

A STUDY OF "LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE"
AND THE GREAT DEPRESSION

Harold Gray

LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE
in the Great Depression



Little Orphan Annie

Created by cartoonist Harold Gray, the Little Orphan Annie comic strip first appeared in August of 1924. Little Orphan Annie was very popular. People eagerly bought newspapers to find out what would happen next.

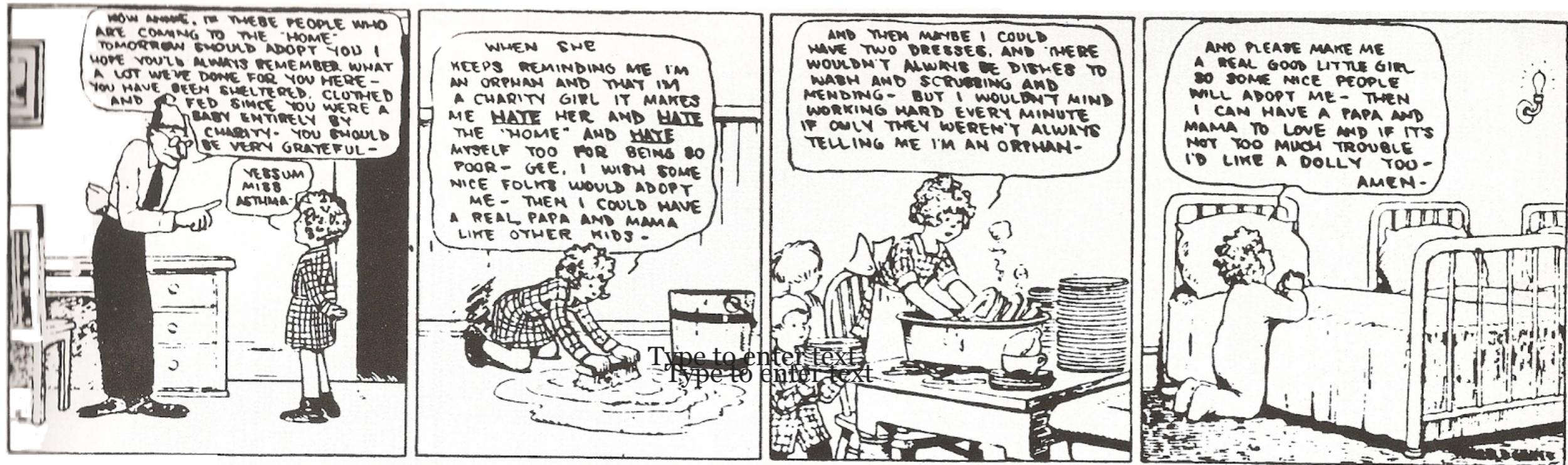
Annie didn't have any family to call her own. Gray used the comic strip to help people talk about what was happening in the country. This was called the Great Depression. It was a terrible time.

We begin our study by looking at Mr. Gray's comic strip, "Little Orphan Annie."

Click [HERE](#) to get a peek at **ANNIE**



Little Orphan Annie began as a comic strip, became a radio show, a Broadway play, and two movies.



Today we will read Chapter 1 of "Little Orphan Annie" to see what it is like!

NEW WORDS:

sheltered, charity, companion, rowdy, ingratitude, insulting, dependent, cultivate, superiors, disgraceful conduct, sentence, providence, meted out, unjust, distinctly, poppycock (August 5-11, 2017)

Question:

Annie has "grit." What is grit? Watch this **video** to figure out what "grit" is.

What is your definition of "grit?"

In what ways does Annie show "grit?"

Who was Harold Gray?



Harold Gray's America was nothing like America today. He created Annie to show what life was like. America at that time was called a place of "**wonderful nonsense**." Annie's world was one of Prohibition and speakeasies, of flappers, and of silly stunts like flagpole sitting! Let's learn about that time!



Prohibition means no one could make or sell alcohol like beer or whiskey. Prohibit means "to stop."

WONDERFUL NONSENSE



Flag Pole Sitting (below)

Why? Can you think of crazy things people do today?

