about Italian explorer, Christopher Columbus. In 2018, Governor Kim Reynolds issued a proclamation declaring that the second Monday in October will also be acknowledged as Indigenous People's Day in Iowa.

The proclamation read as follows:
"This day recognizes the land now known as the State of Iowa, named in recognition of the Iowa Tribe, as well as the language used to identify many of our lakes, rivers, cities, counties, schools, buildings and considerably more, and reflects the inherent imprint of Indigenous Peoples," said the Iowa Department of Human Rights in a statement at the time. "This land has been home to Indigenous People since time immemorial, and without whom, the building of this state would not have been possible."

Did you know that "Iowa" is a Siouan word? Over the past centuries, many Native American tribes, including the Ioway, Omaha, Sioux, Illini, Missouria, Potawatomi, and Otoe (among many others), have lived on the land that is now the state of Iowa. Do any of these names sound familiar to you? Many places in Iowa are named after Native American names, such as Maquoketa (bear river), Keosauqua (the bend in the river), and Wapello (the prince). Look at a map of Iowa and see how many other Native American words and names you can locate and translate.

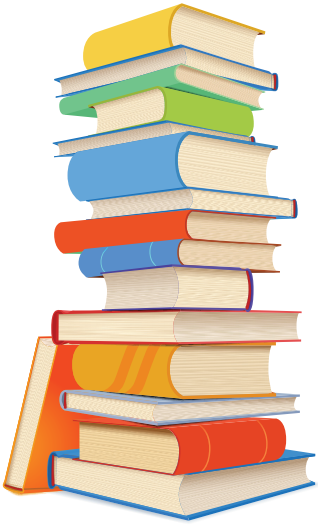
As of today, there is only one federally recognized Native American tribe in Iowa, the Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi. Their tribal name is Meskwaki. (Red Earth People).

>> **Learn more about the Meskwaki tribe here.**

READ IT!

Here are some great children's books, all written by Native American authors:

- ***At the Mountain's Base*** by Traci Sorrell
- ***Bowwow Powwow*** by Brenda J. Child
- ***A Boy Called Slow*** by Joseph Bruchac
- ***Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story*** by Kevin Noble Maillard
- ***Hiawatha and the Peacemaker*** by Robbie Robertson
- ***Sisters of the Neverse***a by Cynthia L. Smith
- ***We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga*** by Traci Sorrell
- ***We Are Water Protectors*** by Carole Lindstrom
- ***When We Were Alone*** by David Robertson



THINK ABOUT IT!

Discussion Questions for fans of Junie B. Jones

Junie B. is not allowed to use the word "hate" in Mrs. Scary's room. What other words could she use to describe that feeling instead?

Mrs. Scary tells Junie B. that if she does something nice for May she'll feel proud inside. She says, "It will feel like a gift you've given yourself." Tell about a time you helped someone when you didn't have to. How did it make you feel?

Junie B. tells the story of what happened by writing in her journal. What do you think May would write if she were to tell what happened in her journal? Think of ways in which it would be the same and way in which it would be different.

Junie B. and May have a hard time getting along. Why do you think that is? Do you think they will ever be friends? Why or why not?

May and Mrs. Scary have three rules about tattling. Do you think they are good rules? What rules would you make? Is it ever okay to tattle on someone?

When a book is adapted into a play, often the playwright has to change things to make them work in the play. Read the Junie B. Jones books Jingle Bells, Batman Smells! (P.S. So Does May.) and Shipwrecked after watching the play. Think about what is different and the same between the play and the books. Are the characters the same? What about the story?

BONUS QUESTIONS:
Which job would you like to have in this production: actor, director, backstage crew, or designer? What skills would you need to do this job? What would be easy for you? What would be the hardest of the job?

JUNIE B. JONES–THE "B" STANDS FOR BEATRICE
(BUT THAT'S NOT ALL)

May has a hard time remembering Junie's middle initial, B, which stands for Beatrice. What other words start with b? Make your lists! See our hints to help you get started.

Once you've made your lists of "B" words, try a fun acting activity. Take one thing from each list and create a short scene or monologue using all four of them. Perform it for (or with) your family!

ANIMALS THAT START WITH B
Barracuda

FOODS THAT START WITH B
Butter

PLACES THAT START WITH B
Boise, Idaho

NAMES THAT START WITH B
Beatrice

Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!

CAST AUTOGRAPHS

Ruth Christie

Emma

>> **Check out this website with a grownup** for all kinds of fun word games and activities, a trivia quiz, and a letter from Miss Junie B. herself!