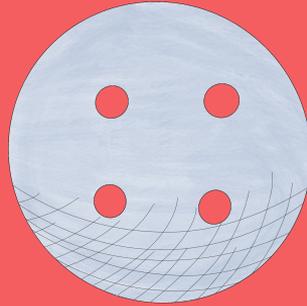


SOCIAL STORY



**EDUCATION GUIDE
FOR STUDENTS Gr. 3-4**



CORDUROY



an Emerson Stage Production

Based on the books by Don Freeman
Adapted for the stage by Barry Kornhauser

Directed by Melia Bensussen

Movement Dir. by Nathaniel Justiniano

October 29 to November 1, 2020

Live Online Performance: Transmedia
Platform

*Education materials created by Leah Hamilton French
for Emerson Stage, with dramaturgy by Chandler David
and button graphics by Madison Maroney*

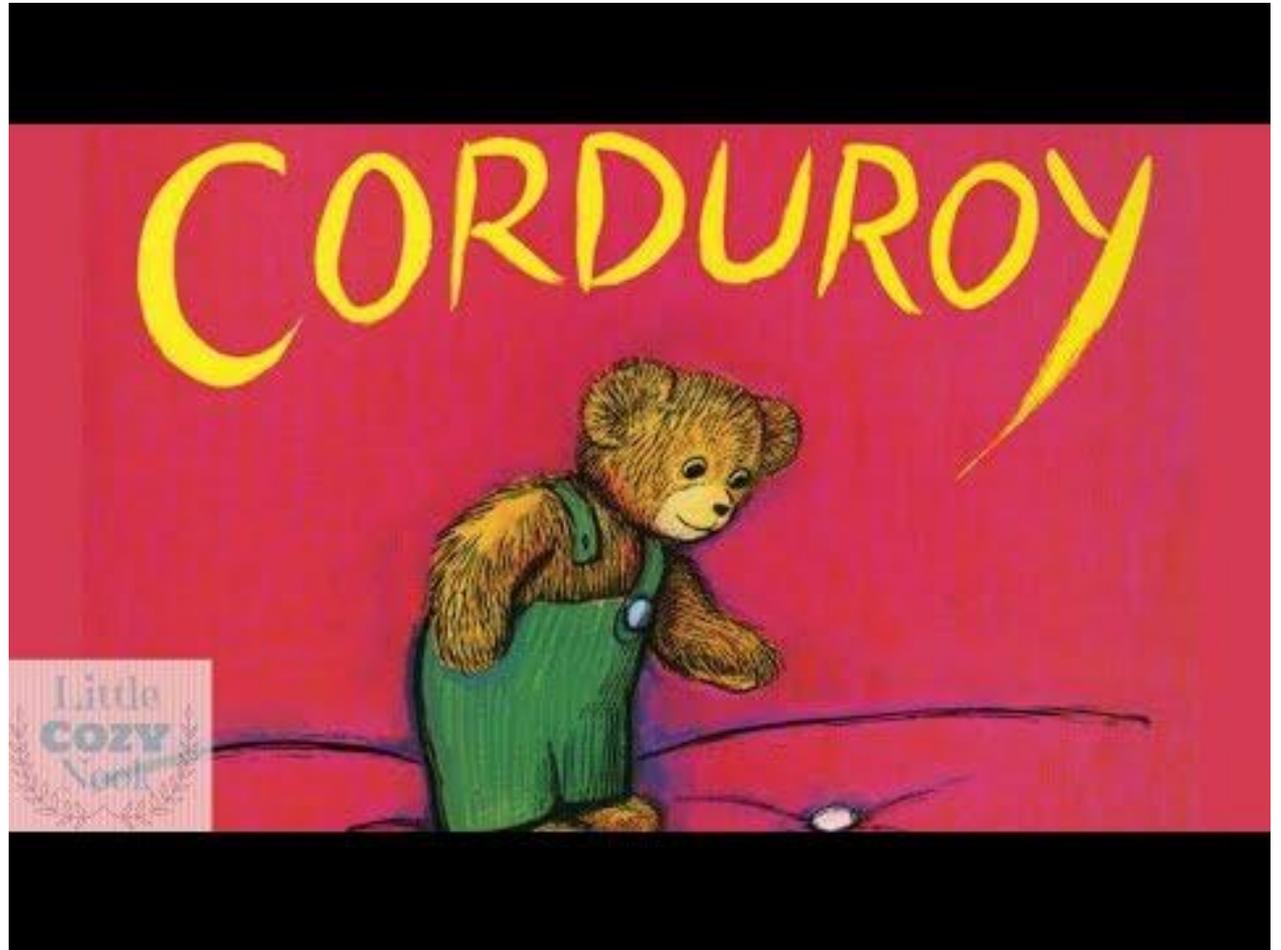
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About the Book

The play you are going to see is based on a classic children's book by Don Freeman. Click on the video to listen to the original *Corduroy*.