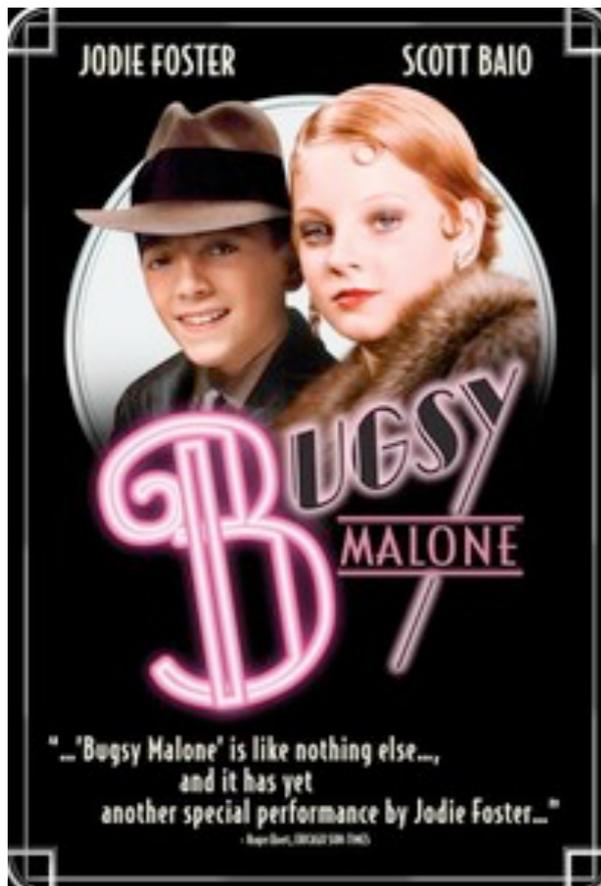
Speakeasies were against the law. They were hidden and where people met to drink the "illegal" alcohol. **Flappers** were girls who wore short hair and short skirts; before it was ONLY long hair and skirts.



Prohibition and the Speakeasies brought something bad called “**organized crime.**” Ever hear of the word gangster? Gangsters made and sold the illegal alcohol. They even owned most of the Speakeasies. They often **bribed** policemen to “turn a **blind eye.**”

One of the most notorious gangsters was **Al Capone.** He was in Chicago and was so powerful he controlled the city!

“Bugsy Malone” was a Disney film that starred kids. It shows a “fun” look at flappers and prohibition. However, there was nothing funny about the gangster history of our country.



Al Capone

What Else Was Happening in the 1920's

“Era of Wonderful Nonsense?”

Pick one of the following to research and share with your classmates using Google Slides.

- * **Charles Lindbergh's Heroic Solo Flight**
- * **Babe Ruth**
- * **Women's Suffrage (right to vote)**
- * **Charlie Chaplin**
- * **Al Jolson**
- * **Herbert Hoover**
- * **Langston Hughes**
- * **Victrolas**
- * **Jimmie Rodgers**
- * **Jack Dempsey**
- * **Duke Ellington**
- * **Coco Chanel**
- * **Al Capone**
- * **dance marathons**
- * **1920s fashion**
- * **Charles Ponzi**



The Great Depression

Life was not good for most during the 1920's. And it was soon to get worse --even though those who had money would find it gone..

Harold Gray's, "Little Orphan Annie" comic strip became an immediate hit because the common man could relate to Annie's struggles --what was called "**bread and butter**" struggles. Most of the comic strip had to do with money: mothers so poor they left their children in orphanages so they had food to eat; Daddy Warbucks always trying to get richer and richer.

Annie had to be tough to survive. She looks at her hard life with a **positive attitude**. She is **optimistic**, but she isn't foolish. Harold Gray makes the stories of Annie's life full of hope and interesting. His readers wanted to know what would happen to her next.

Annie is often in a tough spot. She doesn't even have a last name, since she was left in an **orphanage** as a toddler. The mean headmistress (Miss Asthma) makes her eat **mush** and scrub floors. Despite this, Annie prays for nice adopted parents. She is full of hope.

What Caused the Great Depression?



The Wall Street Crash of 1929 was one of the main causes of the Great Depression. On "**Black Tuesday**," October 29, 1929, the stock market lost \$14 billion, making the loss for that week an astounding \$30 billion.

As news of the stock market crash spread, customers rushed to their banks to withdraw their money, causing disastrous "**bank runs**." People who had been very wealthy lost everything they had and some committed suicide. Many companies went out of business and huge numbers of people lost their jobs. At the peak of the depression, 1 out of every 4 people were without a job. Between 1930 and 1935, nearly 750,000 farms were lost through bankruptcy or sheriff sales.

Click [HERE](#) to discover exactly what Wall Street is!

