



# South Coast Repertory

## Theatre for Young Audiences

2016/17 SEASON • JULIANNE ARGYROS STAGE



# TALES OF A FOURTH GRADE NOTHING

based on the book by Judy Blume  
adapted for the stage by Bruce Mason  
directed by Robin Larsen

**May 19 - June 4, 2017**

# WELCOME!

Be sure to check out our website for the *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* study guide, which features additional information about the play, plus a variety of other educational resources.

**SCR.ORG**





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## Theatre for Young Audiences

Julianne Argyros Stage • May 19 - June 4, 2017

presents

# TALES OF A FOURTH GRADE NOTHING

BASED ON THE BOOK BY

**JUDY BLUME**

ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY

**BRUCE MASON**

SET DESIGNER

**SARA RYUNG CLEMENT**

COSTUME DESIGNER

**KATHRYN POPPEN**

LIGHTING DESIGNER

**KARYN LAWRENCE**

SOUND DESIGNER

**JEFF POLUNAS**

PRODUCTION MANAGER

**JACKIE S. HILL**

CASTING

**JOANNE DENAUT, CSA**

STAGE MANAGER

**KATHRYN DAVIES**

DIRECTED BY

**ROBIN LARSEN**

HONORARY PRODUCERS

**PHYLLIS AND LARRY HOGLE & OLIVIA AND ALAN SLUTZKY**

CORPORATE HONORARY PRODUCER

**WELLS  
FARGO**

The Theatre for Young Audiences program is made possible in part by a major grant from

**The Segerstrom Foundation**

Originally commissioned and produced by Seattle Children's Theatre  
Produced by special arrangement with Plays for Young Audiences



# THE CAST

Peter ..... MATTHEW GRONDIN

Fudge .....MICHAEL FAULKNER

Mom, Ms. Vincent.....FRAN DE LEON

Dad, Ralph.....JOSHUA WOLF COLEMAN

Mr. Yarby, Jimmy Fargo, Sam,  
Nurse, Director, Dr. Cone ..... BRAD CULVER

Mrs. Yarby, Sheila Tubman, Jennie,  
Dr. Brown, Janet, Ambulance Driver..... CELESTE DEN

The Actors and Stage Managers employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

## For Your Information

**NO BABES IN ARMS ALLOWED.** Everyone must have a ticket; children under the age of four will not be admitted to Theatre for Young Audiences performances.

To cause the least disruption, SCR patrons who have not entered the theatre when the performance begins will be asked to watch the monitors in the lobby until an appropriate break in the performance. Latecomers, as well as those who leave the theatre anytime during the performance, may be assisted to alternate seats by the House Manager at an appropriate interval and may

take their assigned seats at intermission. SCR accepts no liability for inconvenience.

Special seating arrangements may be made for disabled patrons in advance by calling South Coast Repertory's Ticket Services Department at (714) 708-5555.

As a courtesy to all patrons, please turn off all electronic devices or switch them to non-audible mode before the performance begins.

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this performance is strictly prohibited.



MEDIA PARTNER



# South Coast Repertory

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Development Director

**JOSHUA MARCHESI**  
Production Manager

## These folks are helping run the show backstage

DRAMATURG: Kat Zukaitis

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT: Natalie Figaredo

STUNT CONSULTANT: Richard Soto

COSTUME DESIGN ASSISTANT: Jojo Siu

ASSOCIATE SCENIC DESIGNER: Christopher Scott Murrillo

STAGE MANAGEMENT INTERNS: Jennifer Franco and Elena L. Perez

LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR: Dan Gold

SOUND BOARD OPERATOR: Sam Levey

AUTOMATION OPERATOR: Isaac Jacobs

DRESSER: Jessica Larsen

WIG AND MAKEUP TECHNICIAN: Gillian Woodson

ADDITIONAL COSTUME STAFF: Megan Knowles, Lauren Smith, Sarah Timm



## And these folks helped get it ready for you

### THESE FOLKS BUILT THE SCENERY

Jon Lagerquist, TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

John Gaddis IV, ASSISTANT TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Amanda Horak, MASTER CARPENTER

