**Main Street Theater**
3400 Main St., Suite 283
Houston, TX 77002
713-524-9196
MainStreetTheater.com

**Field Trip Info**
Length: 60 minutes including talk back with actors

Audio Description is available at all school performances with advance notice. Using a single earpiece connected to an infrared headset, patrons who are blind or have low vision can listen to trained audio describers give live, verbal descriptions of actions, costumes, scenery, and other visual elements of a performance.

The theater is equipped with Listening Technologies to help patrons who require additional audio support in performances. Patrons can request use of an assisted hearing device.
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Welcome to Main Street’s Theater for Youth! We hope these supplemental materials will help you integrate your field trip into your classroom curriculum. We’ve included a number of activities and resources to help broaden your students’ experience. Please make sure that each teacher that will be attending the play has a copy of these materials as they prepare to see the show.

Before you come to the theater, please take some time to talk with your students about what to expect. Going to a live play is an experience unlike any other, and many students are more familiar with going to the movies or sporting events. Please help them prepare for what they’ll see and how they should act.

Here are some things to think about:

- How is a play different from a movie or a television show?
- How is a play different from real life?
- Can the actors see and hear the audience?
- Which of the following is appropriate behavior for a theater audience? Clapping, talking, eating, laughing, running, leaving during the performance.
- Ask students who have seen a play before to talk about what it’s like to be in the audience.

We invite you to have students write letters to the cast of Hello, Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle with their thoughts and comments on the production. All correspondence should be sent to:

SCHOOL BOOKINGS
Main Street Theater
3400 Main St. Suite 283
Houston, Texas 77002

Recent studies prove that integrating the arts into education enhances a student’s development and performance. Students learning through the arts are more able to think at a higher level, collaborate with their peers, and score higher on standardized tests.
Preparing Your Students

How Should I Prepare My Students for a Trip to the Theater?

• Discuss the page on theater etiquette with your students. Remind them that it can get very dark in the theater before the play and in between scenes.

• Make sure your students use the restroom before they leave school or at the theater before the performance. If you get up during the performance, you may miss your favorite part!

• Talk about what kind of show they are coming to see. Hello, Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle is a live theatrical performance. Talk to your students about the difference between a movie and a play. The actors are not on a screen and can hear everything the audience is doing or saying.

• Talk to your students about imagination. People called actors perform in the play. They pretend to be the people in the story. Seven grown-up actors perform in Holes. Watch and see how they use their voices and bodies to become the characters.

• After the performance, the actors will remain on stage and answer questions that the students may have. Discuss with your students what a question is. While the actors love to hear what a good time the students had or what part they like the best, they LOVE to answer questions about the show, the book, or being an actor. Don’t forget to raise your hand!
Putting On A Play

It takes many years of preparation before you see a show at our theater. Many, many people work to put all the parts of a play together. The play you’re seeing today comes from the book Hello, Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle, written by author Betty MacDonald and adapted for the stage by playwright and composer Chad Henry.

About a year before MST’s production, the producer contacted the licensing agency about the rights to perform the play. Once the agency agreed, the production team was assembled. The production team is the group of people directly responsible for how a play looks and sounds.

The director is the person who makes the decisions about who is in the play, how the play looks, and what themes are emphasized to the audience. S/he works with the designers to establish the concept (or mood & themes) of the play. The director also hires the actors to play the parts in the show. Once rehearsals begin the director conveys the concept to the actors by giving them directions on their character development and by blocking their movements.

The set designer creates the world that is seen when you enter the theater. S/he decides whether there will be real furniture or pretend furniture (such as cubes or chairs). The set designer decides where all of the different locations will be on the stage. The designer drafts diagrams so the carpenters can build the set. S/he also comes back once the set is built to paint everything.

The costume designer is the person who chooses what clothes the actors will wear to represent the concept of the play. The designer will sometimes shop for clothing or may build some costumes from scratch. S/he works closely with the actors to make sure that all of the clothing fits and feels comfortable. S/he also works with the set designer to make sure that the actors’ clothing will not clash with the colors on the set.

