

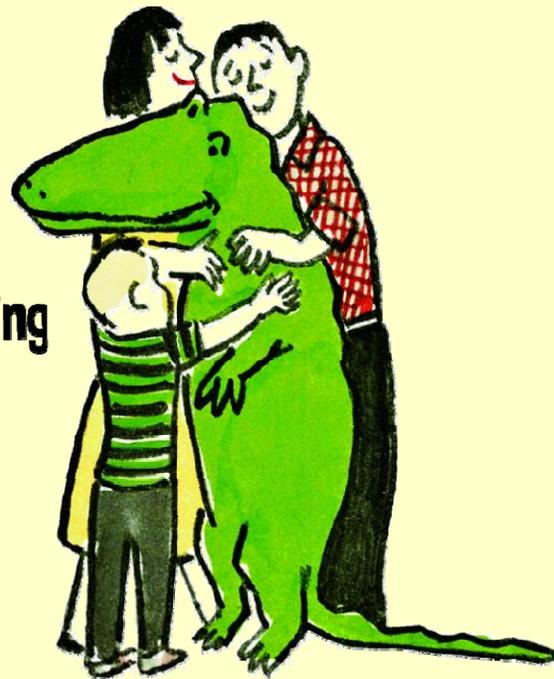
Applause! Cary Youth Theatre presents

LYLE THE CROCODILE

By Bernard Waber

Adapted for the stage by Kevin Kling

Music by Richard Gray



MAY 13-15, 2016

**This play features actors ages 8-18 and is appropriate
for all audiences.**

Tickets are on sale now! Call (919) 462-2055 for details.

PLAY SUMMARY:

Hector P. Valenti sure knows show business, and he knows that his friend Lyle is one talented crocodile, but times are hard and it's time for Hector to hang up his tap shoes for awhile. In the meantime, he's found the perfect home for Lyle: East 88th Street, New York City. There's no better place in all the world, especially for an out-of-work crocodile. One beautiful day, the Primm family moves in to an apartment on East 88th, and as they try to unpack, they discover Lyle sleeping in the bathtub. Their first reaction is understandably poor, but Lyle wins them over with his charm, good manners, and talent!

Lyle eventually meets the Primm's neighbors, even winning over **persnickety** Ms. Nitpicker. Mr. Grumps, though, doesn't like anyone, and Lyle is no exception. Mr. Grumps has it out for Lyle, and eventually poor Lyle ends up in a cage at the Zoo.

Thank goodness Hector P. Valenti is there to help break Lyle out! Just in time, they return to East 88th Street to find that Mr. Grumps' house is on fire, with Mr. Grumps and his cat still inside! Lyle saves the day, and Mr. Grumps finally sees Lyle for the wonderful crocodile he is.



*Vocabulary words in **bold** are defined in the glossary on the back of this guide.*

Activity: You Belong To Me

Lyle tries hard to fit in at his new home; he just wants to feel like he belongs! Most people want to feel a sense of community, a place to belong in the world. We feel we belong when there is a **mutual** feeling that we matter to a group, and the group matters to us.

Write a note introducing Lyle to a group you belong to. How could they make Lyle feel like he belongs, too?

• Dear _____
Let me tell you about
my friend Lyle!

•

•

LITERARY LINK:



Bernard Waber (September 27, 1921-May 16, 2013) grew up in Pennsylvania. After serving in the United States Army during World War II, he graduated from the Philadelphia College of Art and began working as a commercial artist for Condé Nast, a magazine company, and then in the art department at Time, Inc. Waber was inspired to write children's books after reading to his own children.

Waber wrote many books about the adventures of animals, but his *Lyle* series, started in 1962, was his most well-known set of children's books. In the books, Lyle is a city-dwelling crocodile that lives in a bathtub. Lyle's character brings joy to everyone he meets. Waber said that he didn't know where the idea for Lyle came from, but he especially liked drawing crocodiles.

Waber wrote 33 books over the course of his career, including *Ira Sleeps Over* and *Courage*, which was written after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 to teach children the meaning of bravery. His 33 books have sold over 1.75 million copies!

Activity: How Many Crocodiles...

The greater than (>) and less than (<) symbols look just like crocodile jaws! Use "crocodile math" to figure out which number is greater or lesser than.

Example: $8 > 5$ means 8 is greater than 5. $6 < 9$ means 6 is less than 9.

