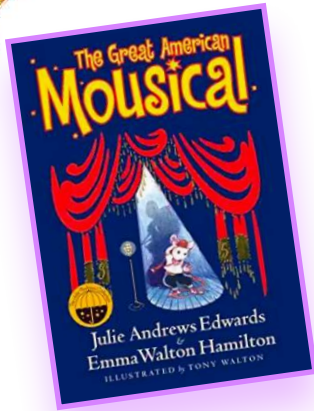


# CATCH a spark!

## Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY



### The Great American Mousical

Written by Julie Andrews Edwards & Emma Walton Hamilton  
160 pages / Grades 2-5

Beneath a famous theatre on Broadway in New York City, sits another theatre. The architect's model, long forgotten, has become a secret space and home for a band of theatre mice busily preparing for their own show. Their show is threatened when the main theatre is set to be demolished and their star disappears. A fast-paced fun tribute to the world of the theatre, with lovable characters and an adventure with many twists and turns.

#### C

##### Context

A journey through **musical theatre history**. Characters are all named after theatre legends and characters.

**Rich and vibrant vocabulary**, including many references to Shakespeare's writing.

**Conservation of historic buildings** and city landmarks.

Story features that help readers such as character lists, chapter titles and glossaries.

There is an in-depth teacher guide available at [The Julie Andrews Collection](#).

#### A

##### Arts

Along with weaving in theatre history, this is an incredible introduction to the world of **theatre** and all that goes in to **creating a show** from the actors to the designers and technician.

**Theatre terms and vocabulary** are used regularly, with a glossary of terms included at the end of the story. Be sure to take note of the chapter titles as well.

Be sure to read the interview with the authors with your students in the teacher guide cited here.

#### T

##### Themes

Friendship

Determination in the face of adversity

Courage

Teamwork and Collaboration

Resourcefulness

Perseverance

Commitment

Wonder

#### C

##### Create

Explore New York City with a map and track Adelaide's adventure. See if there was an easier route she could have taken.

For older students, challenge them to find as many musical Theatre references as they can. Start with the characters. Through research, see if they can discover who each character was named after, and perhaps why.

Put on a show! Use the mice as your inspiration.

Write a story that puts together many characters from different stories, as was done here.

#### H

##### Heart Words

*"It is amazing what he pulled off tonight....That a mouse, so small, could do something so monumental, for so many."*

*"A superior mouse is modest in speech but exceeds in actions."*

*"Big things are only achieved by attending to small beginnings."*

