FROM THE PAGE TO THE STAGE

THE PLAY

Love That Dog brings Jack’s free-verse poems to the stage in an inventive production that features live action and music, real-time projections, and puppetry. Love That Dog shows how one boy finds his own voice with the help of a teacher, a writer, a pencil, some paper, and of course, a dog.

THE STORY

Jack hates poetry, thinking only girls write it. Every time he tries to, his brain feels empty. But his teacher, Ms. Stretchberry, won’t stop giving her class poetry assignments—and Jack can’t avoid them. But then something amazing happens. The more he writes, the more he learns he does have something to say.

YOUR TAKE

Review the performance you saw today. What was great about it? What emotions did you feel throughout the show? What questions do you still have?

______________________________________

______________________________________

______________________________________

______________________________________

______________________________________

Now rate today’s show from 1-5 stars: ★★★★★

THE AUTHOR

Sharon Creech is a South Euclid, Ohio native who grew up in a rowdy family with a sister and three brothers and dreamed of being a painter, an ice skater, a singer, a teacher, and a reporter, eventually landing on a career in writing and teaching literature in England and Switzerland. She called upon her childhood in fictional works such as Absolutely Normal Chaos, Walk Two Moons, Chasing Redbird, and Bloomability. Her award-winning book Love That Dog was inspired by the Walter Dean Myers’ poem “Love That Boy” which hung on Creech’s bulletin board for many years.

THEATEROEP KWATTA

Theatregroep Kwatta is a professional youth theatre company that was established in 2002. It is based in the Theater Het Badhuis, which is located in the Gelderland province in the East Central part of the Netherlands. Under the direction of artistic manager Josee Hussaarts, Kwatta creates lighthearted productions with more poignant undertones. Kwatta’s mission is to create room for amazement and admiration by asking simple questions about difficult issues and difficult questions about things that appear to be simple. They do this, in part, by making no assumptions, always searching for the unknown and the absurd, and by tilting reality to create a different perspective. Productions by Kwatta often combine text with other forms of theatre such as instrumental music, song, puppetry, or film.

Learn more at www.kwatta.info/english

ADAPTING STORIES

Theatregroep Kwatta chose to turn the book Love that Dog into a play. This is called adapting. Which of your favorite books would you like to see adapted into a play?

______________________________________
Love That Dog  
(Inspired by Walter Dean Myers)  
By Jack

Love that dog,  
like a bird loves to fly  
I said love that dog  
like a bird loves to fly  
Love to call him in the morning  
love to call him  
"Hey there, Sky!"

Can you write your own poem inspired by the poem that Jack reads at the end of the play? It’s important you choose a subject close to your heart. Like Sky is important to Jack. You can choose animals, people, places...everything is possible. Fill in the spaces below to complete your inspired poem.

YOUR INSPIRED POEM

Love That ___________________  
(Inspired by Jack)

By ___________________

Love that ___________________
like a __________ loves to __________________
I said I love that ___________________
like a __________ loves to ___________________
Love to __________ in the ___________________
Love to ___________________
"Hey there, ___________________!"

In the play the actors perform the concrete poem, “The Apple” by S.C Rigg. The shape of this poem is very special. In the play Jack is inspired and writes his own poem in the shape of his dog Sky. Can you do this as well? Choose your favorite animal and create a concrete poem of your own!

CHALLENGE - Use adjectives that describe both the personality and the physical look of your animal.

"Emmett’s Ode To His Tennis Ball” by Betsy Franco from the book A Dazzling Display of Dogs
SHELTER HELPER

Jack and his family adopted Sky from their local animal shelter. Did you know that adopting shelter pets isn’t the only way you can help your local animal shelters? Take a look at the BINGO card for more ideas on how you can get involved. Challenge a friend to Shelter Helper BINGO and see who can be the first to check off enough boxes to yell—BINGO!