HOOVERVILLES

People who lost their homes often lived in what were called “Hoovervilles,” or shanty towns, that were named after President Herbert Hoover. There was also “Hoover Stew” which was the name for food handed out to the poor at *soup kitchens*. “*Hoover Blankets*” were newspapers that were being used to cover people like a blanket. “*Hoover Hogs*” were jack rabbits that were used for food, and “*Hoover Wagons*” were broken down cars that were pulled by mules. *Research to see why they were names after Hoover!



View footage of an actual Soup Kitchen from the Depression.

HOBOS

Some people who became homeless would ride on railroad cars, because they didn't have money to travel. Some believe that more than 50,000 people were injured or killed while jumping trains. Many of these people traveled together and were called hobos.

People living in Weiner in that time period remembered hobos knocking on their doors from time to time asking for food.



Orphans

Almost half of the children who were living in the United States at that time did not have enough food, shelter, or medical care. Many suffered diseases. By the 1930s, thousands of schools were operating on reduced hours or were closed down entirely. Some three million children left school, and at least 200,000 took to riding the rails either with their parents or as orphans. In big cities, parents were forced to take their children to orphanages so they would have something to eat. Often parents died of hunger and disease sending others to orphanages.



WANTED

Homes for Children

A company of homeless children from the East will arrive at
TROY, MO., ON FRIDAY, FEB. 25th, 1910

These children are of various ages and are being taken from their homes in New York City and other places in the East to the orphanages of the Orphan Train Movement. They are being taken to the West to be placed in homes for them. They are being taken to the West to be placed in homes for them. They are being taken to the West to be placed in homes for them.

O. B. Avery E. B. Woolfolk H. F. Childers
 Wm. Young G. W. Colbert

Applications must be made by and endorsed by the local authorities.

An address will be made by the agent. Come and see the children, and hear the address. Distribution will take place at the

Opera House Friday, Feb. 25, at 1:30 p. m.

E. W. TIDE and PUSEY A. L. BIRD, Agents, 309 E. 22nd St., New York City.
 REV. J. W. SWAN, University Place, Nebraska, Western Agent.

The Orphan Train

The Orphan Train Movement was a program that transported orphaned and homeless children from crowded Eastern cities of the United States to homes located largely in rural areas of the Midwest. The orphan trains relocated about 250,000 orphaned, abandoned, or homeless children.

There were 30,000 abandoned or orphaned children living in the streets of New York City alone.

Families in the Midwest wanted these children to work on their farms. Sadly, many of the children did not find loving homes waiting for them. Some of them were even sold like cattle or slaves.



The DUST BOWL

The Great Depression was felt everywhere --not just in big cities. Severe drought and dust storms occurred, making the Great Depression even worse. It dried out farmlands and forced families to leave their farms.

On May 9, 1934, a dust storm carried about 350 million tons of dirt 2,000 miles eastward and dumped four million tons of prairie dirt in Chicago. The drought and dust killed tens of thousands of animals and some people.

People lost everything. Many of them began the long trip to California, thinking there was work there. When they arrived their hopes were not realized and conditions became even worse.



