

EDUCATION
WORKSHOP

Don't Let
Pigeon
Drive the
Bus



CHARLESTON
GAILLARD
CENTER

MEET THE ARTIST // Mo Willems



ABOUT MO WILLEMS

Mo Willems, the son of Dutch immigrants, grew up in New Orleans. He spent much of his youth telling stories and drawing. During high school, Willems acted in plays and started doing standup routines at comedy clubs. Willems spent the first part of his career writing and animating for children's television. For nine years, he worked on Sesame Street, where he won six Emmy Awards and developed characters such as Suzy Kabloozie. Willems later created Sheep in the Big City for the Cartoon Network and The Off-Beats for Nickelodeon. For five years, Willems tried to write and illustrate children's books. After a number of rejections, Willems' simple doodle of a pigeon attracted the eye of an editor. This pigeon would become the star of his first book, *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!*, which won a Caldecott Honor in 2004. Mo Willems writes and illustrates from his home in Brooklyn, New York, where he lives with his wife and daughter.

ABOUT THE SHOW

Whatever you do, don't let the Pigeon star in his own musical production! It's not easy being the Pigeon—you never get to do ANYTHING! But when the Bus Driver has a crisis that threatens to make her passengers (gasp!) late, maybe that wily bird CAN do something. Starring an innovative mix of actors, puppets, songs, and feathers, *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! (The Musical)* is sure to get everyone's wings flapping.

*A World Premiere Kennedy Center Commission
Written by Mo Willems and Mr. Warburton
Music by Deborah Wicks La Puma
Choreographed by Jessica Hartman
Directed by Jerry Whiddon*

CHECK OUT THESE VIDEOS

[Interview with Mo Willems](#)

[Mo at the Kennedy Center](#)

[Mo on CBS News](#)

Don't Let Pigeon
Drive the Bus

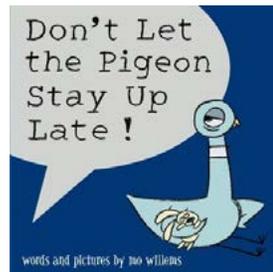
EXPLORE // Classroom Workshops



Illustrate like Mo!

In this activity, students will listen to the story [Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus](#). Students will combine letters, geometric shapes to create a Pigeon, just like Mo. Students will use various art mediums to create a completed work of art. Additional details can be found in the lesson plan document.

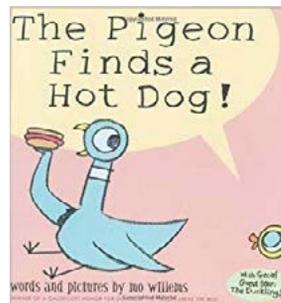
[VIEW LESSON PLAN](#) ▶



Be an Author like Mo!

In this activity, students will listen to the story [Don't Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late](#). Students will explore the roles of author and illustrator and will write and illustrate a front cover for a new Pigeon story. As an extension to this activity, students can write their very own Pigeon story to go with the book cover.

[VIEW LESSON PLAN](#) ▶

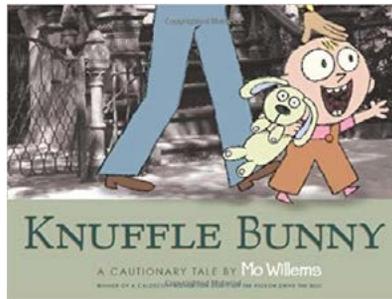


Readers Theater

In this activity, students will listen to the story [The Pigeon Finds a Hot Dog](#). After, students will work in small groups to read various Pigeon scripts. Students will learn to read with expression, fluency, and accuracy.

[VIEW LESSON PLAN](#) ▶

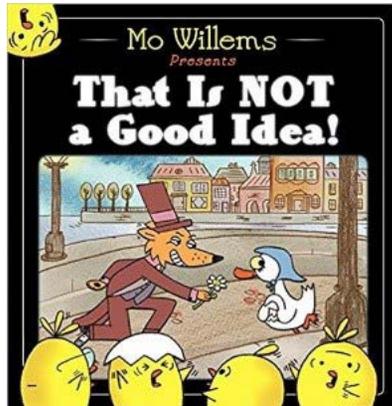
CONNECT // More Mo Willems's Books



***Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale* by Mo Willems**

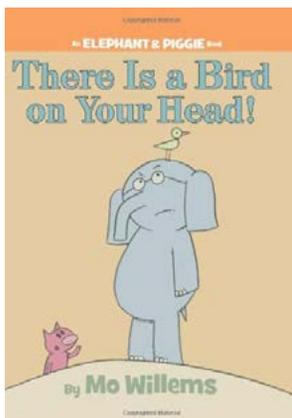
Trixie, Daddy, and Knuffle Bunny take a trip to the neighborhood Laundromat. But the exciting adventure takes a dramatic turn when Trixie realizes somebunny was left behind?

Using a combination of muted black-and-white photographs and expressive illustrations, this stunning book tells a brilliantly true-to-life tale about what happens when Daddy's in charge and things go terribly, hilariously wrong.



***That is NOT a Good Idea!* by Mo Willems**

Inspired by the evil villains and innocent damsels of silent movies, Willems tells the tale of a hungry fox who invites a plump goose to dinner. As with the beloved Pigeon books, kids will be calling out the signature refrain and begging for repeated readings. The funny details in the full-color illustrations by three-time Caldecott Honoree Mo Willems will bring nonstop laughter to story time.



***An Elephant and Piggie Book: There is a Bird on Your Head* by Mo Willems**

Gerald is careful. Piggie is not. Piggie cannot help smiling. Gerald can. Gerald worries so that Piggie does not have to. Gerald and Piggie are best friends.

CHECK OUT THESE VIDEOS

[Cat the Cat](#)

[Make Slop with Mo](#)

Don't Let Pigeon
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ENHANCE // Becoming an Author and Illustrator

WATCH AND LISTEN

[Just Jake: A 12 yr old published author!](#)

[Jeff Kinney's Diary of a Wimpy Kid](#)

GET INVOLVED

[Publish Your Own Classroom Book!](#)

[Scholastic Art and Writing Competition](#)

[Highlights Magazine](#)

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