

Costumes

Junie B. Jones JR. is a show that should be fun and easy to costume. This whole show can easily be put together without constructing any new pieces – you can find most of the looks in clothing stores, secondhand shops, and even your casts' closets! For inspiration, try thinking like a first grader picking out their special outfit for their first day of school.

The Big Picture Approach

The main goal for costuming *Junie B. Jones JR.* is to visually distinguish the different characters in the show. Luckily, this show's setting is contemporary, so there are very few specialized costumes that must be built. As long as the School Kids are visually distinct from the adult characters the rest of your costume needs should easily fall into place.

Use Base Costumes

For *Junie B. Jones JR.*, every character can wear one costume for the entire show, adding accessories as needed throughout. This is called their base costume. Here are some guidelines for base costumes:

- Costumes should be character and age appropriate.
- Costumes should fit within a determined color and pattern palette, upon which the director and costumes designer decide.
- Costumes must allow for easy movement.
- Costumes should be made of a light, breathable fabric to prevent overheating.
- All shoes must be character appropriate and comfortable for dancing.

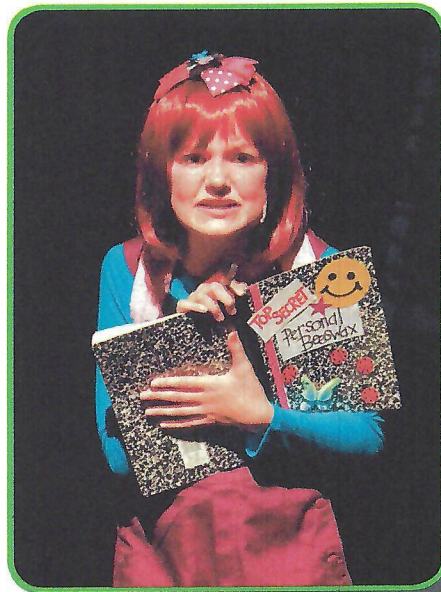
After reviewing these guidelines with your students, encourage them to find their own base costume from home. By employing this method, you considerably lower your costume costs, ensure that everything fits, and help your actors connect with their characters on a deeper level.

A Note About Color

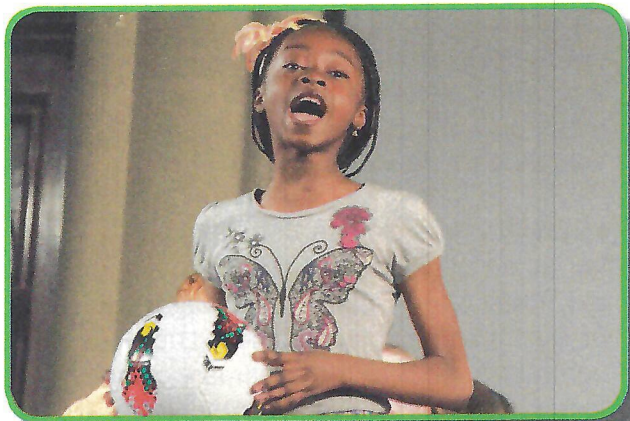
Using a determined color palette will help the audience visually identify characters and ultimately help tell the story. For example, dressing the School Kids in bright, bold



The school bus.



Junie B. Jones and her journal.



"Kickball Tournament"

DESIGN



patterns and the adults in neutrals and solid colors will provide a clear distinction between the two groups. When deciding your palette, be aware of your theater's curtains and backdrops or any scenery you will be using. You want to make sure the costumes will not blend into the background while still keeping your production visually cohesive.

A Final Note

Your costume designs must allow students to comfortably act, sing, and move around onstage. Remember, lights add heat, accessories go askew, and an understudy may need to wear another actor's costumes. The more actor-friendly the costumes are, the happier you and your students will be.