The props designer is the person who provides all of the handheld items used by the actors during the play. This person either buys or builds everything that the actors might need to convey the story. The sound designer creates or selects all of the sound effects and music for the play.

The sound designer creates the noises that are heard when someone rings a doorbell, a dog barks offstage, or a telephone rings. The sound designer can also create music pieces to aid in setting the theme or the mood of the play.

The lighting designer decides how stage lighting will help tell the story. How can the color of lights complement the costumes and sets? Does the play require a scene at night? S/he will also decide when the lights should go out to cover up a scene change or when they should stay on.

The actors are the people who perform the play. They are real people who are pretending to be the different characters in the story. Actors are trained to play old people, young people and sometimes even animals. It’s their job to tell the story to the audience.

The audience is part of the play too! Without someone to hear the story, there would be no reason to tell it. The actors want to get the audience to care about the characters, to laugh and cry, and applaud when the play is over.
About the Show

Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle lives in an upside-down house with her parrot, Penelope. The children in her neighborhood visit with Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle to tell her about all of the chores their parents are making them work on. Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle listens to each of their problems and shows them just how much fun it can be to do their chores, if they just change their point of view. Washing the dishes, mowing the lawn, taking out the trash, and more! All of these things can be fun if you use your imagination and sprinkle in a little “magic”.

About the Author

Betty MacDonald’s very first book, The Egg and I, was on the National Bestseller List in 1945 and was translated into more than 30 languages and made into a series of popular movies. Her book was based on her life on a chicken farm and featured the characters Ma and Pa Kettle. MacDonald then published 3 other semi-autobiographical books, as well as the Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle series of children’s books and another children’s book, Nancy and Plum.

About the Playwright

Chad Henry is a playwright who has written many plays, as well as the music and lyrics for more than 25 musicals. Chad has written quite a few plays for youth, including Goodnight Moon, Doctor Dolittle in the Moon, Jack and the Beanstalk, and many others. The longest running musical in Seattle history, Angry Housewives, was written by Chad and has been put on in the United States, Europe, Asia, Canada, and Australia. Chad has worked as both an actor and playwright/composer for many theaters.
**Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle** — A woman who lives in an upside down house in an interesting neighborhood filled with many children who have bad habits. She teaches the children how to make chores fun with a little bit of “magic”.

**Mary O’Toole** — A young girl who runs away from home because her mother makes her wash dishes all of the time.

**Penelope** — Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle’s parrot

**Witch** — A witch in Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle’s story about who captures a princess and makes her wash every dish before the clock strikes 13.

**Fetlock** — A boy who hates taking out the trash. Has to plant tulips to replace the ones he roller-skated over in Mrs. Mallet’s yard.