Alex Johnson, Matt MacCready, SCENIC CARPENTERS

Judy Allen, LEAD SCENIC ARTIST

Jennifer Stringfellow, Christine Salama,  
SCENIC ARTISTS

### THESE PEOPLE CREATED THE PROPS

David Saewert, PROP MASTER/ PROPERTY  
SHOP MANAGER

Byron Bacon, PROPS BUYER

Brianna Catlin, Rachel Bennick, PROPERTIES ARTISANS

### THE FOLLOWING MADE THE COSTUMES

Amy L. Hutto, COSTUME SHOP MANAGER

Laurie Donati, FULL CHARGE COSTUMER

Catherine J. Esera, CUTTER/DRAPER

Laura Caponera, WIG AND MAKEUP SUPERVISOR

Bert Henert, WARDROBE SUPERVISOR

Gillian Woodson, WIG AND MAKEUP TECHNICIAN

### THIS GROUP DEALS WITH LIGHTS & SOUND

Lois Bryan, MASTER ELECTRICIAN

Andrew Stephens, Dan Gold, STAGE ELECTRICIANS

Will McCandless, SOUND AND VIDEO SUPERVISOR

Danielle Kisner, Sam Levey, SOUND ENGINEERS

Vincent Quan, PRODUCTION SUPPORT TECHNICIAN



It's two puzzles...in one!

# DOUBLE TROUBLE



## Fill-in-the-Blank & Word Search

They're a bit tricky, but you shouldn't have too much trouble, especially if you wait until after you've seen the play (or read the book) to tackle them.

First, use the clues below to figure out the words in the **Word Search**, and write out the words in the corresponding blanks below.

**HINT:** The answers are in alphabetical order.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Hatcher works at his advertising job there.
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ Fudge gets to ride to the hospital in it.
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ Peter and Fudge's family relationship.
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_ Great way to sell Toddle-Bikes and Juicy-O on TV.
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_ She likes to count your teeth.
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_ The Yarbys give Peter this kind of book as a gift.
- 7) \_\_\_\_\_ This is the name of Peter's pet turtle.
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_ Ride it up and down in tall city buildings.
- 9) \_\_\_\_\_ The last name of Peter's best friend, Jimmy.
- 10) \_\_\_\_\_ Fudge wears this mask to scare the Yarbys.
- 11) \_\_\_\_\_ She is the assistant at the advertising agency.
- 12) \_\_\_\_\_ A turtle isn't an amphibian or mammal, it's this.
- 13) \_\_\_\_\_ She shows up at the park with Peter and Jimmy.
- 14) \_\_\_\_\_ Fudge is this age by the end of the play.

Answers on page 12.

# WORD SEARCH

Now try to locate all 14 words, which are hidden in the word search below.

**HINT:** Half of the words can be read either up or down, or from left to right; the other half are placed diagonally, reading from both top and bottom. Some of the letters are shared.



O Q J X Z C Z Y  
S H E I L A U Y C T D F  
O F X Q Z Y W I N G B S I M  
W V B U Z T A S E R F Q W I A L  
E X R Y F R D Y G F V Y L B U T E P  
L F K R X R T A R P R G Q P F U N A  
L E I A A C N Y B O S O R S Y D T O E Y  
E V T W N T W K M R R R J F A R G O R D  
E A T U O X R Y J I O A B Z E E L G Z P  
Q T V N I Q A R L K N T A O U U P L U C  
P O Q C T U G L X E N W H M F I V P N P  
F R L G C P A Q T Y N H X E O T O X C O  
A Q E L I T P E R U C I Y D R O W D T H  
A C E Q D L A I C R E M M O C S M G S E  
J T C Q Q N G P Z F I E Q D X Y E L  
V H E C N A L U B M A L R E V U B R  
P E N M S C D R D V K E Y Y B K  
O N F O P A W Y E R W B I E  
G B N A W C N H X Y R T  
R R E H T F I D



# NEW! IMPROVED! BUY NOW!

At the advertising agency where Peter's dad works, he helps to create television commercials for lots of different products, including Toddle Bikes and Juicy-O fruit drink.

Pretend that Juicy-O needs an advertising campaign for its brand new drink and that Mr. Yarby, the company president, is coming all the way from Chicago to see what you've come up with. How will you convince viewers to buy your new drink?

- 1) First you must invent the new drink. Come up with a catchy name and slogan.
- 2) Draw above and color the one scene from your commercial you're sure will make everyone who sees it want to run right out and buy a big bottle.