Costumes By Character

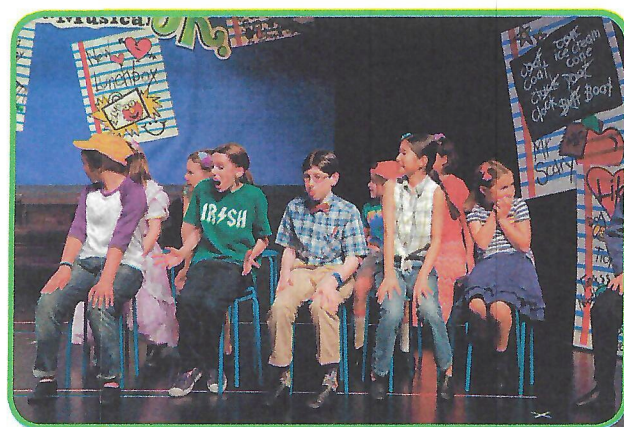
The following section gives suggestions for individual characters' costume designs and is based on the idea that each character uses a base costume.

JUNIE B. JONES is a spunky, vibrant first grader who clearly enjoys choosing her own outfits. Dress Junie B. in bold patterns and bright colors. Eye-catching pieces like overalls, tutus, and bright sneakers will accentuate her individuality. Accessorize with fun hair bows or a headband, a funky jacket or coat, and flashy tights or socks to complete her look. Junie B. will need to add purple glasses, an apron to match Mrs. Gutzman, and a band uniform for the kickball tournament.

DADDY and **MOTHER** should dress in the pre-determined "grown-up" color palette. Keep these costumes simple, like button-down shirts and khakis or nice jeans.

TICKLE, the Jones family dog, can be portrayed by a human if desired. Simply use a tan or brown sweat suit with an attached a tail, plus, a headband with dog ears to complete the look.

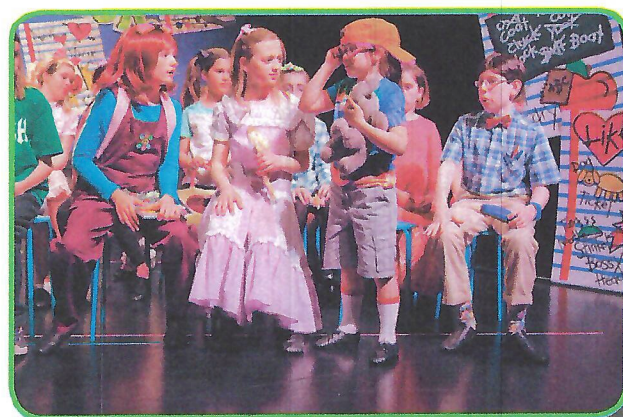
LUCILLE wears clothes that distinguish her as a well-to-do, somewhat spoiled little girl. Think a frilly, sparkly, extravagant dress or skirt. Using pastel colors for Lucille to contrast Junie B.'s bright, primary colors is a good way to visually represent the difference between the two characters. Lucille is also a cheerleader and should have



The School Kids.



Junie B. and Mother.



"Time To Make A Drawing"



a pink cheerleader's outfit for the kickball tournament.

CAMILLE and **CHENILLE** wear coordinated variations of Lucille's ensemble. The three of them should look like a cohesive (and expensive) unit. Remember, they are twins, so their costumes should help convey that idea to the audience.

HERB wears a red or green shirt with jeans or cargo pants. While Herb is not as bold as Junie B., be sure that his outfit helps the audience identify his character and subtly links him to Junie B.

SHELDON POTTS dresses in less vibrant colors than his classmates, like navy or forest green. Accentuate his nerdy side by putting him in a sweater vest or thick glasses. Sheldon wears the same band uniform as Junie B. during the kickball tournament.

MAY, like Junie B., should wear clothes that demand attention. Unlike Junie B., May's outfits could never be described as wacky. Try using a bold color that contrasts Junie B. and streamlined, put-together patterns. Peter Pan collars and pig tails are fun ways to complete this look.

MRS. GUTZMAN dresses in true lunch lady fashion – a simple gray or navy dress, big white apron, and a hairnet. Give her glasses and other additions like a wig to help the audience identify her age. The **LUNCH SERVER** dresses in gray or navy, and has an apron.

MR. WOO and **MR. SCARY** also dress in the adult color palette but should be accessorized so that they are visually identifiable as teachers. Using bow ties and cardigan sweaters are great ways to give an educational feel to these characters.