View scenes from Ken Burn's **"The Dust Bowl"**

READING -----

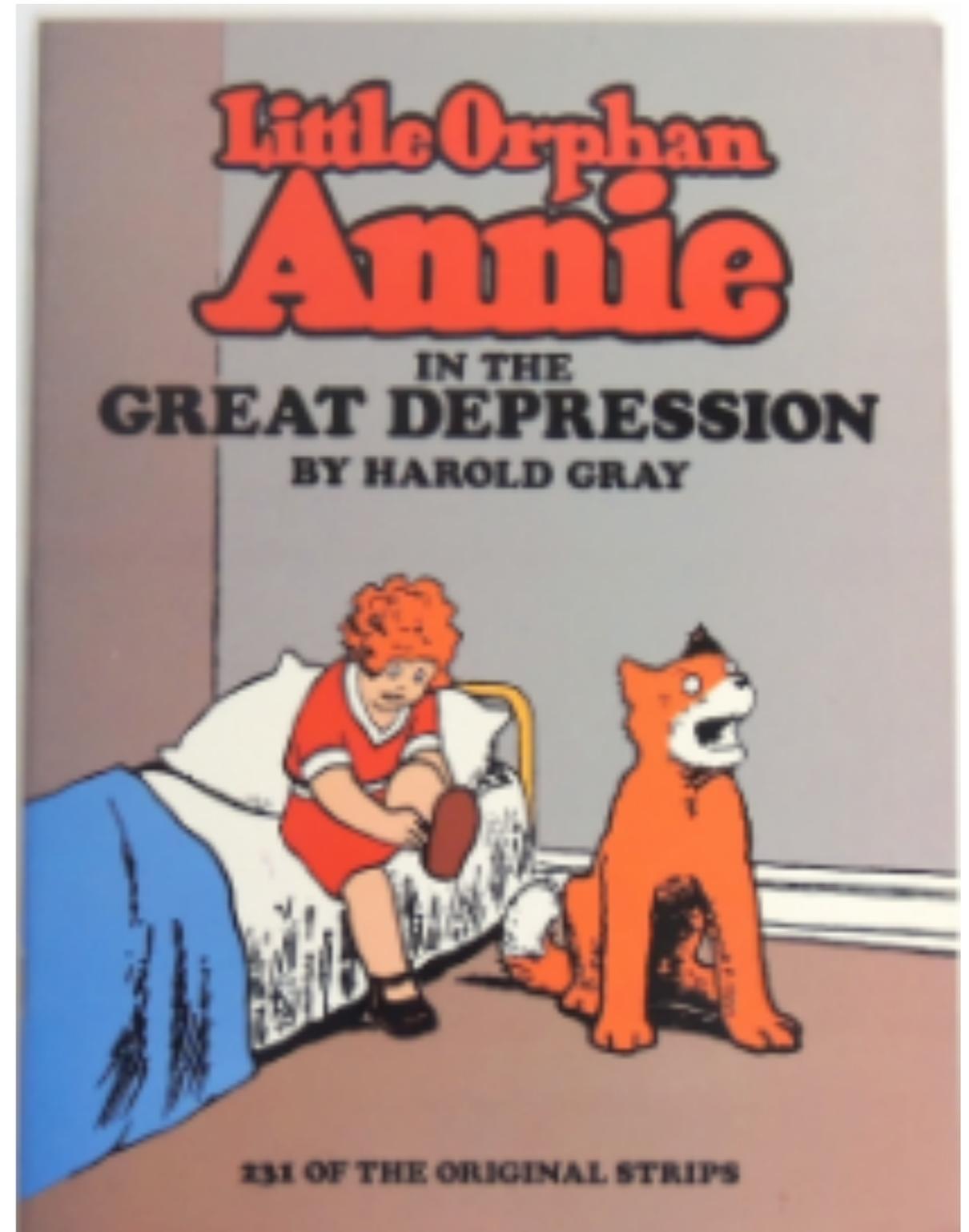
“LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE!”

"Little Orphan Annie" made its newspaper debut on August 5, 1924, first written and illustrated by creator Harold Gray. The strip later was renamed simply "Annie," telling tales of the spunky orphan adopted by Daddy Warbucks and joined by her lovable dog, Sandy.

Annie was famous for wearing a red dress with white collar and cuffs. Over the decades she became the center of the 1930s radio program "Adventure Time with Orphan Annie," a 1977 Broadway musical and several movies.

The first strip of "Little Orphan Annie" from 1924 shows the heroine kneeling at her orphanage bed, praying for a family and scrubbing the floor while saying, "Gee, I wish some nice folks would adopt me — then I could have a real papa and mama like other kids. Annie is the symbol of looking on the bright side when everything looks bad, She's the symbol of picking yourself up, dusting yourself off and getting back into the fight. After 85 years, on June 13, 2010, the last Little Orphan Annie ran in newspapers.

...”each” strip is ONE day’s comic strip



RE-READ the FIRST “Little Orphan Annie” on page 2. We will be reading Chapter One of Harold Gray’s comic titled “From Rags to Riches.” The dates are the dates the comic first appeared in the newspaper.

August 12 - 18, 1924

WORDS:

antecedents

divulge

hoodlum

gratitude

good impression

on trial

limburger

frock

society

at ease

roller towel



#1 - Why do you think Annie thought that orphans never had parents?

#2 - Miss Asthma says the people who are coming to adopt a child feel it is “their duty?” What does that mean?

#3 - Why do you think Annie commented on what a lot of floors there were to scrub?

#4 - Why do you think the dinner guest said, “There’s nothing loose in her head?”

#5 - What can we “deduct” by Annie’s comment “look like a roller towel on Saturday?”

#6 - Why was Mrs. Warbucks more concerned about the vase?



“Little Orphan Annie” appeared each day in the newspapers. One row is one day’s comic. EXCEPT on Sunday when there were four rows.