**BE SILLY, BE SMART, BE SERIOUS, BUT ABOVE ALL . . . BE PERSUASIVE!**





# JUDY BLUME

## AUTHOR

When I was growing up, I dreamed about becoming a cowgirl, a detective, a spy, a great actress, or a ballerina.

Not a dentist, like my father, or a homemaker, like my mother—and certainly not a writer, although I always loved to read. I didn't know anything about writers. It never occurred to me they were regular people and that I could grow up to become one, even though I loved to make up stories inside my head.

I made up stories while I bounced a ball against the side of our house. I made up stories playing with paper dolls. And I made them up while I practiced the piano by pretending to give piano lessons. I even kept a notebook with the names of my pretend students and how they were doing. I always had an active imagination. But I never wrote down any of my stories. And I never told anyone about them.

When I grew up, my need for storytelling didn't go away. So when my own two children started preschool, I began to write and I've been writing ever since! My characters live inside my head for a long time before I actually start a book about them. Then, they become so real to me I talk about them at the dinner table as if they are real. Some people consider this weird. But my family understands.

**Authors aren't the only people who can tell stories! Make up a story inspired by something that's happened to you recently.**

**Who are the characters?**

**How does it start?**

**How does it end?**



# WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



## BRAD CULVER

(Mr. Yarby, Jimmy Fargo, Sam, Nurse, Director, Dr. Cone)

I have been an actor since I was a much smaller person. In my very first play, Shel Silverstein's *The Giving Tree*, I ate too much candy backstage and ran around the stage like a monkey. There is no monkey character in *The Giving Tree* and I completely embarrassed my mother. It was during that performance, at the age of five, that I first fell in love with the stage. Since then, I have acted in movies, TV and a lot of plays. I have done the voices for a few characters on Cartoon Network's "Regular Show." I have performed in places like Croatia, Germany and Scotland. I love to write music and I play bass guitar in a band. I received my bachelor of fine arts from the California Institute of the Arts. I'm thrilled to be back at SCR and I'm excited to share this amazing story!



## FRAN DE LEON

(Mom, Ms. Vincent)

Like many of you out there, I'm California-born and raised—from Hollywood, to be exact. Growing up, I was always reading Judy Blume's books, so I'm really excited to be doing this show. I didn't start acting 'til I was in high school, but it became my dream when I was six, after watching *Jesus Christ Superstar*. I thought that the girl who played Mary looked like me and that inspired me to learn every single song on the soundtrack. I love traveling and I get to see a lot of our country when I tour my one-person show, *Faces of America*. I mostly travel to colleges, but also to special events for the United Nations Association. My husband, Colin, and I run Will & Company and we do a lot of shows for schools in L.A. and Orange County. I've also done a lot of Shakespeare, but lately I get to act in plays that are brand new and have never been done before. The last show I did here at SCR was *Charlotte's Web*. When I'm not on stage, I'm usually home gardening, listening to my 13-year-old son, Kieran, playing drums, or taking my dogs on hikes.



## CELESTE DEN

(Mrs. Yarby, Sheila Tubman, Jennie, Dr. Brown, Janet, Ambulance Driver)

My favorite place in the world is the theatre because there is nothing more fun than making people laugh and cry through stories. It's a great joy to be able to play pretend for a job, especially when it takes me to places I've never been, like London, San Francisco, Oregon and Hong Kong. But, no matter how far I go, I am always grateful to return home to SCR's stages, where I was last seen in the young audiences shows, *Flora & Ulysses* and *OZ 2.5*. I was also at SCR in *Trudy and Max in Love*, *Death of a Salesman* and *Chinglish*—that last one is where I got to speak my first language, Chinese, on stage! It takes a lot of bravery to stand up tall and use your voice to speak the truth—in acting and in life—so I thank my family and friends for showing me what courage looks like and teaching me what strength feels like.



