

2017-2018 Season

CATCO IS  
**KIDS!**

# PLAYGUIDE

## MADELINE'S CHRISTMAS

book and lyrics by Jennifer Kirkeby, music by Shirley Mier  
based on the book by Ludwig Bemelmans

**December 8-17, 2017**  
**Shedd Theatre, CPAC, 549 Franklin Ave.**



### The Story

While on their morning walk with Miss Clavel, the twelve little girls in two straight lines come down with the flu, and as they take to their beds, many wonder if they will be able to go home for Christmas. When a mysterious stranger arrives, Madeline and her friends get a holiday adventure beyond their wildest dreams and certainly one that they will never forget. This musical, adapted from Ludwig Bemelmans's delightful book, is a holiday treat for the whole family.



### About the Writer: Jennifer Kirkeby



Jennifer Kirkeby is an actor, director, playwright, and teaching artist. Her plays have received positive reception and have won numerous awards. Apart from *Madeline's Christmas*, she is also known for adapting stage versions of *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*, *If you Give a Moose a Muffin*, and *Llama Llama Red Pajama*.



### About the Composer: Shirley Mier



Shirley Mier is a composer, music director, and music educator. She has written music in theatrical, educational, and concert settings. Not only has she composed music for productions of Shakespeare and Greek tragedies, but also, she is the composer of the music in *Madeline's Christmas*.



### About the Author and Illustrator: Ludwig Bemelmans



Ludwig Bemelmans was born on April 27, 1898 in Meran, Austria (now Merano, Italy). As a child, he learned both French and German. In his youth, he immigrated to the United States and even served in the United States military. In 1918, he became naturalized as an American citizen. During the 1920s, Bemelmans worked in hotels and tried to earn a living as an artist and painter. It wasn't until the late 1930s that Bemelmans wrote the first *Madeline* book. He had written and published children's books before then, but the *Madeline* books are his most cherished. It is rumored that Bemelmans got his inspiration to write *Madeline* when he was in a French hospital from a bicycle accident. He was intrigued by the outfits that the sisters who tended patients wore, and there was a little girl in the room next to his who had her appendix out. A year later, he drafted the first *Madeline* story. Not only did Bemelmans write the books, but he also illustrated them.

# BEFORE THE SHOW



## Curriculum Connections

You can use this Playguide and your visit to CATCO is Kids to help your students meet the curriculum standards required in schools by the Ohio Department of Education and the Common Core State Standards Initiative. Look throughout our Playguide for the icon and you will find academic standards that correspond with the different activities listed.

Curriculum Connection



## Activities

Curriculum Connection

**Drama/Theatre Kindergarten**  
Cognitive and Creative Learning Processes: Producing/Performing 1PR

- With a family member, read *Madeline's Christmas*. You can always find the book at your local library. Talk with your family member about who all of the characters in the story are. What do they say? How do they act? Is there a certain way they feel? As you talk about who the characters are create a pose, voice, and emotion for each character based on how they act in the story. Perform your poses, voices, and emotions for another family member.



*Imitate movements, voices and feelings of people, animals and objects through dramatic play.*

- In *Madeline's Christmas*, one thing leads to another, and the choices that characters make lead to different events in the story. We call this cause and effect. Make a list of all the things that happen in the book *Madeline's Christmas*. Did each thing happen because something else happened first? Put all of the events in order based on how each event led to the next. Talk about each event and the characters' consequences with a family member.



Curriculum Connection

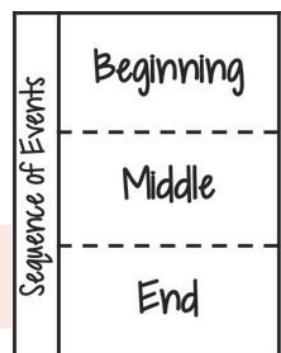
**Drama/Theatre Grade 1**  
Cognitive and Creative Learning Processes: Responding/Reflecting 4RE

*Describe the consequences of a character's decisions and actions in a story or play.*

Curriculum Connection

**Drama/Theatre Grade 2**  
Cognitive and Creative Learning Processes: Creating 1CE

- With a parent or guardian, take a trip to the local library. Find a Madeline book in the juvenile section and read it with a family member. Who are the characters in the story? Where does the story take place? Can you list all of the events that happen in the story? Use the answers to these questions to create your own play based on the Madeline book you borrowed. How do you think your play will be similar to or different than this play?