Today: August 19-25, 1924

WORD LIST -

skinned alive

spoiled worse than an eight day

herring

cruelty to animals

tolerate

shoot you for a dollar

stake

innocent

game of “authors”

gamble

#1 - Why does she call the dog a “flea chaser?”

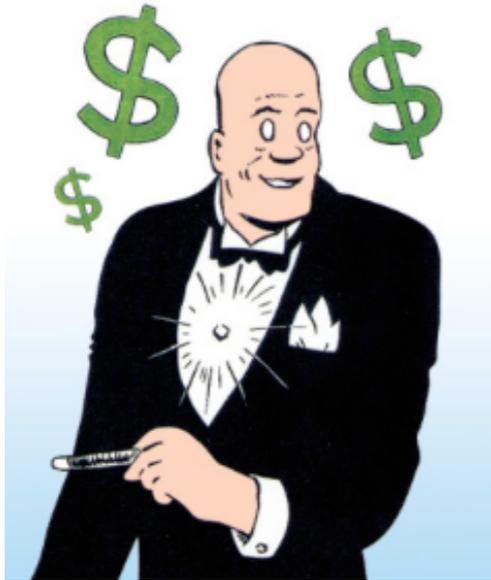
#2 - Was Annie right to fight the boys? Why or why not?

#3 - Why do you think the dog’s name is “One Lung?”

#4 - What is “ironic” about the women’s concern that the kids were gambling? Why do they think Annie started the gambling?

#5 - Explain what Annie means when she says, “a diamond can rub up against almost anything and not get scratched.”

#6 - Why was Mrs. Warbucks so scared of One Lung?



Little Orphan Annie is an **optimist**. Optimists see possibilities not problems. They even **see possibilities in problems.**

What do you think that means?

August 26 - September 1, 1924

WORD LIST:

forefathers
aristocratic
society
exclusive

ANNIE'S "EXPRESSIONS"

"Hot Alligator!"
"sore as a busted finger"
"trying to pump me is like trying to get hot tomato soup out of a cake of ice"
"you'll think you was kissed by an avalanche!"

#1 - Why does Annie believe Mrs. Warbucks when she tells her Miss Fair didn't mean she REALLY wanted to see Annie?

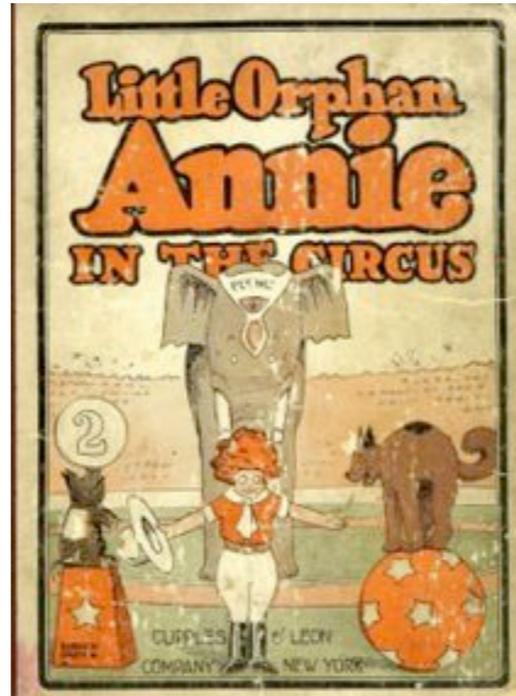
#2 - Miss Fair tells Annie she never says things she doesn't mean. Can you think of a time you said something you really didn't mean? Can you think of a time someone said something to you they didn't mean? Tell about it.

#3 - What does Miss Fair say is more important that family or money? Do you agree or disagree? Why?

#4 - Was Annie right to stop the servants from talking about Miss Fair? Why or why not.

Mrs. Warbucks has no **compassion** for Annie. She lacks **empathy**. That means she is unable to think how someone else feels. She is all and only about herself.

Today we will read --
September 2 - 8, 1924



WORD LIST:

street urchins
eat hearty
generous
coarse urchins
associated

#1 - Why does One Lung seem to love Annie, while Mrs. Warbucks clearly doesn't love Annie? In what ways, if any, might dogs be "better persons" than people? Explain.

#2 - Why is Annie so compassionate for the children in the streets? Consider both times she exhibits empathy.

#3 - Why does Mrs. Warbucks lie to Miss Fair and say she told Annie to share the candy?

#4 - Considering that Mrs. Warbuck's father was a plumber, why does she act like she has always been rich?

