



South Coast Repertory
Orange County's Tony Award-winning Theatre

Sensory Friendly/ Relaxed Performance Pre-Visit Sensory Guide

The Incredible Book Eating Boy



Welcome!

We're so glad you're here.

This musical is an adaptation of the picture book called *The Incredible Book Eating Boy*. The book was written and illustrated by Oliver Jeffers, but this musical was created by a team of people: Madhuri Shekar, Christian Magby and Christian Albright.

You will hear a variety of sound effects, music, see several kinds of lights and listen to the actors as they tell the story. Some of the lights in the theatre will remain on during the performance so you are able to move around, enter and exit to the lobby as you need.

The Incredible Book Eating Boy is 50 minutes long and has no intermission. You are free to leave and come back at any time.

This show consists of five actors who portray several different characters, sing and dance. Here is what they look like:



Joslynn Cortes



Adam Leiva



Brian Kim McCormick



Erica Schaeffer



Bradley Sharper

Sensory Breakdown

The Incredible Book Eating Boy is a musical, which means there are lots of songs! If you enjoy a song, feel free to clap when it's over. Please note that the times listed here are approximate.

At...show start – Drumroll...Henry and Rover start the show in front of the red curtain.

1 minute – The red curtain comes up. A school bell rings.

3 minutes – Henry, his teacher Ms. Penny, and his classmates sing "Welcome to the Third Grade." There's a camera click and flash in this song.

5 minutes – A school bell rings again. Henry's dad honks a car horn off stage.

6 minutes – The walls and scenery will move a lot throughout the whole play to show changes in location. This is the first time that this happens. The walls move very slowly.

8 minutes – Henry gets frustrated with his parents and shouts about how he doesn't feel very smart.

9 minutes – Henry and the rest of the actors sing "Smart Guy."

12 minutes – Rover eats a book. There's a small shower of paper confetti as he does this.

13 minutes – Henry and Rover sing "I Ate a Book."

16 minutes – The school bell rings again.

17 minutes – Everyone sings "The Incredible Book Eating Boy."

18 minutes – Henry loudly passes gas three times.

20 minutes – Henry enters an imaginary game show. The game show host is loud and excited. A game show buzzer rings several times.

21 minutes – Henry wins the imaginary game show. There's a winning buzzer noise and a camera flash.

23 minutes – Henry has eaten too many books! His tummy gurgles twice, then he vomits off stage. There's a giant shower of confetti as he does this. He doesn't actually barf!

24 minutes – Henry still doesn't feel well, and there are lots of echoes and spooky music as he starts to daydream. There's a spooky flicker, like lightning.

25 minutes – Henry has a daydream that giant books are trying to eat him. They sing "Henry on the Menu."

28 minutes – End of "Henry on the Menu."

28 minutes – Everyone around Henry speaks gibberish.

29 minutes – Henry's mom put him in an imaginary car and takes him to the doctor. Car doors slam, seatbelts click, a car horn honks, and tires skid.

30 minutes – At the doctor, there's lots of noise and shouting.

30 minutes – Henry vomits a book into a bucket.

32 minutes – Henry's classmates are scared of him and scream when they see him.

32 minutes – A school bell rings.

36 minutes – Henry tries to eat a book and his mom shouts for him to stop.

38 minutes – There's a windchime sound effect when Henry and the book fair author run into each other.

40 minutes – Henry and the book fair author sing "Pictures in Your Mind."

43 minutes – During this song, the actors encourage the audience to clap along with them.

46 minutes – Rover talks directly to the audience from the stage.

46 minutes – Henry and his classmates sing "Welcome to the Fourth Grade."

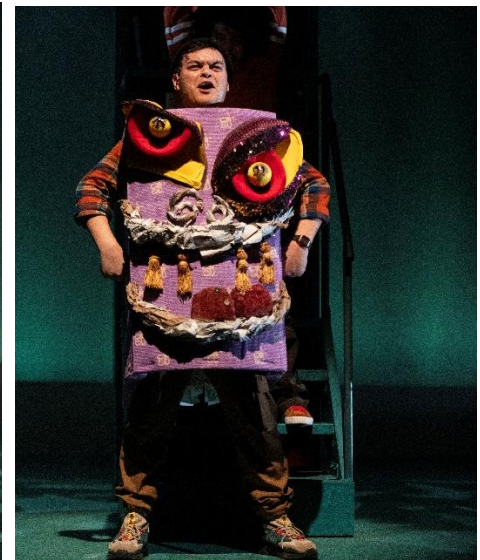
End of show – Applause! The actors will bow to the audience.

“Henry on the Menu”

“Henry on the Menu” is a song that takes place about 25 minutes into this musical. Henry has eaten too many books, and he’s not feeling well. He has a daydream about giant books coming to eat him—instead of the other way around. It might be a little scary.

Before the song starts, the lights will go out, and a machine will make a little bit of haze appear while the book monsters come on stage. One of the monsters has eyes that light up, and you might see that one first. The monsters sing about eating Henry. They chase him around stage, but they don’t actually eat him.

This is what the book monsters will look like:



The book monsters are played by these nice people: Brian Kim McCormick, Erica Schaeffer and Bradley Sharper!



The Plot

The show begins on the first day of third grade. Henry's classmates are very excited to read, but Henry isn't. Henry doesn't like to read, especially when the books don't have any pictures.



Rover eats Henry's textbook, which gives him the power of speech. Henry tries it, too, and discovers that he doesn't have to read to learn everything. He can take a shortcut to learning by eating books.



Eating books and being really smart is fun for a while, but eventually all those books make Henry's tummy hurt. He also has a scary daydream where the books try to eat *him*. (We have a whole page about "Henry on the Menu.")



Henry goes to the doctor, who tells him that he can't eat books anymore. He has to learn the old fashioned way: reading.



Henry works hard to practice his reading. He helps his dad cook—he may not be very good at reading, yet, but he’s a great cook!



Everyone goes to the school book fair. Henry meets an author, and she tells him about how magical reading and telling stories can be.



The show ends one year later on the first day of *fourth* grade. Henry is once again friends with his classmates, and he's stopped eating all of their books. He's excited for the new year to begin!