Corduroy was written in 1968, just over 50 years ago!



About the Author

Corduroy was written and illustrated by Don Freeman, an American artist, illustrator, and author of children's books. Have you ever written and illustrated a story?



Above: Don Freeman, b.1908-d.1978

Left: Draft illustration from *Corduroy*.

Ever since Don Freeman was a kid, he loved to draw and wanted to be an artist. After high school, he moved to New York City to study art.

He wandered all over town with his sketchbook. He made paintings, prints, cartoons, and illustrations of daily life in New York City. He loved drawing actors on Broadway.

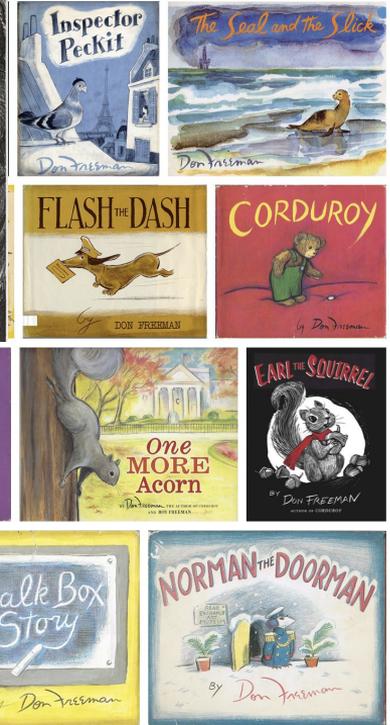
What kinds of things do you like to draw?

He also wrote and illustrated many picture books for children. Here are some of the picture books Don Freeman wrote and illustrated. *Which ones have you read?*



Left: *Striking the Set, 1934*
Lithograph on woven paper

Below: Don Freeman wrote and illustrated many picture books



About the Play

The story of *Corduroy* was made into a play by Barry Kornhauser.

A play is a story that comes to life. Actors pretend to be the different characters. Click on the video to see how the first group of actors who performed *Corduroy* brought the characters and story to life.



About the Performance

Because of COVID, we will be performing *Corduroy* online, instead of in a theater.

Our actors will each be in their own room at the theater, instead of onstage. You, our audience, will be watching at home or in your classroom, instead of sitting in the theater.

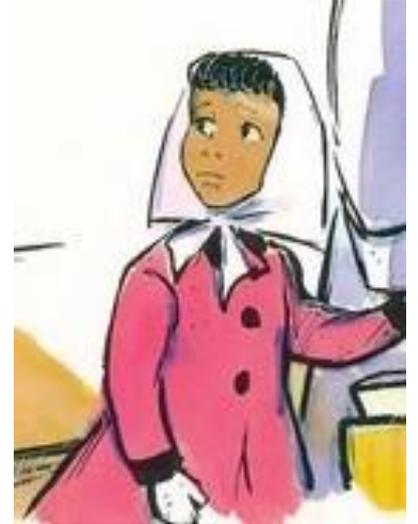


Don't worry! We'll be wearing costumes for the show!

Meet the cast



Lucas Babcock ~ Corduroy



Charlotte Odusanya ~ Lisa

Meet the cast



Kandyce Whittingham ~ Mother



Jordan Radis ~ Night Watchman



Meet the Clowns

There are also three clowns in the play that were not in the book.

Why do you think Barry Kornhauser decided to include clowns in his adaptation of the play?



Ethan Denk



Mary Leigh Montgomery



Brigit O'Malley

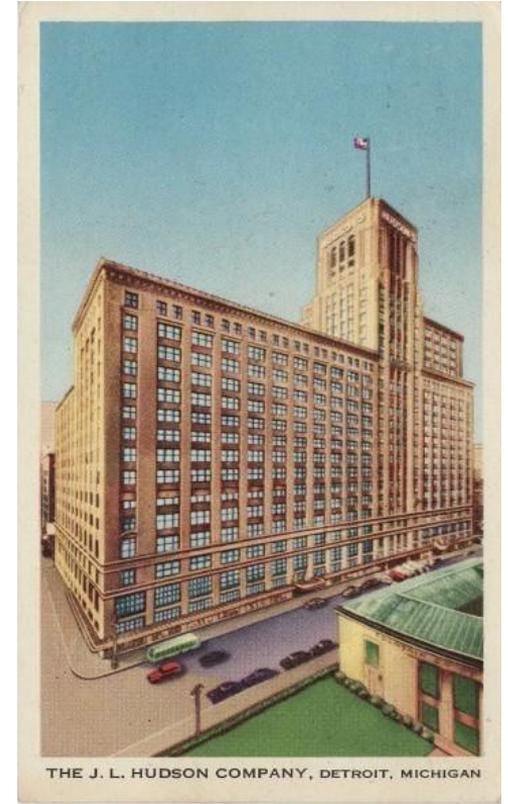
DID YOU KNOW? The word “clown” comes from an icelandic word “klunni”, meaning “a clumsy person”

HISTORY: Department Stores

Author and illustrator Don Freeman first got the idea for *Corduroy* when he imagined a character wandering through an empty, closed department store.