The **SCHOOL KIDS**, including **GRACE**, **BOBBI JEAN PIPER**, **LENNIE**, **JOSÉ**, **SHIRLEY**, **LUNCH STUDENT 1**, and **STUDENTS 1–5**, should each have an individual look that coordinates them as an ensemble. Using these guidelines, have your students find outfits that bring out each character's personality while fitting into the parameters you've laid out. Brighter colors



"Lucille, Camille, Chenille"



Mrs. Gutzman and Junie B.



"Show And Tell"



with patterns differentiate the school kids from the more subtle adult characters.

The **KIDS ON BUS** should be in their normal school kid costumes with an added accessory, like a backpack, scarf, or jacket.

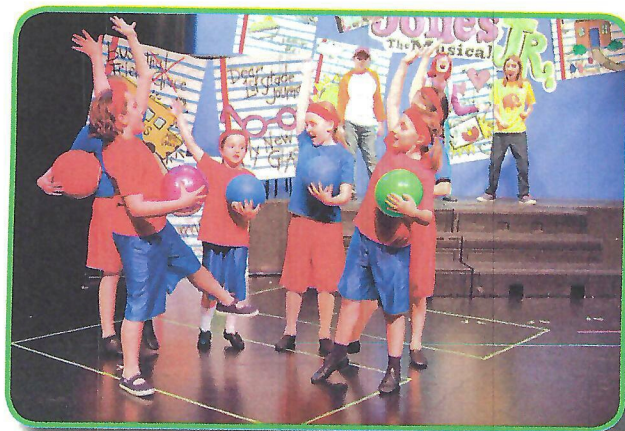
The **CHEERLEADERS** can wear full cheerleader costumes, dance clothes, or simply have pom-poms to wave during the kickball tournament.

Caring for Costumes

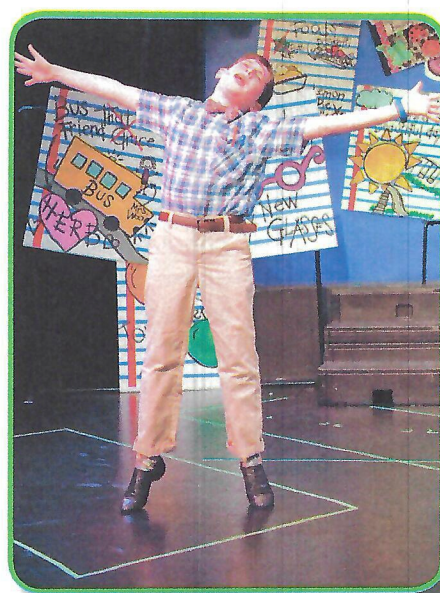
When a generous donation of clothing is given to your organization, there are a few steps that can be taken to properly clean the garments. First, put each piece into a heavy-duty freezer bag, making sure to squeeze out as much air as possible before sealing the bag closed. Next, lay the bags of clothing into a chest freezer (not a regular refrigerator). Leave the clothes in the chest freezer for at least three days, then transfer to a regular refrigerator for two days, and after taking the bags out of the fridge, allow them to sit – sealed – for one more day. Upon opening the bags, immediately place the garments in a dryer on hot for 15 – 30 minutes. After that, the machine-washable clothes will be ready to put through a regular washing cycle.

Remember, if you see or smell mold of any kind, dispose of the garment and any garments it came into contact with – better safe than sorry!

Maintaining costume cleanliness during the run of a show can be tricky as well. In a perfect world, all costumes would be washable, but in reality costumes run the gamut – there are any number of glued-on, painted-on, glittery, or vintage garments that simply cannot go into the washing machine. For those delicate or specialized costumes, professionals use garment spray. This spray kills bacteria, eliminates odor, and refreshes otherwise un-washable costumes without damaging them. If you're interested in using garment spray, research it online and make sure your administration approves of this method of cleaning, and ensure that you have the means to properly store it. Garment spray should be locked away in a closet or an office in between uses.



"Kickball Tournament"



"Sheldon Potts' Halftime Show"



The cast of *Junie B. Jones JR.*