## MICHAEL FAULKNER

(Fudge)

I love eating fudge, but this is the first time I've played Fudge...or a two-year-old! Fudge hates sharing, but I have shared laughter all over the world as a performer with The Reduced Shakespeare Company. I love “un-reduced” Shakespeare, too, and have played his funny characters with names like Malvolio, Feste, Launcelot Gobbo and others. I learned to love the theatre and make people laugh from Danny Scheie, who taught at UC Santa Cruz; making kids laugh is extra special. I just directed the musical, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, at the MainStreet Theatre Company in Rancho Cucamonga (a funny name). At SCR, I've done *OZ 2.5*, *Six Degrees of Separation*, *Rhubarb Jam* and *The Stinky Cheese Man* (2006). Coincidentally, my wife was in the most recent *Stinky Cheese Man*. Luckily, people don't refer to us as that “stinky couple”!



## MATTHEW GRONDIN

(Peter)

Hello! Thanks a lot for coming to see *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*! This is my second play at SCR. The first one was based on a play by William Shakespeare. In that, I was a guy from Ireland who fell in love with a girl from America. It was fun! I grew up in a small town in New Hampshire and have been acting since the first grade. My very first role was a dog; I

barked a lot. Since then, I have played a rat, a cowboy, a very old man and even a statue! I have been in many plays based on books you might have read—such as *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *Charlotte's Web*. I am especially happy to be in *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* because this was one of my favorite books growing up. I love reading now, but had a lot of trouble learning how to read Judy Blume and her stories helped me so much with that!



## JOSHUA WOLF COLEMAN

(Dad, Ralph)

My dad used to read *The Lord of the Rings* to us kids when we were little. He used so many different voices for all of the characters—all of which I loved—that I was probably influenced at that time to become an actor when I grew up. Also, my dad gave me 'Wolf' for a middle name, so maybe he wanted me to grow to be an orc or a dwarf or something (which is cool,

since actors get to play orcs and dwarves—and lawyers and dancers and doctors and daddies and mommies and superheroes and all sorts of things!!!). I've acted in movies and on television and a lot a lot of theatre for a long time (more than 20 years!) and really love acting and am hoping that this play makes you laugh a lot...!"

ANSWERS FOR WORD SEARCH:  
AGENCY, AMBULANCE, BROTHERS, COMMERCIAL, DENTIST, DICTIONARY,  
DRIBBLE, ELEVATOR, FARGO, GORILLA, JANET, REPTILE, SHEILA, THREE

# ARTIST BIOS

**JUDY BLUME (Author)** gained popularity with children of all ages in the 1970s for her unique ability to tackle real-life issues in a kid-friendly manner. *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* is the first in a series of four “Fudge books.” Blume’s best-selling novels include *Are You There God? It’s Me, Margaret* and *Blubber*. Sales of her novels for children and young adults exceed 80 million. In 2004, Blume was awarded the National Book Foundation Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters. In 1996, the American Library Association selected Blume for its Margaret A. Edwards Award for her contributions to young adult literature. Blume received the Library of Congress Living Legends Award in the “Writers and Artists” category in April 2000 for her significant contributions to America’s cultural heritage.

**BRUCE MASON (Playwright)** is an award-winning director and writer for theatre, film and television. In 1997, the Kennedy Center mounted his play *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* and toured it nationally. Originally from Columbus, Ohio, he was educated at Emerson College in Boston and at the American Film Institute in Los Angeles.

**ROBIN LARSEN (Director)** is thankful the arts were loved and supported where she grew up in Miami, Fla. Starting in fourth grade, she left her elementary school one day a week to attend a special arts school where she got to make believe all day long in drama class. It wasn’t until college that she considered she would do anything other than act in plays. There was a great artist at her college who taught the directors how to direct. His directing work inspired her. He taught her how to imagine what the story on the page looks and feels like off the page, with actors and designers telling the story upon the stage. Her work on *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* is dedicated to her seven-year-old daughter, Caroline, who asked her to direct a play for children. She has given her some great ideas for the show.





# ARTIST BIOS CONTINUED

**SARA RYUNG CLEMENT (Set Designer)** started to pick out her own outfits when she was just two years old. Pretty soon, she was telling her mother what to wear, too—although her mom did not always take her advice. She went to the Yale School of Drama to learn more about theatre, painting and how to turn drawings into costumes and sets. Now that she is a theatre designer, she works with the director to decide what the places in a play look like or who wears what in a show and why they wear what they wear. You may have seen her costumes at SCR in *OZ 2.5*, *Ben and the Magic Paintbrush* or *Junie B. Jones and a Little Monkey Business*. She's glad to have the continued support of her parents, who still put her drawings up on the fridge.