To be a shelter helper, check out any of these shelters around town:

- Austin Pets Alive
  www.austinpetsalive.org

- Austin Animal Center
  www.austintexas.gov/department/aac

- Austin Humane Society
  www.austinhumane.org

CREATE YOUR OWN PLAY

The artists of Theatergroep Kwatta took the story and poems from a book and turned them into a play for the stage. Start with the poem you just wrote, or part of a story you like, and try to tell it in a different way. Choose one of the following forms:

- **DIALOGUE**
  conversation between characters

- **PANTOMIME**
  acting it out without speaking

- **ILLUSTRATION**
  comic or story-book style

- **PUPPETRY**
  create puppets and small sets

ACROSTIC POETRY

In an acrostic poem, the letters in a topic word are used to create the lines of a poem. In the example below, the letters in the name “JACK” are used as the first letters of each line to create a poem about Jack. Complete the poem:

J - JOYFUL
A -
C -
K -

Now describe yourself in an acrostic poem below using the first letters of your name:

**B-I-N-G-O**

| Donate a bag of dog/cat food to any local shelter | Help a friend/family member find their perfect pet at a local animal shelter | “Like” your local animal shelters on social media, with your parents’ permission of course | Read a book to a shy dog at the shelter who isn’t ready for pets and walks, this helps them feel safe around humans |
| Write a letter thanking the employees of shelters around town for their dedication to animals | Organize a donation drive—invite people to bring in towels, food, and toys for the animals in need | Get crafty and make a dog/cat toy to donate to a shelter near you | Spread the word—tell your class, sports team, or friends about how they can help Austin animals |
| Foster a dog or cat while they are waiting to find their fur-ever homes | Bake up some homemade dog treats and drop them off at a shelter nearby | Help a shelter dog get some exercise by volunteering to walk dogs for an afternoon | Call 311 if you find a stray animal in need |
| Help your local shelter clean the kennels | Attend an event that helps raise money for local shelters | Write to your local legislators encouraging them to keep our animals’ welfare in mind when passing new laws | Adopt a pet of your own! |

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LETTER TO AN AUTHOR

In the play, Jack’s favorite poet visited his school! If you could invite your favorite author or artist to your school for a visit, who would you invite?

On a separate sheet of paper, write them a letter like the one Jack wrote to Walter Dean Myers and invite them to visit you and your classmates!

THANK YOU, TEACHER

Miss Stretchberry helped Jack realize his talent and love for poetry. Think of a teacher in your life who helped you discover a hidden talent.

On a separate sheet of paper, write them a Thank You letter.

TEACHABLE POEMS

Want to learn more about the poetry that inspired Jack? Head to your school’s library to find the following poems that Ms. Stretchberry taught in her class.

- “The Red Wheelbarrow” by William Carlos Williams
- “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening” by Robert Frost
- “The Tiger” by William Blake
- “dog” by Valerie Worth
- “Pasture” by Robert Frost
- “Street Music” by Arnold Adoff
- “The Apple” by S.C. Rigg
- “Love that Boy” by Walter Dean Myers

Also, don’t forget to check out Sharon Creech’s sequel to Love that Dog, Hate that Cat!
Paramount Theatre Education & Outreach Staff:

Contact us at education@austintheatre.org

Education & Outreach Director: Jennifer Luck
Associate Director of Education & Outreach: Brian C. Fahey
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PLEASE VISIT US ONLINE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR EDUCATION AND FAMILY PROGRAMS:

WWW.AUSTINTHEATRE.ORG/FAMILY-EDUCATION

2016-2017 Education and Outreach Partners:

2016-2017 Paramount Season Partners:

2017 PERFORMING ARTS SUMMER CAMPS

TECHNIQUE INTENSIVE
GRDES 6-10
FILM ACTING | JULY 17–21
COMEDY | JULY 24–28
SONGWRITING | JULY 31-AUG 4
Camps are hosted at the historic Paramount Theatre.

STORY WRANGLERS NORTH
GRDES 3-8 | JUNE 19–30
Hosted at Davis Elementary School in North Austin. Campers will explore creative writing, songwriting, prop design, acting and more to bring their stories to life in a final performance on stage, Stateside at the Paramount.

ROBOARTS CAMP
GRDES 3-8 | JULY 31-AUG 11
Hosted at Hyde Park Baptist. This unique camp brings together the fun of building and programming robots with creative writing and performing, for a final performance on stage, Stateside at the Paramount.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE. REGISTER NOW AT:

WWW.AUSTINTHEATRE.ORG/CAMPS