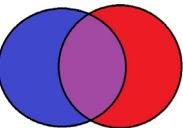
*Describe the characters, setting, central ideas and plot in stories or dramatic and theatrical works.*

# AFTER THE SHOW



## Activities

- After seeing, CATCO's production of *Madeline's Christmas*, go to the library with a parent or guardian and borrow *Madeline's Christmas* and another book in the Madeline series by Ludwig Bemelmans. Read the books with a family member, taking as much time as you need. After finishing the book, think about the play and the book. Create a Venn diagram of what was different and similar in the play and book. Create another Venn diagram comparing the two Madeline books to each other. How were the stories different? How were they the same? Share your thoughts with a family member or friend.



Curriculum Connection

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.9

*Compare and contrast the themes, settings, and plots of stories written by the same author about the same or similar characters (e.g., in books from a series).*



- Madeline's Christmas* is set in Paris, France during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. After seeing the show, make a list of everything you remember about the setting of the musical. Also, write a list of details about the characters. How do these characters act? How do they treat others? How do they handle problems? After creating your list, act those characters out for a family member or peer who saw the show with you. After acting out the characters, think about how the characters are examples of their time period and location. How do you think the characters would be different if the musical were set in 2017? Share your thoughts with a family member or peer.

Curriculum Connection

Drama/Theatre Grade 4

Cognitive and Creative Processes: Creating 3CE

*Explain how certain characters reflect time periods and cultures.*

- Now that you have seen *Madeline's Christmas* at CATCO is Kids, think about your favorite scene from the musical. Make a list of the events that happen in the scene, what characters are present, and if there is a problem in the scene that the characters are trying to solve. After writing down the details of the scene, use your list to rewrite the scene how you think it should be. Create dialogue for the characters, stage directions for the actions, and be sure to include other important details needed for the scene to make sense as part of a larger story. How was your scene different than or similar to the one from the performance at CATCO is Kids? You can always borrow the book *Madeline's Christmas* from the library to help you create your scene as well. Rehearse the scene and perform it with friends or family for an audience of your peers.



Curriculum Connection

Drama/Theatre Grade 5

Cognitive and Creative Processes: Producing/Performing 3PR

*Write a scripted scene that includes stage direction prompts and provides exposition, consistent point of view, sensory details, and dialogue*

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# FUN FACTS ABOUT FRANCE



## Fun Facts



- France is located on the continent of Europe. Its capital city is Paris.
- The official language of France is French, which is the second most studied language after English.
- The Alps mountain range runs between France and Italy. It is home to Mont Blanc, France's highest mountain.
- France is the most visited country in the world. Over 80 million people visit every year.
- The “Mona Lisa” painting is on display in France in the Louvre, the world's most visited art museum.
- The Eiffel Tower was built in 1889.
- The Millau Bridge is France's tallest structure.
- France was the second country to host the modern Olympic Games in 1900. Since then, they have hosted multiple times.
- France is home to the French Open, one of professional tennis' four grand slam events.
- France is known for many foods like bread, cheese, pastries, and fruit.
- The French flag's colors are blue, white, and red.
- The Tour de France is the world's most famous bicycle race. It was started back in 1903!



Sources: [www.kids-world-travel-guide.com/france-facts.html](http://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com/france-facts.html) • <http://easyscienceforkids.com/all-about-france>  
<http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/countries/france.html>



## Phonate in French

Several characters in *Madeline's Christmas* speak French throughout the musical. Below is a guide to some of the words and phrases you will hear in this show. There is a guide for each word in parenthesis. When you see a 'Z' and an 'H' together, they make a soft 'J' sound.