#5 - Discuss the reactions of those at the dinner to Annie's "stabbing!"

At times Annie is **impulsive**
--that means she does things
without thinking about what
might happen. That often leads
to problems.

September 9 - 15, 1924

WORDS

dumb waiter

Daughter of the American Revolution

imbecile

coincidence

reception hall



#1 - Annie clearly has need heard about gun safety. Sadly, many young children to-day haven't either. Click on this **LINK**. Scroll down and watch the Eddie the Eagle video. Then write rules that could be shared with Kindergarten children to make sure they are safe if there is a gun.

#2 - The maid told Annie "real quality folk" judge you by what you ARE - not by what you HAVE. Explain what that means.

#3 - When the burglar comes in, Annie says that she is not very big, but she has to do something. What personality traits does Annie have that seem to always make her get involved?



Annie is **honest**. It bothers Annie when Mrs. Warbucks tells a lie. Many times Annie's honesty embarrasses Mrs. Warbucks and makes her angry. Telling the truth is hard for some people, but not for Annie.

Today:

September 16 - 22, 1924

WORDS

ruffians

abhor

publicity

rainbow colored lies

heroine

routs

give me a little credit

radiogram

turn over a new leaf

hot tempered

#1 - Why does Mrs. Warbucks tell the reporter she stopped the robbery and even brag that there were four robbers? What causes her to tell lies again and again throughout the comic strip?

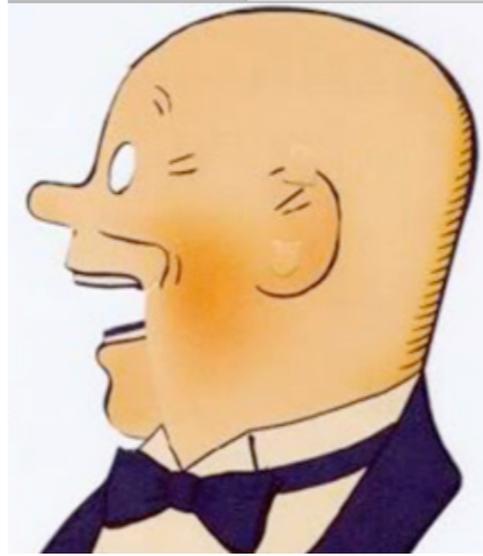
#2 - What bothered Annie the most about Mrs. Warbucks's lie about the robber?

#3 - Why does Mrs. Warbucks want Annie to change her dress?

#4 - Does Mrs. Warbucks believe she is good to Annie? Explain.

#5 - Why does Annie want to continue living with Mrs. Warbucks?

Annie is **worried** --we all worry from time to time. Everyone tells her Mr. Warbucks is scary. Miss Fair disagrees. Annie learns how silly it is to **judge someone and worry before you know** the truth.



Today we read "September 23 - 29, 1924"

WORDS

chauffeur

lippy

gruff

stuffed fish

charcoal horro

coarse

took her on trial

been a trial

charity

mortgage loan shark

#1 - Why do you think Annie keeps asking **different people** over and over what Mr. Warbucks is like?

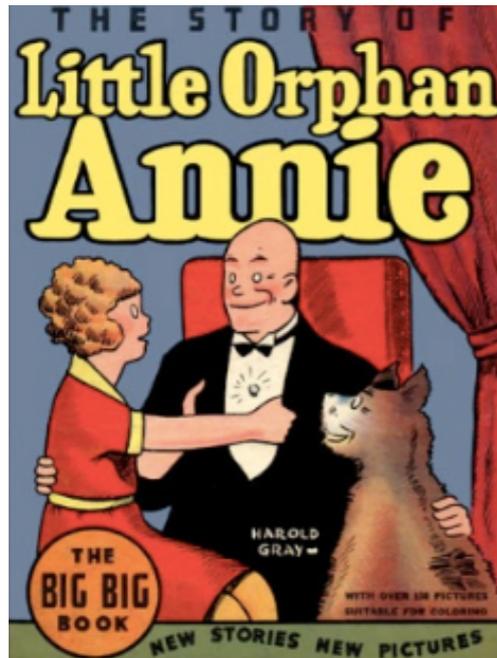
#2 - Why does Miss Fair have a different opinion of Mr. Warbucks from everyone else?

#3 - Why does Mr. Warbucks call Mrs. Warbucks an iceberg?

#4 - How are Annie and Mr. Warbucks alike?

#5 - Look at the **body language** of the comic when Mr. Warbucks meets Annie. What do you notice?