1.2 ○ 5

6.13 ○ 9

2.9 ○ 3

7.16 ○ 19

3.6 ○ 7

8.11 ○ 1

4.4 ○ 1

9.5 ○ 18

5.8 ○ 10

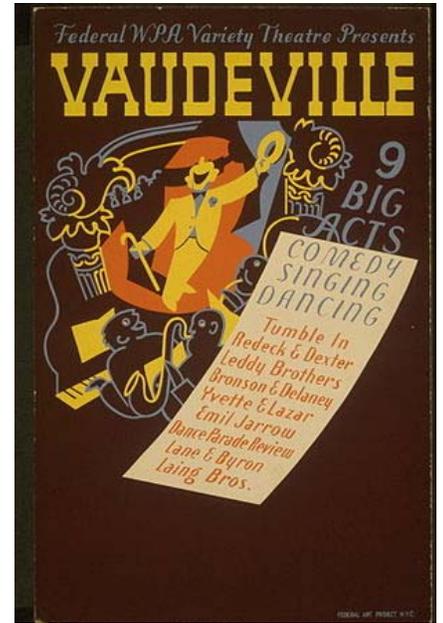
10.8 ○ 17

VERY VAUDEVILLE:

Lyle and Hector are vaudevillians in a post-vaudeville world. From about 1875-1932, vaudeville was the most popular form of entertainment in America, from small-town stages to famous theaters in New York and other big cities.

A typical vaudeville performance was made up of a series of separate, unrelated acts grouped together on a common bill. Acts could be musicians, singers, dancers, comedians, trained animals, magicians, acrobats, jugglers, plays, athletes, **ventriloquists**, minstrels, and more.

Many vaudeville acts were representations of foreign cultures, and were often a family affair. For many audiences, vaudeville was the first exposure to the cultures of people living right down the street. Some believe the origin of the word "vaudeville" comes from the French expression *voix de ville* ("city voice").



Gradually, radio, film, and television took over audiences' attention. Some vaudeville performers went on to become movie and TV stars, including Bob Hope, George Burns, and Charlie Chaplin. The traditional "variety show" structure of vaudeville can be seen today on shows like *The Muppet Show* and *Saturday Night Live*.

Activity: Reptile Review

North Carolina is home to lizards, skinks, **anoles**, snakes, turtles, and even alligators, but no crocodiles! Choose one of NC's state reptiles and do a little research about it. How does it compare it to Lyle (an atypical crocodile for sure!)?

❖ LYLE THE CROCODILE

Eats: Turkish caviar.

Characteristics: A vaudevillian. Loves baths. Best friends with Hector and Joshua.

Habitat: NYC with possible travels to Australia and beyond.

❖ TYPICAL AMERICAN CROCODILE

Eats: Fish, other reptiles, birds, small mammals.

Characteristics: Strong jaws. Can float and barrel roll. Avoids people.

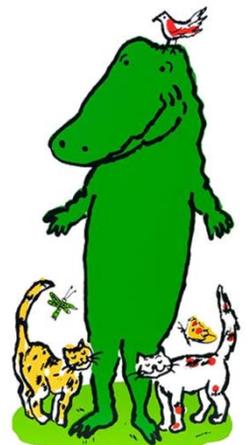
Habitat: Coastal areas with slightly salty water.

❖ NC REPTILE: _____

Eats:

Characteristics:

Habitat:



WELCOME TO NYC:

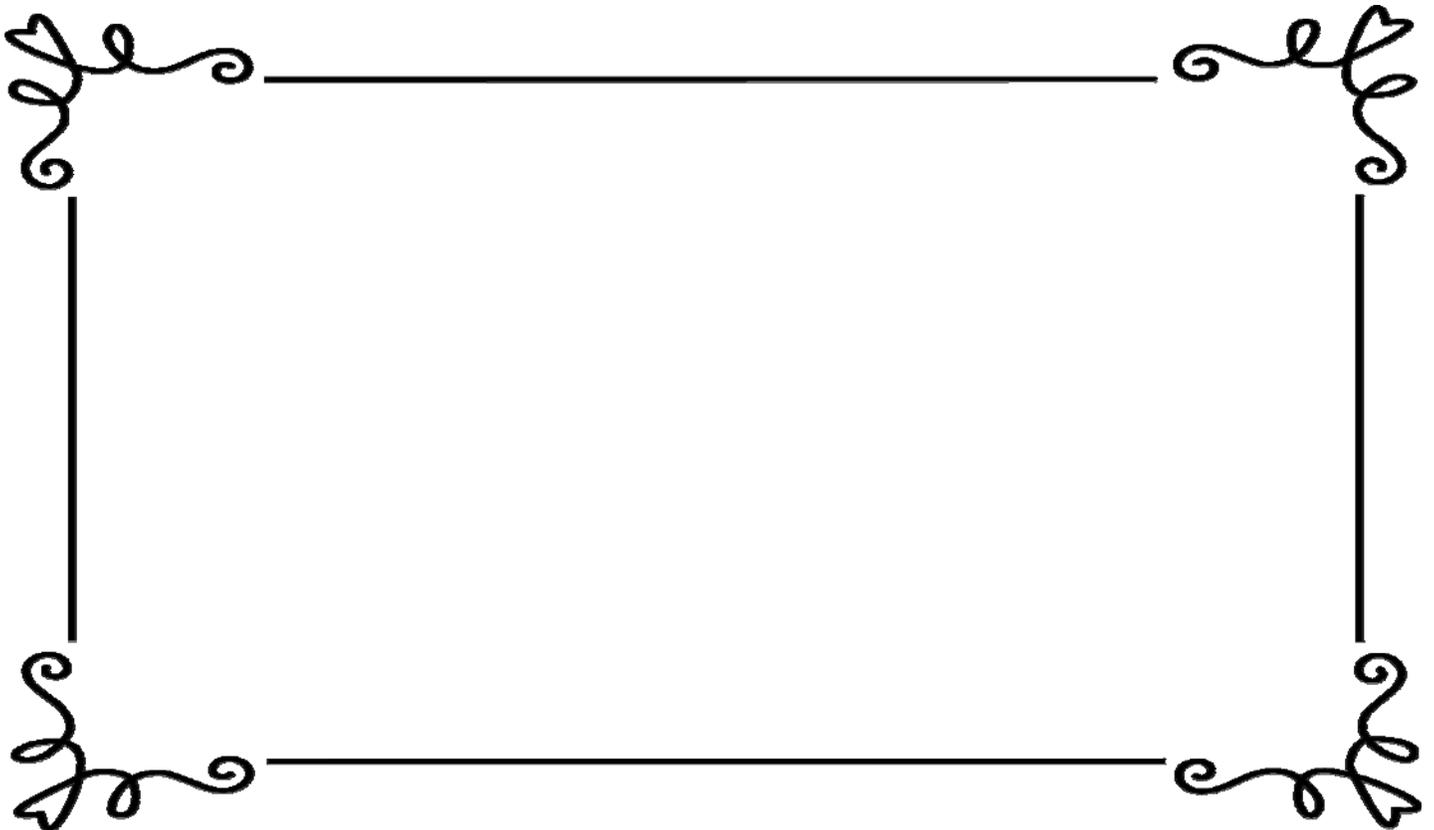
*SOMETHING IS ALWAYS HAPPENING IN THE GREATEST OF ALL CITIES
SOMETHING IS ALWAYS GOING ON IN THE TOWN THAT NEVER SLEEPS...
... TAKE A BITE OF THIS BIG, BIG APPLE... YOU'LL FIND IT IS SWEET
From "Something's Always Happening", Lyle the Crocodile*

This song is about New York City. Known by many nicknames, including the "Empire State" and "The Big Apple," NYC is a busy, crowded metropolis, home to people from virtually every country in the world. This "melting pot" of different cultures gives NYC its **unique** charm. The city is divided into five different **boroughs**: Manhattan, the Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn, and Staten Island. The Primm's home on East 88th Street is in Manhattan.

New York City's history stretches back almost 500 years to the first Dutch settlements in 1524, and then even further back to the primitive forest that was home to the **Lenape** people. Over the years, artists, architects and elected officials have filled the city with some of the most noteworthy buildings in the world. NYC is also home to many famous and talented people, and attracts millions of visitors each year for sporting events, theater productions, museums, zoos (don't tell Lyle!), parks, and other attractions.

Activity: No One Like You

It took Mr. Grumps a while before he could accept Lyle for the cool crocodile he is. You can't always judge a person (or crocodile) by what they look like on the outside. Every person has special qualities and talents. Draw a picture of yourself, celebrating what makes you unique!



GLOSSARY:

- Anole:** A lizard that lives in trees, and has a brightly colored flap of skin at the throat and can change color.
- Borough:** A village, town, or part of a large city that has its own government; also one of the five main sections of New York City.
- Lenape:** A Native American tribe and First Nations band government; the original people of the mid-atlantic United States. Today, the total Lenape population is about 16,000. Lenape means "the people".
- Melting Pot:** A place, such as a city or country, where a variety of different races, cultures, or individuals live together and gradually create one community.
- Mutual:** Shared in common.
- Persnickety:** Placing too much emphasis on unimportant or minor details; fussy.
- Unique:** Being the only one of its kind; unlike anything else.
- Ventriloquist:** A person who can speak or utter sounds so that they seem to come from somewhere else, especially an entertainer who makes their voice appear to come from a puppet or animal.

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Send a letter or draw a picture to the *Lyle the Crocodile* team!

Drop off at the Cary Arts Center front desk or mail to:

Applause! Cary Youth Theatre

101 Dry Avenue

Cary, NC 27511

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Search "Applause" at www.townofcary.org

or call (919) 465-4792.