**Patsy** — A girl who does not like to mow the lawn.

**Mrs. Popover** — Patsy’s mom.

**Mr. Popover** — Patsy’s dad.

**Mrs. Broomrack** — The mother of a young girl named Prunella who invented her own line of bath accessories.

**Evelyn** — A young girl with “Answer-Backeritis”.

**Mr. Crackle** — Evelyn’s dad.

**Mr. Brown** — Christopher Brown’s dad.

**Christopher Brown** — A boy with very bad table manners.

**Dick Semicolon** — A young boy who struggles to make a neat bed. Friends with Christopher Brown.

**Lester the Pig** — Lester is a pig sent to help Christopher Brown with his table manners.

**Jimmy Gopher** — A boy in Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle’s neighborhood.

**Forrest** — A young boy who is very afraid of the dark.

**Mr. Jackstraw** — Forrest’s dad.

**Mrs. Jackstraw** — Forrest’s mom.

**Jeremy** — Forrest’s brother.

**Friendly the Dog** — A big black dog that Jeremy brings home.

**Monster** — The monster in Forrest’s closet.

**Sharon Rogers** — A young girl who is very clumsy.

**Mr. Rogers** — Sharon’s dad.

**Mrs. Rogers** — Sharon’s mom.

**Mrs. Crankminor** — Wife of Mr. Roger’s boss. She is a very rich woman.

**Dads I, II, and III** — A group of dads who look back on what it was like to be a kid when they were young.

**Harbin Quadrangle** — A boy who hates washing the dog and has a habit of moving very slow.

**Mrs. Quadrangle** — Harbin and Sylvia’s mom.

**Mr. Quadrangle** — Harbin and Sylvia’s dad.

**Sylvia** — Harbin’s sister.

**Pirates** — Pirates fighting in Harbin’s daydream.
Vocabulary

Accordion — A musical wind instrument.
Banal — Very unoriginal. Boring.
Blackthorn — A thorny shrub with white flowers and blue-black fruit.
Bubonic Plague — A very contagious disease.
Cavalcade — A formal group of people moving together as a parade or march.
Contrary — Doing the opposite of what is expected.
Elegant — Graceful or luxurious style.
Elocution — Clear and distinct pronunciation and articulation.
Establish — To set up something more permanently.
Etiquette — A customary set of polite behaviors expected within society or a group.
Excruciating — Incredibly painful or agonizing.
Exotic — Coming from or characteristic of a distant foreign country.
Feeble — Weak, especially due to age or illness.
Geraniums — A type of plant or small shrub.
Hark — To listen.
Heedless — Being reckless or not taking notice.
Hemisphere — A division of the Earth into northern and southern halves of the equator.
Hollow — Having a hole or empty space inside.
Hues — A shade or color.
Inspects — To look closely at something to see that it meets a certain standard.
Instilled — To firmly establish an idea or attitude that is typically desirable in a person’s mind.
Inundated — Someone being overwhelmed with things or people needing to be dealt with.
Vocabulary

Manure — Animal droppings.
Muddle — To become disordered, confusing, or disorganized.
Nourishment — The food needed to grow and be healthy.
Provoke — To purposefully make someone angry or annoyed.
Puny — Small and weak.
Radish — A plant from the cabbage family that can be eaten.
Recklessness — Not caring about danger or consequences of your actions.
Repent — To feel or show regret for what you have done wrong.
Repulsive — Disgusting or incredibly distasteful.
Servant — Someone required to work for someone in the home.
Shimmering — Shining with a very bright light.
Starch — To stiffen clothes or fabrics with starch.
Tremendous — Very large or very impressive.
Wallow — To remain helpless.
Watercress — A type of leaves in the water.
Yonder — At a short distance away and usually within sight.
Zodiac — The band of sky where the sun, moon, and most of the planets move. It is divided into 12 parts, each named for a nearby constellation.
Discussion Questions

• Is Mary’s mother mean for making her wash the dishes?
• How does Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle help Mary make her chores more fun?
• Why does Fetlock have to plant tulips in Mrs. Mallet’s garden?
• What do Mr. and Mrs. Popover do to try and get Patsy to take a bath? Does it work?
• Why does Mr. Crackle make Evelyn walk home?
• How does having Penelope in the Crackle home help Evelyn with her talking back?
• Why is Mr. Brown so worried about Christopher’s table manners?
• What are table manners and why are they important?
• How does Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle help with Christopher’s bad table manners?
• Why does Forrest want his bedroom door kept open at night?
• Is there really a monster in Forrest’s bedroom?
• How does Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle help Forrest with his fear of the dark?
• Does Sharon break things in her home on purpose?
• How does Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle help Sharon?
• Why are Harbin’s parents upset with him?
• Does Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle help to stop Harbin’s daydreaming?
• What lesson does Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle teach to the Quadrangle family?
English Language Activities

**Change Your Point of View Activity**

- Print out a class set of the Change Your Point of View Activity Sheet.
- Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle teaches the kids that anything can be fun if you change your point of view.
- Once the students have filled out the activity sheet, have them share with the class.