A department store is a really big store, where different areas or “departments” specialize in selling different types of things, like appliances, clothing, or toiletries.

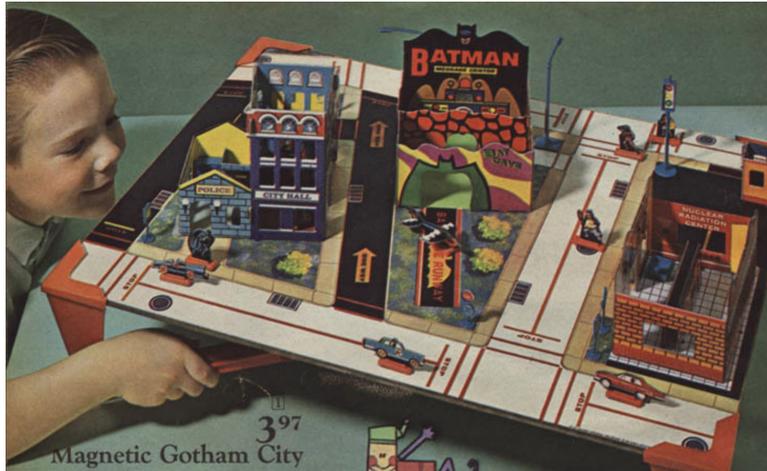
Department stores became very popular in the 1950s and 1960s, about the time your grandparents were children. Before then, most stores just sold one kind of thing, and you had to go to several small stores to get everything you needed.



THE J. L. HUDSON COMPANY, DETROIT, MICHIGAN

A postcard of Hudson's Department Store in Detroit

In the 1950s and 1960s, people started to have more money to spend on things like toys and clothes. Stores got bigger and bigger! To give you an idea, Hudson's department store in Detroit had 25 floors and 12,000 employees. 100,000 people shopped there every day! As you watch the play, imagine the amount of steps, jumps, rolls, and leaps Corduroy and the Night Watchman have to do to get around such a big store. Here are some toys from the late 1960s, when the book *Corduroy* was written. *Do they remind you of any of your toys?*



LANGUAGE ARTS: Tell your own story...

Do you have a special stuffed animal? What is their name? What do they look like? How did you get your stuffed animal, and why are they special to you?

Have you ever lost something important? What was it? Where did you look? Did you ever find it?

Imagine you got to stay overnight in a department store with your friends. What would you do while no one was looking?

Have you ever saved up to buy something special? What was it? Why did you want it so much? How did you earn the money?

Tell your story to a friend or family member. Once you have the details, write your story down and illustrate it by drawing pictures to go with the words.

DRAMA, MUSIC & SEL: Mood Walk

The actors in *Corduroy* use their body movements and facial expressions to show us how their characters are feeling.

How can you use your body and face to show different emotions?

Click and follow along the “mood walk” video and find out.



DRAMA, MUSIC & SEL: Move to the Music

Now add music. Click on the tiles below to listen to several different clips of music.



How does the music make you feel? How would you move to this music to show that emotion?

Find a space where you can move freely. Make up a “movement story” to one of these pieces of music. Create a character with your body movements and facial expression. Show us how they feel and what they are doing. Perform your story for a friend or family member.

DRAMA & ART: Make a Puppet!

In our version of *Corduroy*, some of the performers use hand puppets. Click on the video to learn how to make your own puppet from an old sock and other items you might have at home*.

Could you use your puppets to make your own play at home?

**If you don't have craft foam, you can use cardstock or cut up an old cereal box.*



ART: Draw your stuffed animal friend

Do you have a special doll or stuffed animal friend? What is their name? What do they look like?

Draw a picture of your friend. Try to include as many details as possible.



Ask an adult to scan or take a photo of your drawing and email it to emersonstage@emerson.edu . We will include it in the show!

ART: Social Realism

The kind of art Don Freeman made is sometimes called “Social Realism” because it shows the daily life of regular people working or living their lives.

Find some paper and pencils, crayons, or markers, and be a social realist. Whether you are sitting in your living room, looking out the window, or people watching at the park, try drawing the world and people around you.

Who is there? What are they doing? What do you notice?



Don Freeman's sketchbook

Discussion Questions for After the Show

After you watch the performance, talk about what you saw with a family member or classmate. You might find the following questions helpful to start your conversation:

- What was the most exciting part of the play?
- Who was your favorite character? Why did you like them?
- How do you think Lisa felt when she made mistakes trying to help her mom?
How do you think her mother felt?
- Why do you think the Night Watchman wanted to find Corduroy so much?
- How do you think Corduroy felt when Lisa came back for him?