

outside the lines

by Tia Shearer Bassett
directed by Megan Alrutz

Get To Know The Show

About the Show

Bud and Vi are pen pals who brighten each other's days with tales from their faraway worlds. Bud lives in a straight-line world of tall buildings, while Vi's world is filled with curves and rolling hills. When a storm magically brings them together for a single night, they find a place where straight and curvy can meet and make them feel truly at home.

Outside Your Window

*(Cognitive Development & Comprehension,
Language Control & Speech, Auditory Learning)*

Talk about the place where you live. Is it loud and busy with lots of people? Or quiet and peaceful? What do students like about this place? Have they ever visited a place that looks very different? Do they have friends or family who live far away? Show photographs of busy cities and of quiet countrysides. Ask the students what they see in the pictures and notice the similarities and differences. This conversation is a great way to introduce the contrasting environments of Bud and Vi.



Bud:

Bud's world is one of straight lines and rigid angles. He writes his friend Vi letters and shares what he sees through his window. He is played by actor Dallas Tolentino.

Vi:

Vi moves through the world in curvy pathways. The world she sees is filled with soft curlicues and wavy lines. Bud is her pen pal. She is played by actor Moriamo Akibu.



Extension: Pen Pal

This show explores environment and communities. Have students draw a picture of where they live, or what they see out of their window. Once complete, students can share their pictures by telling the group things that they like (and maybe even dislike!) about where they live. Encourage them to share sensory details, including what sounds they hear or what they smell. You can turn this into a pen pal activity just like Bud and Vi by sending these pictures to loved ones who are far away, and asking them to describe where they live in return. Collect individual addresses from families or send the whole class's batch off together to a pen pal class!

Before You See the Show

Get Moving: Warming Up

(Fine/Gross Motor Development, Movement Concepts, Listening Skills)

This listening and movement activity is a great way to prepare to hear the different tempos (speeds) of music in *Outside the Lines*. While sitting, demonstrate moving your hand slowly through the air, and ask students to just move their hands slowly. Solicit other body parts that can move slowly — how can you move your leg slow? Your head? Your elbow? Next, try moving your hand fast. What other body parts can move fast?



Fastland & Slowland

(Music Listening, Movement Concepts and Gross Motor Development)

Divide the room into two sections — Slowland and Fastland. In Slowland, everyone must move their whole body slowly. And in Fastland, everyone moves fast! Start with the whole class in one land or the other, and then divide students so that some are in each land. When you call “switch” students can move to the opposite land. Afterwards, discuss how it felt to be in each land. Do you have a land you prefer? Which land seemed more relaxing?

Tiring? Exciting? To extend this activity, play students snippets of songs that have either fast or slow tempos. While listening to the music, decide which land to dance in for each song. Encourage students to move their bodies in time with the music.

Exploring With Art



Elements of Art: Lines

Activity:

SQUIGGLES!

(Creative Expression, Fine Motor Skills, Visual/Spatial Thinking)

Give each child a piece of paper and a colored crayon or marker. Each student should create one short "squiggle" on their paper.

Then, have the students trade papers with a partner and use their imagination to add to their partner's squiggle. What can their squiggle become? What can you turn a line into? What do you see in this line?

(Fine/Gross Motor Development, Creative Expression, Tactile Learning)

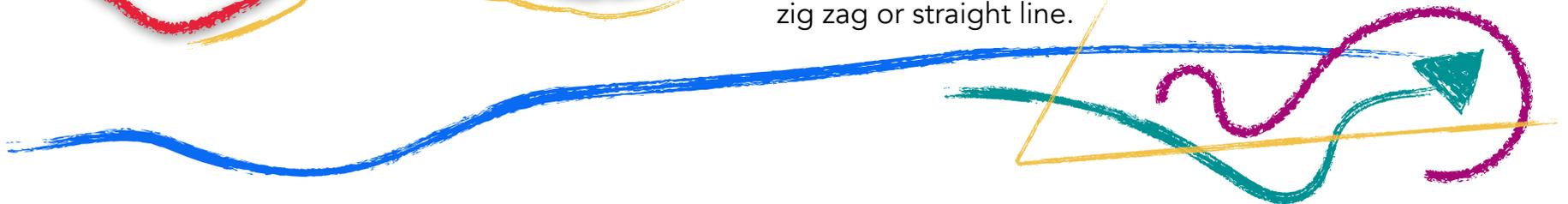
Supplies:

- Butcher Paper
- Markers

Instructions:

Outside the Lines was inspired by Pablo Picasso's line drawings. Explore lines with these creative activities!

Bud's world is made of straight lines, while the lines in Vi's world are all curved. Explore types of lines by rolling butcher paper on the floor and drawing long straight, curvy, zig zag and even dotted lines. Ask students to walk on top of the lines, and then have them "paint" magical colors on the bottom of their feet and "draw" straight, curvy and zig zag lines all over the room! Next, stretch butcher paper across long tables and give each student a different color marker. As they walk along the side of the table, each student can draw his or her own curvy, twisty, zig zag or straight line.