**Rhyme Time Activity**

- Print a class set of the Rhyme Time Activity Sheet.
- Rhyming is used to teach many of the lessons in Hello Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle. Have students complete the rhyming activities and see if they can come up with a rhyme of their own.
  - For younger grades, you might write some rhyming words on the blackboard to help get them started.
  - For older grades, you might ask them to include other techniques, such as alliteration, similes, metaphors, etc.

**Contractions Activity**

- Print a class set of the Contractions Activity Sheet.
- Have students read the quotes from the play and write the words that each of the underlined contractions stand for.

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**Curriculum Standards: English Language**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Standards</th>
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<tr>
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<td>1</td>
<td>ELA 110.12.b.18, 21, &amp; 22, 4-ELA 110.15.b.16, 21, &amp; 22</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>ELA 110.13.b.18, 22, &amp; 23, 5-ELA 110.16.b.16, 21, &amp; 22</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
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</tr>
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<td>4</td>
<td>ELA 110.15.b.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>ELA 110.16.b.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle teaches the kids that anything can be fun if you change your point of view. Write about a chore or activity that you really do not like to do. What are some ways that you could make this activity more fun? Think of at least 5 ways to make your activity or chore more exciting.

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__________________________________________________________________________
Rhyming is used to teach many of the lessons in Hello Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle. Complete the activities below and you can be a rhyming pro!

Circle the words in each row that rhyme with the word in the box.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drink</th>
<th>Think</th>
<th>Wind</th>
<th>Thing</th>
<th>Sink</th>
<th>Link</th>
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<td>Talk</td>
<td>Hawk</td>
<td>Duck</td>
<td>Lock</td>
<td>Mock</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cave</td>
<td>Save</td>
<td>Have</td>
<td>Wave</td>
<td>Brave</td>
<td>Gave</td>
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<tr>
<td>Word</td>
<td>Cord</td>
<td>Bird</td>
<td>Heard</td>
<td>Chord</td>
<td>Heart</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For this activity, see if you can come up with the words that rhyme with the word in the box.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cat</th>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Map</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tan</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Now see if you can use your rhyming skills to come up with a short poem. Write your own sentence on each of the lines below. Be sure that the last word in line 2 and line 4 rhymes with the last word from the sentence above it.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
In the beginning of the play, the kids sing, “When the rain comes down and you’re all in a muddle, fight that frown, go and look in a puddle. You’ll see a face smiling back at you like magic…”

The words “you’re” and “you’ll” are examples of contractions. A contraction is when a word or group of words are shortened by leaving out some letters or sounds.

Read each of the sentences and from the play and write the words that each of the underlined contractions stand for.

| “You’ll see a face smiling back at you like magic.” | you will |
| “Oh, dear. Look at you! You’re soaking wet.” | |
| “I couldn’t cook in an upside down stove, or wash dishes in an upside down sink!” | |
| “Glad you don’t have to do what he done…” | |
| “Now, I’ve just brought over a little something for Sharon.” | |
| “Concerned isn’t the word.” | |
| “We’re planning to take drastic measures!” | |
| “I just can’t get them smooth enough to suit my mother.” | |
| “My mom said that’s on account of my tremendous brain sucks all the nourishment right outta my body.” | |
| “See how they’re all kind of wrinkly here?” | |
| “The only visitors I get are children, and dirt doesn’t frighten them.” | |
| “Here, I’ll get it.” | |
Math Activities

Too Many Dishes Activity

- Print a class set of the Too Many Dishes Activity.
- Mary does not like to wash the dishes. Help Mary do the math to see how much longer it will take her to do the dishes.