**KATHRYN POPPEN (Costume Designer)** Her theatrical career all started when she ran away to the circus. That is Music Circus in Sacramento, where she interned while in high school. She realized theatre allowed her to combine her favorite subjects (art, history and literature) with her favorite hobby (sewing) to tell a story through the characters' clothing. Since earning her BFA in design from the University of Southern California, she has worked across the country designing and assisting. She has bedazzled Pee-Wee Herman, crafted an entire show of paper, created backyard wrestler costumes, designed a chicken Elvis and bought a lot of socks. She previously designed costumes (and bunny costumes) for SCR's *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*.

**KARYN LAWRENCE (Lighting Designer)** is a theatrical lighting designer. She loves the art of storytelling and grew up drawing, dancing and acting. She fell in love with lighting design while studying at the University of California, Irvine. From magical twinkle lights to flashy rock 'n' roll strobes, she loves to paint with light! She has designed numerous plays and events including SCR's Theatre for Young Audiences productions of *The Light Princess*, *A Year with Frog and Toad* and *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, as well as *Beauty and the Beast*, *Mary Poppins*, *Peter Pan*, *Annie* and *Seussical* for SCR's Theatre Conservatory. One of her favorite designs each year is lighting the haunted mazes for





Universal Studios' Halloween Horror Nights! When she's not playing with lights, she's riding her horse in the mountains near her home in Los Angeles.

**JEFF POLUNAS (Sound Design)** is excited to be sound-designing this production at SCR. He has designed many TYAs including *Flora & Ulysses*, *The Light Princess*, *Ivy + Bean: The Musical* and *Anastasia Krupnik*. During the summer, he loves designing for SCR's Summer Players, which he has been doing for the last five years. He attended San Diego State University and UC Irvine, where he earned degrees in theatre and sound design. He loves what he does and has designed productions from San Francisco to San Diego. He enjoys taking the sounds we hear and creating something magical from them.



**KATHRYN DAVIES (Stage Manager)** grew up in Nova Scotia, Canada, where she studied piano, ukulele, recorder and tap dancing. Her parents took her to see a lot of shows and she decided to become a stage manager when she was in the 12th grade. Her high school drama teacher, Mr. Drew, inspired her to do this. Throughout the years, she has studied French, Italian, German and Spanish, which has helped her to work on big opera productions. She is very grateful to her parents for making her keep up with her music lessons, because if she hadn't, she wouldn't be able to do what she does now. Today, Kathryn gets to work with amazingly creative actors, directors, designers, singers, musicians and film stars in several countries.

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ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION, founded in 1913, is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 50,000 professional actors and stage managers. Equity endeavors to advance the careers of its members by negotiating wages, working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits (health and pension included). Member: AFL-CIO, FIA. #EquityWorks.





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## *Ella Enchanted:* The Musical

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**Music by Deborah Wicks La Puma**

**Adapted from the book by Gail Carson Levine**

As a baby, Ella was given the "gift" of obedience by a misguided fairy and cannot disobey any order. Now a teenager, the strong-willed Ella must outwit her evil stepmother, escape hungry ogres and hold on to her best friend, all while getting rid of the troublesome curse and finding her own voice. Expect delightful music and plenty of girl power in this wonderfully modern and musical Cinderella story.

**Oct 27 - Nov 12, 2017**

CONFIRMED!

## **Junie B. Jones Is Not a Crook**

**A play by Allison Gregory**

**Adapted from the book series by Barbara Park**

The world's funniest grade-school know-it-all is back! And Junie B. is convinced that someone stole her furry black mittens at recess. So, when she finds a cool pen on the floor, it's Finders Keepers, Losers Weepers. But why does Junie B. keep having those bad dreams? Will she ever get her mittens back? And will she win over the new boy in Room 8?

**Jan 26 - Feb 11, 2018**

CONFIRMED!



## *Amos & Boris*

**Book and lyrics by Sofia Alvarez**

**Music and additional lyrics by Daniel Roland Tierney**

**Adapted from the classic children's book by William Steig**

While all the mice in Mouse Town dance the night away, Amos would rather sit alone dreaming of the ocean. When he goes on a high seas adventure and runs into trouble, Boris the whale comes to the rescue. Though Amos and Boris are different in every possible way, they become devoted friends. This fun, funny and funky musical teaches lessons about being yourself and the enduring power of friendship.

