

Pushcart Players

STUDY GUIDE



Outta' This World: The Adventures of Kalien the Alien is a rollicking rock musical that explores themes of anti-bullying, prejudice and kindness imbedded with social emotional learning. This study guide contains activities that will aid young learners into understanding the value of character education through music and dance.

Kalien is a blue-skinned alien who mistakenly lands on our planet after hopping on the wrong space cab from his planet Gorock, only to be made fun of because of how different they are, particularly their skin color. The driving theme of *Kalien the Alien* is that we should never make fun of anyone who is different than us, but rather celebrate how amazingly unique we all are. Simple, yet life-affirming, there are lessons in diversity, friendship, inclusion and kindness.

This study guide is designed to facilitate discussion and encourage projects in connection to character education with viewing *Outta' This World: The Adventures of Kalien the Alien*. It is our hope that you will use this guide as a spring board to the importance of character education helping children learn and practice behaviors that reflect universal ethical values.

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Kalien the Alien

Pre-Show

Prepare your class for the theater event that they will soon attend. You can share that the Pushcart Players Theater Company will be coming to your school or theater. The actors will sing, dance, and act.

- Discuss the differences between television, movies, computer screens, and live theater.
- Discuss theater etiquette: how you behave while watching a live performance.

- 1) No talking, unless audience participation is requested by the performers.
- 2) Turn off all cell phones, audible watches, and any other sound-making gadgets before a performance.
- 3) Applause! Applause! Applause! If you find something humorous, laugh or clap appropriately. Performers love to feed off the energy of an audience.

Familiarity with some of the elements of theater terms will also be helpful. Here is a list which you may want to define and discuss in terms of how they are used.

Stage	Director	Lights	Script	Scenery
Costume	Sound	Technicians	Props	Music
Actors	Choreographer	Stage Manager	Composer	Playwright



Pushcart is a member of Actors' Equity Association, ArtPride, Arts Council of the Morris Area, Newark Arts Education Roundtable, Arts Ed NJ, New Jersey Arts Education Partnership, New Jersey Theatre Alliance and Producer's League of Theatre for Young Audiences.



Lesson “Friendly/Unfriendly”

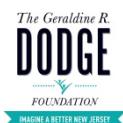


Objective: To understand that you cannot tell what type of person someone is just by looking at what they are wearing.

Procedure:

- Do you think you can tell what kind of person someone is by looking at what they are wearing? Why or why not?
- What do you think when you see someone wearing ripped or dirty clothes?
- The students will pretend they are closing their eyes. They are going to read the following questions on page 4. Think about whether they think the person they are meeting is friendly or unfriendly based on the words and not what they are reading (This worksheet can be adapted with the teacher reading the scenarios while the students' eyes are closed).
- Student/Teacher discussion after they complete the worksheet.
- The teacher will introduce a synopsis of *Kalien* – play the title track in class.

As a social-profit organization, Pushcart Players' programs are made possible in part by NJ State Council on the Arts/Department of State, Pine Tree Foundation of New York, NJ State Bar Foundation, Actors' Equity Foundation, ADP Foundation, The Community Foundation of NJ, EJ Grassmann Trust, Essex County Small Business Lease Grant, The Grunin Foundation, Hyde & Watson Foundation, The Montclair Foundation, Newark Arts, New Jersey Arts and Culture Renewal Fund, New Jersey CARES Act Fund, New Jersey Economic Development Authority, Park West Foundation, PNC Bank/Lillian Schenck Foundation, The Puffin Foundation, The Sosland Foundation, The Turrell Fund, The Whitehill Foundation, and numerous individual contributors.



"Friendly or Unfriendly"

Read the situations. Pretend that you are meeting someone with your eyes closed so you do not notice what they look like. Decide if the person is friendly or unfriendly and circle the word.

1) You meet a person who is wearing pants with holes in them and a dirty shirt. When you say "Hi", they say, "Nice to meet you! I am new and I don't know where the playground is. Would you show me?"

Friendly

Unfriendly

2) You meet a person dressed all fancy with beautiful shoes. You smile and say you like their outfit. They frown at you and say, "Of course, my outfit is expensive and amazing."

Friendly

Unfriendly

3) You meet a person who is wearing clothes that are too big & too dirty. You smile at them. They smile back and say, "I was just about to go play. Would you like to come with me?"

Friendly

Unfriendly

4) You meet a person who is wearing a really nice shirt and shiny shoes. You ask if they would like to play. They say, "I have friends, I don't need any more."

Friendly

Unfriendly



Create YOUR Alien

You cannot tell what type of person someone is by what they wear or look like on "the outside."

Draw yourself as an alien. Think about the type of person you are and how you can show it as an alien. When the students are done, allow them to share. Have the other students guess what kind of person they are based on their outfit!

Exploring Bullying

Essential Questions: How do your words and actions have an impact on other people? What can we do as a classroom community to make sure everyone is respectful and kind? What is bullying?

Objective: Students will be able to explore and successfully manage techniques in handling situations that pertain to bullying. For example, what should you do if you see someone being bullied? They will be able to reflect on their comfort level when dealing with situations regarding bullying.

Step 1: Students will start by brainstorming "What is bullying?" The teacher will clarify the term and students will discuss and learn about their roles in a broader sense.

Step 2: To help expand with the creative process, the teacher will put two pieces of chart paper on the board with the alphabet listed vertically (A-Z). Students will raise their hands and give examples for a word that depicts the traits of a bully until the entire alphabet is completed.

Step 3: The teacher will facilitate a discussion on what students should do if they are confronted with a bully.

Human Barometer

1. The teacher will lead a "human barometer" game where the student will have an opportunity to evaluate their own perceptions on bullying?
2. The teacher will divide the classroom into three zones: strongly agree, strongly disagree, and not sure. Depending on the size of the classroom, this can be easily done in an open space or using corners of the room.
3. The teacher will read a list of statements and the students will choose a zone based on whether they agree or disagree with the statements. After choosing their zone, students will discuss why they chose that zone.
4. Wrap up with a brief discussion about whether any perceptions have changed during the "human barometer" game.

Examples of Questions:

1. Bullying hurts other people's feelings
2. Bullying can be easily prevented
3. Girls are more likely to be bullies
4. People are bullies because they themselves are insecure
5. Bullying has real-world consequences

POST SHOW REFLECTION?

What lessons can be learned from this play?

Why do you think people bully?

Can bullying be prevented?

Is being kind important? If so, why?

What are some examples of kindness that you have witnessed?

How can you be a kind and accepting person in your everyday life?

Outta' This World: The Adventures of Kalien the Alien

Book – Sheryl Berk

Music & Lyrics – Ray Andersen

Director – Paul Whelihan

Vocal Arrangements & Music Director – Brent Mauldin

Choreographer – Stacie Gogo

Costume Designer – Amy Rice

Scenic Design – Noah Zark

Lighting Design – Peter Vaiknoras

Props – Alison Petersen