Curriculum Standards: Mathematics

K-111.2.b.1
1-111.3.b.1
2-111.4.b.1
3-111.5.b.1
4-111.6.b.1
5-111.7.b.1
Mary does not like to wash the dishes. Help Mary do the math to see how much longer it will take her to do the dishes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cup</td>
<td>1 minute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 plate</td>
<td>2 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 bowl</td>
<td>3 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pan</td>
<td>5 minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. How long would it take Mary to finish if she has 1 bowl, 1 cup, and 1 pan to wash?

2. There are 3 plates, 1 cup, and 1 pan in the sink. If Mary’s mom offers to wash the pan for her, how long will it take her to finish the rest of the dishes?

3. Mary has to finish the dishes before riding her bike. There are 2 cups, 2 plates, and 1 pan in the sink. How long will it be until she can go ride her bike?

4. Mary and her parents just finished eating dinner. How long will it take Mary to wash 3 bowls, 3 cups, and 3 plates?
Polymer Activity: Slime!

- Print a class set of the Polymer Activity.
- Have a class discussion about the activity and about polymers.
- Possible questions to ask
  - How do you think slime is made?
  - What happened to the slime when you added the borax?
  - How else could we add to the slime to make it better?
  - What happens to the slime when it is in your hand?
  - What happens when you put the slime into a container?
  - Can you stretch the slime?
  - What happens if you pull the slime apart too quickly?
  - See who can stretch their slime the farthest.
  - What is a practical use for slime?
  - Have students add more or less water and ask what happens to the slime.
  - Does your slime bounce?

Curriculum Standards: Social Studies

K—112.11.b.2
1—112.12.b.2
2—112.13.b.2
3—112.14.b.2
4—112.15.b.2
5—112.16.b.2
**Polymers: Slime**

**Materials Needed:**
- Water
- White glue
- Borax
- 2 containers
- Food coloring (optional)

1. Mix 1 teaspoon borax in 1 cup water. Stir until borax is dissolved.
2. In a separate container, mix 1/2 cup (4 oz.) white glue with 1/2 cup water.
3. Add food coloring (optional).
4. Combine the two containers. Stir into each other. Your slime will start to polymerize instantly.
5. Try to mix as much as you can. Stirring will become difficult. Finish mixing by hand, if needed. There may be water left over in the bowl.
6. The slime will start as a very flexible polymer. You can stretch it and it will easily flow from your hands. As you mix it, the slime will become more like a thicker putty that can be temporarily shaped and molded.

**Tips:**
1. Do not eat the slime or leave on top of areas that can be stained.
2. Store slime in a Ziploc bag so it will not evaporate.
3. Store slime in the fridge to prevent mold from growing.

- Glue has long flexible molecules in it that are called polymers.
- Polymers are both a solid and a liquid. Tiny little molecules chain together to make the item hold its shape and then it can be altered. Slime is a unique polymer as it has qualities of both a solid and a liquid. It can take the shape of its containers like a liquid, but you can also hold it in your hand and pick it up like a solid.
- More examples of polymers: Jell-O, rubber bands, sneaker soles, and gum.
Spreading Diseases Activity

- Have a class discussion about the ways that germs can spread. Talk about how germs spread through coughing, how to cover your mouth when you cough and sneeze, proper hand washing or using hand sanitizer, spraying or wiping down your desk to avoid germs, etc. Discuss how illness and diseases can spread. This lesson can be customized for higher grade levels with more in depth information about diseases.

Activity:
1. Tell the students that in this game they will walk around and shake hands at random with their fellow classmates. One person will secretly be the one pretending to be infected with the flu. They will be instructed to squeeze the hands of their classmates when they shake hands.
2. Have the students close their eyes and tap one student on the shoulder. This student will be the one to pretend they are infected by a disease.
3. After the student has been selected, they will open their eyes and walk around the room shaking hands.
4. Once a student’s hand has been squeezed, they are now infected and must squeeze others hands as they walk around.
5. After time has passed, stop the game and have the students who have been infected raise their hands.
6. Relate this game back to the discussion on the spread of illnesses. Talk about public places where washing hands is extra important. You might also discuss spread of illness through animals.