#6 - What does Mr. Warbucks mean when he says give her an even break?



Today we learn that like Annie, Daddy Warbucks, also feels **insecure**. Insecure means we don't feel accepted for who we are.

Most kids think adults NEVER feel insecure. The truth is each and every person feels that way from time to time.

Today's reading: September 30-October 6, 1924

WORDS

grub
stiff upper lip
respectable
anvil chorus pals
magpies
munitions
tough old birds

#1 - Annie know that Daddy Warbucks loves her. Why is she still worried about maybe being sent back to the orphanage?

#2 - Do you think Mrs. Warbucks would have got on to Annie about reading the paper on the floor if she had seen Daddy Warbucks sitting in the chair? Why or why not?

#3 - Mrs. Warbucks and her friends are "gossips." What is wrong with gossiping?

#4 - Pleasing other people can be hard. What, if anything, is more important in what you do than pleasing other people?

#5 - Name 6 personality traits we know about Daddy Warbucks from today's read.

Annie learns today that everyone has **problems** --even Miss Fair. Sometimes we think we are the only ones with problems. **Having problems is part of life.** They challenge us to **discover solutions** and have **compassion** when others have problems.



#1 - Annie is tough. When she she's a bully she takes them on! Is this the best way to handle a bully? What are other ways you can deal with a bully?

#2 - Mrs. Warbucks is concerned with how people "look." She is embarrassed about how Daddy Warbucks is dressing. What is more important than how someone looks?

#3 - Why does Daddy Warbucks get dressed up for Miss Fair?

#4 - Annie opens the door and goes into Miss Fair's house on her own. She "eavesdrops" on a conversation. Is it okay to do those things? If so, when is it okay and why is it okay. If not, why is it not. Is it ALWAYS not okay?

WORDS

today's reading October 7 - 13, 1924

imp

a straight left turneth away wrath

hoodlums

do a fade out

politeness to old folks is like sterling on silver

brass collar button

sleeve bands

tramp

yelp

solder

vaudeville show

ventriloquist

on the fritz

mortgage

crocodile with a tooth ache



Daddy
Warbucks
Duesenberg

Today Annie learns that the best deeds are not done to bring attention to yourself or to make you look like you are super good. **The best deeds are often done in secret.** Many times good deeds done for others without them knowing it, help others to keep their sense of pride. Sometimes people need help, but do not want to be a burden to others. This type of giving requires **empathy.**

WORDS:

“why the Niagara?”

loan shark

mortgaged her home

pleading

ever bites her tongue she'll die of blood poison

open your pan

Stir

pump her

busted pan

lamps blacked

empathy

#1 - When we are upset or worried, why does telling someone we trust about what is upsetting us a good thing to do?

#2 - How can you tell Miss Warbuck's gossipy friend is enjoying Miss Fair's problem? Why do you think she seems to enjoy gossiping about Miss Fair's problem?

#3 - During this time period loan sharks and gangsters took advantage of good people --sadly, many of the police allowed them to do that! How does that explain how Daddy Warbucks chose to handle Mr Spyder?

#4 - How was “the old magpie” helpful to Daddy Warbucks and Annie?

#5 - Why do you think Miss Fair suspects that Daddy Warbucks was who helped her?

A **hypocrite** pretends to be one way, but is actually another. A hypocrite is someone who “acts” good,” but does it for wrong reasons.



WORDS

my heart bleeds

Eczema (Is that really a country?)

synopsis

philanthropic

exclusive

cheap rubbish

high class neighborhood

left the ice box open

make both ends meet

“benny”

“go get your hair bobbed”

not a tailor’s dummy

#1 - Mrs. Warbucks’s says one thing and then does another! What does she say and do that proves she is a hypocrite?

#2 - Why do you think Mrs. Warbucks handed the reporter a synopsis of her speech?

#3 - What does Daddy Warbucks mean when he says “the bird who said ‘Charity begins at home’ spilled a mouthful.”

#4 - What is Daddy Warbucks talking about when he says, “charity for publicity only dames?”



Today's final comic in Chapter 1 ends in a surprising and sad way. Yet despite this, Annie thinks of others. Some people call this "**character**" --not the kind of character we use to talk about someone funny. Others would call how she acted "**integrity.**" Things are going badly for her, but she is still hopeful..

WORDS

"I've got something to come home to..."

I furnished her

a scurvy trick

blackball me

don't get dutch

distasteful errand

#1 - Do you think Daddy Warbucks knew that Mrs. Warbucks would take Annie back to the orphanage? Why or why not?