After You See the Show

Discussion: Reviewing the Show

(Comprehension, Appropriate Response, Cognitive Development, Speech Skills, Listening Skills)

Start with an open-ended conversation about *Outside the Lines* to practice memory, reflection, and articulation. Let the students direct the discussion and go deeper into moments towards which they gravitate.

- Tell me about the show.
- What happened in the show?
- Who were the characters in the show?
- How did the characters feel at the beginning? The end?

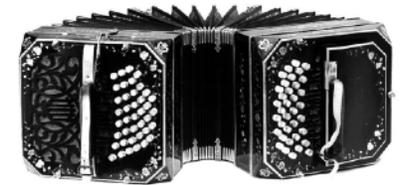
Extension: Deeper Thinking

For children 5 and up, the conversation can explore deeper questions. In the show, Bud lives in the city but would rather live in the country, like Vi. She feels more comfortable with straight lines, but everyone insists she move in curvy ones. Discuss this with your students. Has anyone ever told them they should think or act a certain way because of who they are?

Music to Explore

The music in *Outside the Lines* is from the Alexandria chamber tango quintet "QuinTango." The tango is a dance style that has its roots in Buenos Aires, Argentina in the mid-nineteenth century.

QuinTango includes two violins, bass, cello and piano. Tango music also often includes a **bandoneon**, a type of concertina that resembles an accordion.



A quick search for "tango" on the Internet will bring up many musical examples (or try www.quintango.com for the group's other recordings!) First, play the music for your students and ask them to use their bodies to demonstrate how the music sounds. Because the tango is traditionally danced with partners, older students may try to hold hands and work together to move around the space.



Recommended Reading

Lines

The Line, by Paula Boss

Follow the Line and A Line Can Be, by Laura Ljungkvist

Harold and the Purple Crayon, by Crockett Johnson

The Squiggle, by Carole Lexa Schaefer

Lines that Wiggle, by Candace Whitman

Pablo Picasso

Just Behave, Pablo Picasso!, by Jonah Winter

When Pigasso Met Mootisse, by Nina Laden

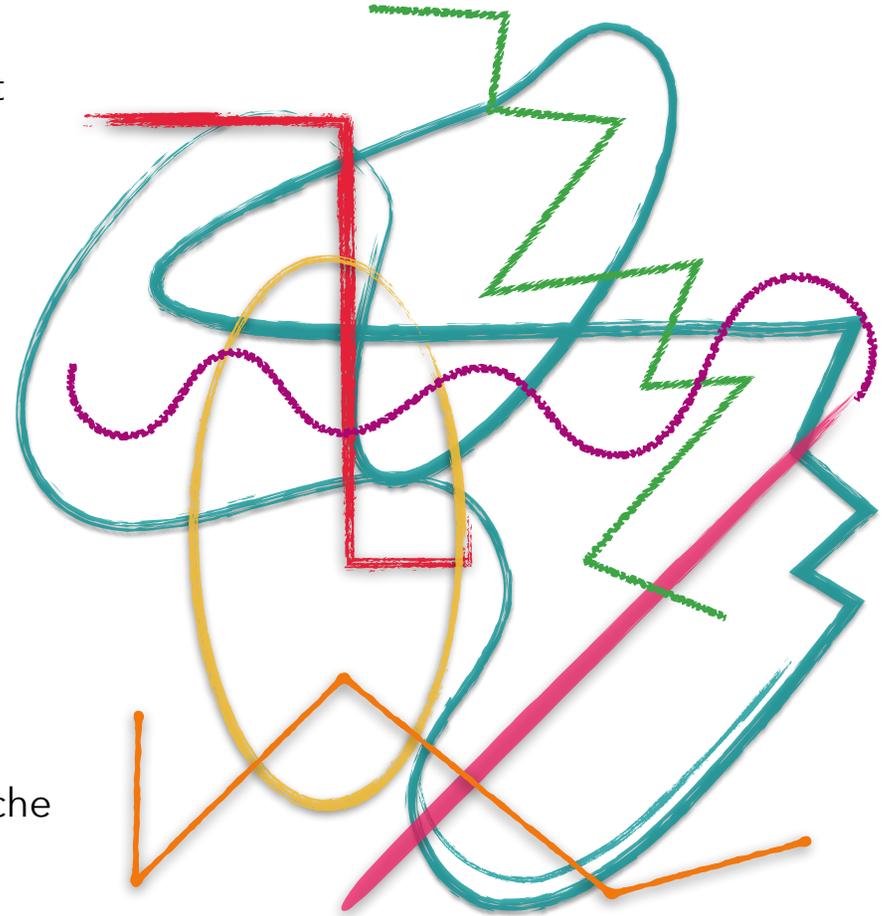
Painting with Picasso, by Julie Merberg

Communities and Homes

Me On The Map, by Joan Sweeney

This Is My House, by Arthur Dorros

If You Lived Here - Houses of the World, by Giles Laroche



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