Curriculum Standards: Science
K—115.2.b.1, 6  3—115.5.b.3
1—115.3.b.7  4—115.6.b.5
2—115.4.b.4  5—115.7.b.4

Be Nice to Others Activity

- Print a class set of the Be Nice to Others Activity
- You can choose to discuss bullying and then have students complete the activity, or you can work on the activity and then discuss bullying and the appropriate ways to handle conflict.

Curriculum Standards: Science
K—115.2.b.8-10  3—115.5.b.9-11
1—115.3.b.9-11  4—115.6.b.9-12
2—115.4.b.9-12  5—115.7.b.10
Penelope teaches Evelyn that if you are mean and rude to other people they will probably be mean and rude to you. If you want other people to be nice to you, you have to be nice to them. It is very important to be a good friend and to treat other people the way that you want to be treated.

What are some examples of a good friend?


What should you do if someone is being mean to another person?


What does it mean to be a bully?


Who are some adults that you trust to get help in solving a problem with a bully?


If someone is being mean to you, should you be mean to them?


If someone is being mean to you, what are some ways to solve the problem without being mean to them?


Magic Potion Recipe

Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle loves using magic to make each situation a little better. Having a bad day?
Try this yummy magic potion recipe at home for a group of family or friends.

Ingredients:

- 1 quart sherbet (lime or whatever you prefer)
- 1 liter bottle of ginger ale or a lime soda
- ½ can (23 oz.) pineapple juice
- ½ (2 oz.) jar maraschino cherries, drained (optional)
- ½ lemon - sliced (optional)
- ½ lime - sliced (optional)
- Punch bowl

Steps:

1. Scoop lime sherbet into your punch bowl and pour the soda and pineapple juice on top. Stir it up well.
2. Stir in the maraschino cherries and float lemon and lime slices on top of the punch. (optional)
3. Enjoy!
More Like Hello Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle

**The Boy and the Spell** by Pegi Deitz Shea

When Thomas is frustrated with his math problems, he throws a big tantrum and destroys many of his things. His favorite armchair has had enough with Thomas' behavior and sends him to a strange land where Thomas meets the objects that he has just broken.

**Old Turtle: Questions of the Heart** by Douglas Wood

When the people of the community have deep questions about the purpose of life, why we are here, or finding happiness, they visit the Old Turtle, and she answers their questions using her wisdom and compassion.

**Charlie and the Chocolate Factory** by Roald Dahl

Five very lucky children find a golden ticket in their chocolate bar, which means they get to visit Mr. Willy Wonka’s chocolate factory. They get to see the mysterious machines used to create the world’s most delicious candy. Each child will learn a lesson or two along the way as they witness the amazing wonders inside the shop.

**Sideways Stories from Wayside School** by Louis Sachar

Hilarious stories from the classroom on the thirtieth floor of Wayside School. The school was accidentally built sideways with one classroom on each story.
Further Reading

Books About Magic

**Wandmaker** by Ed Masessa

Henry Leach comes from a long line of wandmakers, but he has still not been able to make a wand that works. While he struggles to get his wand to work, he is also having to handle a bully at school and his eight-year-old sister who keeps getting in his way.

**The Box and the Dragonfly** by Ted Sanders

Horace and Chloe end up in a secret and ancient society. When Horace finds the Box of Promises in a shop, he soon discovers that ordinary objects can hold extraordinary power. Armed with the box and wearing a dragonfly pendant, the two must protect the devices from the evil Riven.

**Tara Duncan and the Spellbinders** by Sophie Audouin-Mamikonian

Tara finds out that she belongs to an elite group of spellbinders. She must travel to OtherWorld to try and save her mother and learn more about her own magical powers.

**A Clatter of Jars** by Lisa Graff

A group of children go off to a camp for kids with magical talents. Little do they know, the camp director has brought them all together for a very specific reasons that he wants to keep hidden, no matter the cost.