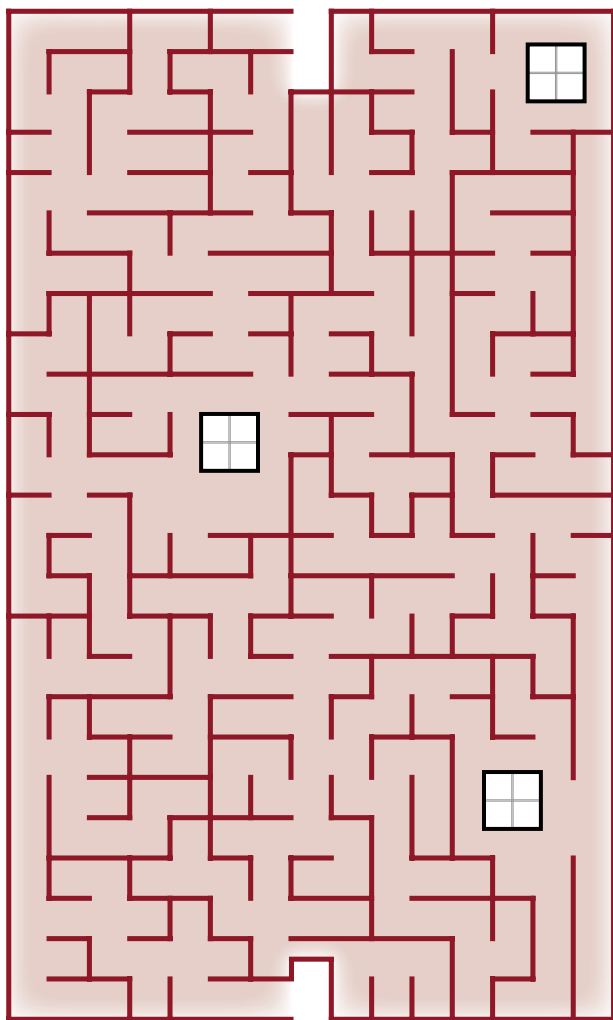
**May 18 - June 3, 2018**

# FINDING DRIBBLE!

**Dribble has wandered off again!**

Can you find him before he gets into trouble—or before he gets you in trouble?

**START**



**FINISH**





The Junior Players in SCR's Theatre Conservatory production of *Gossamer*.

## WHAT'S THE SUBTEXT?

Do you always say what you mean? When you're upset, do you tell anyone that you're upset? If you're jealous of a sibling, how do you express your jealousy? How would you convey all these emotions onstage without simply saying, "I'm jealous and upset"?

When you're an actor, it's important to understand something called *subtext*: what the characters mean, but don't say out loud. *Subtext* literally means what is "beneath the text." Think of looking for subtext like solving a mystery: you put together many clues (such as words, posture, tone of voice, emotion and context) to figure out what's really going on. A good actor can use all of these tools to let the audience know what their character is thinking and feeling, even when their words say something else.

If you listen closely to the characters in *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*, you'll notice that they don't always say exactly what they mean—or, at least, sometimes what they mean is more complicated than what they say. As you watch the play today, try to find a moment when a character says one thing, but means something else. For example, when Mrs. Yarby tells Peter's family how much she loves babies, do you believe her? What is she thinking but not saying? A little later in the play, Peter's mom tells Peter that she can't trust him. Do think that's true? Why does she say that? What could she really be upset about? In other words, what's the subtext? Look for clues in body language, tone of voice, and the reactions of other characters.

You can learn more about acting, subtext and interpretation in classes for kids and teens at SCR's Theatre Conservatory. Check out the website at [scr.org/education](http://scr.org/education) or call (714) 708-5577 for more information.



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**Theatre Conservatory**

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The long-term development of Theatre for Young Audiences and other educational programs at SCR is greatly assisted by the establishment of endowment funds. We deeply appreciate the following donors who have honored us with gifts:

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Sue & Ralph Stern Endowment for Young Audiences

William Randolph Hearst Endowed Education and Outreach Fund

Yvonne & Damien Jordan Theatre for Young Audiences Endowment

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