



#10026
HONK!

DISNEY EDUCATIONAL PRODUCTIONS, 2002
Grade Level: 3-6
18 mins.

DESCRIPTION

The Beyond the Page Cafe kids read *Honk!* It's the story of Mimi the swan who wants badly to be in a production of *Swan Lake*. Mimi practices every day and has a most unexpected opportunity to realize her dream. The Cafe kids interview author Pamela Edwards and illustrator Henry Cole online. They also enjoy a "visit" to a ballet class.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Language Arts–Reading

- Standard: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand and interpret a variety of literary texts
 - ♦ Benchmark: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand a variety of familiar literary passages and texts (e.g., fairy tales, folktales, fiction, nonfiction, legends, fables, myths, poems, nursery rhymes, picture books, predictable books) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 1 and 2.)
 - ♦ Benchmark: Knows the main ideas or theme of a story (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 1.)
- Standard: Uses the general skills and strategies of the reading process
 - ♦ Benchmark: Uses personal criteria to select reading material (e.g., personal interest, knowledge of authors and genres, text difficulty, recommendations of others) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 2, 3, and 4.)
 - ♦ Benchmark: Understands the author's purpose (e.g., to persuade, to inform) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 1, 3, and 6.)

Subject Area: Language Arts–Viewing

- Standard: Uses viewing skills and strategies to understand and interpret visual media
 - ♦ Benchmark: Understands different messages conveyed through visual media (e.g., main ideas and supporting details; facts and opinions; main characters, setting, and sequence of events in visual narratives) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 1, 3, and 6.)

Subject Area: Life Skills–Working With Others

- Standard: Contributes to the overall effort of a group

C a p t i o n e d M e d i a P r o g r a m

- ♦ Benchmark: Demonstrates respect for others in the group (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 5.)
- ♦ Benchmark: Identifies and uses the strengths of others (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 5.)

Subject Area: Arts–Dance

- Standard: Understands dance as a way to create and communicate meaning
 - ♦ Benchmark: Knows how dance is different from other forms of human movement (e.g., sports, everyday gestures) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 6.)

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To show the book *Honk!* by Pamela Duncan Edwards and produce a thorough understanding of the story.
2. To promote the reading of children's literature, especially books by this author, illustrator, or about this subject matter.
3. To introduce the author of the book.
4. To introduce the illustrator of the book, Henry Cole.
5. To explore the teamwork involved between authors and illustrators in making a book.
6. To show some ballet moves and emphasize the hard work required to perform ballet.

VOCABULARY

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. allowed | 7. dedication | 13. practice |
| 2. audience | 8. figures (people) | 14. "prima swanerina" |
| 3. ballerina | 9. honk (swan noise) | 15. stage |
| 4. ballet | 10. manager | 16. swan |
| 5. courteous | 11. Paris Opera House | 17. Swan Lake |
| 6. cygnet | 12. pose | 18. teamwork |

BEFORE SHOWING

1. Introduce the word *cygnet*. Review known information about swans. What noise does a swan make?
2. Discuss ballet. Share experiences seeing or dancing ballet.
3. Discuss teamwork and collaboration. What are some guidelines you should follow to work together successfully when you work with a partner?

DURING SHOWING

1. View the video more than once, with one showing uninterrupted.
2. Consider pausing after the reading of the book to review the story elements.

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. Where did the story take place?

2. Why did Mimi like ballet?
3. What did Mimi do everyday? Why?
4. Why did Mimi want to go inside the Paris Opera House?
5. Why did the manager chase Mimi out of the Paris Opera House?
6. Describe the different ways Mimi tried to get inside the Paris Opera House.
7. How did Mimi finally get inside?
8. Discuss what happened when Mimi was onstage. How did the audience respond? How did you think Mimi felt? How would you feel?
9. How did the manager feel after Mimi's performance? How did you know?
10. How did Pamela Duncan Edwards come up with the idea for the book? What suggestion did the author and illustrator have about working together?
11. What does it take to be a good ballet dancer?

