Miss Nelson has a Field Day
MEET THE ARTIST // Harry Allard & James Marshall

ABOUT HARRY ALLARD
Harry Allard was born in Evanston, Illinois on January 27th. He grew up in California, Long Island, and Chicago. He graduated from Northwestern College in 1943 and then performed active duty in Korea. He then lived in Paris for several years and became so fluent in the language that he got a master’s degree and then a Ph.D. in French from Yale in 1973. He taught French at the college level for many years.

Upon his arrival in Boston, he met James Marshall, whose art and friendship inspired Allard’s first book, *The Stupids Step Out*. This successful collaboration paved the way for the publication of other Stupids books and the Miss Nelson series. Miss Nelson is Missing was voted one of the most memorable books of the century. He currently lives in Massachusetts and is 91!

ABOUT JAMES MARSHALL
James Marshall was born in San Antonio, Texas where his father worked for the railroad and had a dance band. James Marshall studied to play the viola and intended to have a musical career. Then his hand was injured during an airplane flight and his musical career was finished. He met Harry Allard, with whom he later wrote many picture books, when he was a student at Trinity College. James Marshall taught Spanish in a Catholic school near Boston upon graduation from college.

His first book, *George and Martha*, was inspired by a famous play, “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Wolf” in which the main characters were named George and Martha. For many years he divided his time between an apartment in New York City and his home in Mansfield Hollow, Connecticut. James Marshall died in October, 1992.

CLICK HERE TO WATCH A VIDEO OF JAMES MARSHALL
ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

SHOW DESCRIPTION
Return to Horace B. Smedley School where the Smedley Tornadoes have never won a football game. In fact, they have never even scored a single point! With such a poor record and a team that is out of control, kind-hearted Miss Nelson comes to the rescue when she enlists the help of her alter ego, the ill-tempered Miss Viola Swamp, to coach the team and whip them into shape.

Considered by all to be “the meanest substitute teacher in the whole world,” Coach Swamp applies her trademark discipline to the players’ training, demanding tough exercises and no back talk. In the end, the team changes their attitude, pulls together, sharpens their skills, and manages to win the biggest game of the year.


DALLAS CHILDREN’S THEATER
Dallas Children’s Theater is the largest professional family theater in the Southwest, and has been named one of the top five theaters for youth and families in the United States by AMERICAN THEATER and TIME magazines. Designated as an American Masterpieces Touring Artist by the NEA, the theater’s acclaimed touring company travels coast to coast with professional large-scale productions designed to stir the heart, stretch the mind and promote education. Each touring production is selected and designed with a youth and family audience in mind from titles and materials that reflect the cultural diversity of our world community. They encompass a combination of new plays, familiar stories, literary works, biographies, mythology, folk tales, music, dance, and puppetry.

Dallas Children’s Theater began a local touring program in 1985 with a Native American piece entitled Legend of the Bluebonnet. In 1989, the touring roster expanded to statewide and regional venues. In 1996, DCT launched its first national tour. September 2006 marked DCT’s introduction to the world stage, as the theater was honored with an invitation to perform at the 2006 Shanghai International Children’s Culture and Arts Expo in Shanghai, China.
EXPLORE // Classroom Workshops

**Compare & Contrast**
In this activity, students will compare and contrast character traits of Viola Swamp and Ms. Nelson. After creating a Popsicle stick puppet, students will participate in a class game to decide if the character traits belong to Viola Swamp or Ms. Nelson.

**Analyzing Illustrations**
In this lesson, students will analyze the illustrations of James Marshall. They will discuss emotions and how illustrations communicate different feelings. The lesson will wrap up with students creating their own self-portrait in the style of James Marshall.

**Team Building Exercises**
In this activity, students will participate in three team building exercises. The first activity will have the students work together to untie their human knot, the second activity is Group Shapes, and the third activity is a STEAM challenge to build a football tower.
CONNECT // Perseverance On & Off the Field

**Kid President**
Like the poster project, students can create videos to promote their “Be the Change You Wish to See” idea or “What would you do if you were president”. Just like Kid President, students can come up with multiple reasons and ideas for change. Have students’ direct, edit, and present their videos! [WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

**Kids are Heroes**
In this activity, students will brainstorm and collaborate to create posters on changes that they want to see in the school or in their community. As a team, students will decide on one problem they want to solve and will create a poster for change. Students will learn perseverance and will be the change they want to see, just like the football team in this story. [CHECK THEM OUT](#)

**SIBA Invention Competition**
In this activity, students will practice the engineer process and will create and develop an invention. Enter any idea or invention for a new way to demonstrate an educational concept, an idea for a new product, an improvement for an existing product, a new procedure, or any idea that solves a problem and/or makes life better. This can be simply an idea that is explained and described, an invention that is a prototype, an invention from a school project, or a project from another competition. All ideas are encouraged and a model is not required. [LEARN MORE](#)

**Internet Exploration**
- [Little Miss Flint](#)
- [Children for Children](#)
- [Charmin’s Toilet Paper Donation](#)
**The Most Magnificent Thing by Ashley Spires**
A girl sets out to make the most magnificent thing – it should be easy enough, right? She knows exactly how it will work, all she has to do is make it. But making this most magnificent thing turns out to be anything but easy and she tries and fails repeatedly. Eventually, she gets really mad and decides to quit. But after her dog convinces her to take a walk, the girl comes back to her project with a new perspective and manages to get it just right.

**Malala’s Magic Pencil by Malala Yousafzai**
As a child in Pakistan, Malala made a wish for a magic pencil. She would use it to make everyone happy, to erase the smell of garbage from her city, to sleep an extra hour in the morning. But as she grew older, Malala saw that there were more important things to wish for. She saw a world that needed fixing. And even if she never found a magic pencil, Malala realized that she could still work hard every day to make her wishes come true.

This beautifully illustrated volume tells Malala's story for a younger audience and shows them the worldview that allowed Malala to hold on to hope even in the most difficult of times.
ENHANCE // Learn More

Learn more about the work of Harry Allard & James Marshall work, including *A Fairy Tale Unit*, *George and Martha*, *Bumps in the Night*, and *There's a Party at Mona's*.