**Merci** (Mare-see) – “Thank you”

**Oui** (Wee) – “Yes”

**Très Bien** (Tray Be-en) – “Very good”

**Ma petite filles** (Ma puh-teet-fee) – “My little girls”

**Jeunes** (Zhoon)- “Young people.”

**S'il vous plaît** (See voo play) – “Please”

**Monsieur** (Mon-soo-er) – “Gentleman; Mr.”

**Madame** (Meh-dem)- “Madam; Mrs.”

**Bonjour** (Bawn-zhoor) – “Good day”

**Classe** (Clahss) – “Class”

**Comment ca va?** (Como sah vah?) – “How are you?”

**Ça va, et vous?** (Sah vah. Eh voo?) – “Okay. And you?”

**Au revoir** (Ah rev-wahr) – “Goodbye”

**La crème glacée** (La crem glah-seh) – “Ice Cream”

**Paré** (Pah-ray) – “Ready”

**Joyeux Noël** (Zhoy-yoo Noo-el) – “Merry Christmas”

If you want to learn more of the French language, there are lots of apps available for Apple and Android devices!



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# CRAFT CORNER

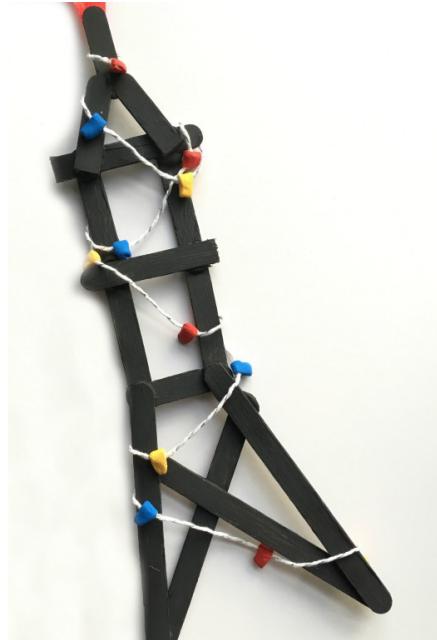


## Eiffel Tower Ornament

In *Madeline's Christmas*, the twelve little girls in two straight lines talk about how beautiful the Eiffel Tower looks for Christmas. Now, you can make your own Eiffel Tower ornament below!

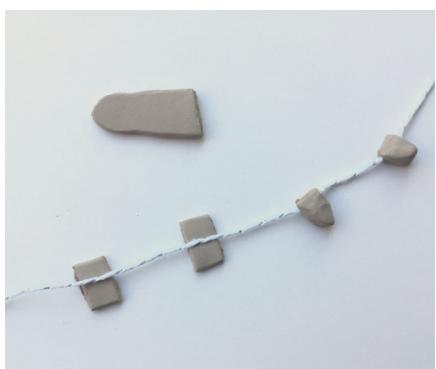
### Supplies needed:

- Craft sticks or popsicle sticks
- Utility knife
- A hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- Acrylic paint (black, red, yellow, blue, and any other colors you want)
- Air-dry clay
- String
- Ribbon



### Directions:

1. Have an adult use the utility knife to cut the craft sticks into various sizes. Cut the sticks into thirds and halves as pictured.
2. Arrange the sticks to look like the picture in Step 1.
3. With an adult's supervision, use the hot-glue gun to glue the sticks together.
4. Once the glue has dried, paint the tower with the black paint and let it dry.
5. Next, take a long length of string and a golf-ball-sized piece of clay. Roll the clay into a snake, then flatten it, and break or cut off pieces of the clay.
6. Wrap these small pieces of clay around the string and shape them into little light bulb shapes.
7. Let the clay light bulbs dry. Once they are dry, paint them with the other colors of paint to make them into beautiful Christmas lights.
8. Let the paint dry.
9. Once the paint is dry, wrap the lights around the Eiffel Tower. Put a drop of glue at the top and use glue here and there to secure the string. When you reach the end, use one last drop of glue.
10. Use ribbon to make a loop at the top of the Eiffel Tower to turn it into a Christmas ornament.



<https://www.kitchencounterchronicle.com/madelines-eiffel-tower-christmas-ornament/>

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