Applications and Activities

1. Locate the words in the story for the ballet moves and positions. Find other ballet terms. Make an illustrated dictionary of ballet terms, moves, and positions.
2. Draw or paint funny pictures of other animals performing ballet. Suggestions include spiders, buffaloes, octopuses, and skunks.
3. Invite a ballet dancer to present to the class information about training and other issues. If willing, the students can learn ballet moves and positions.
4. Visit a live performance of a ballet if possible.
5. Investigate swans. Find out the different types of swans, their habitats, what they eat, etc. Write reports.
6. Recall the interview with the author and illustrator.
 - a. Formulate more questions or comments for the author and illustrator.
 - b. Send the questions/comments to: Pamela Duncan Edwards and Henry Cole, c/o Hyperion Books for Children, 114 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011-5690.
7. Work with a partner to make a book. Write a short story and illustrate it.
8. Review the story for alternative words for "said."
 - a. Practice reading or signing the words, with appropriate facial expressions and body movements.
 - b. Examples include: cried, exclaimed, screamed, yelled, blustered, roared, bellowed, called, whispered, and mouthed.

SUMMARY

1. Synopsis of the video: At the Beyond the Page Café, "today's special" is a book called *Honk!* written by Pamela Duncan Edwards and illustrated by Henry Cole. As our host Shelley reads the story aloud to the Café's young patrons, we view an animation of Cole's humorous, richly painted illustrations. After the reading, the kids have an online chat with the author and illustrator, who talk about working as a team. Then the kids take a video field trip to see young dancers demonstrate some of the ballet moves Mimi the swan performs onstage. The Café kids learn that studying ballet can be as challenging as the most rigorous athletic training.

2. Synopsis of the book: From the moment she glimpses a ballet performance through a window of the Paris Opera House, Mimi the swan is stage struck. Determined to become a "prima swanerina," she diligently studies ballet poses and keeps trying to sneak into the opera house—where birds are NOT allowed! Haughty patrons in evening dress look down their noses at poor Mimi. Horrified, the manager shoos the puzzled, dejected swan out into the cold. Finally, Mimi follows a tardy ballerina through the stage door and onstage at the end of a line of dancers costumed for *Swan Lake*. Behind the footlights at last, Mimi bewitches the audience with her *demi-plies*, *chasses*, and *en pointe* dancing on the tips of her webbed feet. Mimi the swanerina is such a success that the manager begs her for a return engagement.



CMP RELATED RESOURCES

- [Amazing Grace #10045](#)
- [The Ugly Duckling #2538](#)
- [Celebration of Deaf Dance #9057](#)
- [Float Like a Butterfly #10024](#)

World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

• PAMELA DUNCAN EDWARDS

http://www.harpercollins.com/catalog/author_xml.asp?authorID=12052

This author site from Harper Collins Publishers provides biographical information, an interview with the author, a list of the author's books, and a link to the author's home page with even more information.

• INTRODUCING ILLUSTRATORS: HENRY COLE

<http://www.rif.org/art/illustrators/cole.msp>

Visit this Web site to read a brief biography of Henry Cole, the illustrator of *Honk!* and find links to two interviews and an article about both Pamela Duncan Edwards and Henry Cole.

- **BALLET DICTIONARY**

<http://www.abt.org/education/dictionary/index.html>

Look up descriptions of a huge number of ballet moves and positions, many with QuickTime movie clips.

- **PARIS OPERA HOUSE**

http://www.greatbuildings.com/buildings/Paris_Opera.html

At this site, read about the Paris Opera House and see a variety of photos and images.

- **THE TRUMPETER SWAN SOCIETY**

<http://www.trumpeterswansociety.org>

Read about this organization dedicated to the welfare of trumpeter swans. Click on "Swan Identification" to see drawings and read about different breeds of swans. Check out the large list of links for more information.