#2 - Why did Mrs. Warbucks send Annie away? What do you think she would tell Mr. Warbucks about it?

#3 - What words does Annie say that show she knows she will be alright?

#4 - Why does Mrs. Warbucks tell Annie to leave the coat and hat in the car?

#5 - How do you think the other oprhans feel about Annie returning? How does do you think Annie feels about returning?

Annie on the Radio!



Based on Harold Gray's famous comic strip, Little Orphan Annie was one of radio's first serial dramas, aimed at a young audience and starring an equally young **protagonist** (main character).

The show **debuted** on WGN/Chicago in 1930 and became a **national sensation**. Annie, her dog Sandy and her pal Joe often traveled to **exotic** locations, battling gangsters, pirates and receiving help from Oliver "Daddy" Warbucks and his sidekick Punjab.

As the show's longtime sponsor, Ovaltine offered fans secret decoders, shake-up mugs for drinking Ovaltine and rings for members of the Little Orphan Annie secret society.

Little Orphan Annie aired until 1942. For most of the show's run, Chicago actress Shirley Bell played Annie. Shirley Bell Cole died on January 12, 2010.

Little Orphan Annie was inducted into the Radio Hall of Fame in 1990.



Miss Hesse's Uncle Rex is pictured with the red arrow over his head.

The Coon Sanders Nighthawks Orchestra was formed in 1919 and was at its peak between 1926 and 1932. The Orchestra was assembled by Carleton Coon and Joe Sanders in Kansas City.

The Orchestra was a pioneer in broadcasting their music over radio from a hotel in Kansas City, Missouri. Fans were encouraged to send in requests for songs by letter, telephone or telegram. That move became so popular that Western Union set up a ticker tape between Sanders' piano and Coon's drums so the telegrams could be acknowledged during the broadcasts.

The group left Kansas City for Chicago, playing from the Blackhawk Hotel. Miss Hesse's Great Uncle Rex Downing played trombone for the Blackhawks.

Their reputation spread from coast to coast through the broadcasts and the many records they made for Victor. They undertook very successful road tours, spread from coast to coast through the broadcasts and the many records they made for Victor.



At their peak, each member of the Orchestra owned identical Cord Automobiles, each in a different color with the name of the Orchestra and the owner embossed on the rear.

The orchestra open performed at the Lexington Hotel in Chicago which was Al Capone's headquarters. Mr. Downing had several stories about the gangster.

The Coon Sanders Nighthawks recorded the theme music for the radio show, "Little Orphan Annie." The band was also the first to broadcast a live performance on radio from an airplane!

Coon Sanders and The Nighthawks play the original "Little Orphan Annie!"

(for listening activity)
2 Youtube videos --



Coon-Sanders, Nationally Popular Radio Orchestra, Has Gone Auburn

Seven Auburns and One Cord Purchased by Members for Personal Use

While Joe Sanders has driven four Auburns and two Cords during the last few years, it is with a great deal of pleasure that we welcome seven additional members of his nationally known orchestra into the rapidly growing family of Auburn Owners.

Seven members of the Coon-Sanders Orchestra recently visited the Auburn plant and took delivery of seven Auburn Custom Phaeton Sedan models. Each car carried a different color scheme and with chrome wire covers, spot lights, trunk and other equipment make a very distinctive array of cars.

The marks mounted on the rear carried the name of "Coon-Sanders Orchestra" and the name of the owner.

It was an enthusiastic crowd of boys that left the factory with their new cars and we are reprinting a letter which has been received from the new owners.

May 2, 1931.

Mr. Roy Faulkner,
Auburn Automobile Co.,
Auburn, Indiana.

Dear Mr. Faulkner:

We are but newcomers in the Auburn family, yet we can readily understand why Auburn-Cord has forged ahead so rapidly during this period of utter depression among other automobile manufacturers.

It is quite impossible for us to express our gratitude for your personal supervision of the equipment which goes to make up the finest cars we have ever owned. If, in loading AUBURN to the skies by a method of recognition, please know that your efforts to make us HAPPY AUBURN DRIVERS shall not be in vain.

SEVEN GRATEFUL NEW AUBURN BABIES

(Signed)
Harold Thell Rex Downing
Floyd Esage Chester Krebs
Bob Pope John P. Thell
Russ Stout

P.S.—
Dear Mr. Faulkner—
After glancing at the three glowing endorsements of your cars, it behooves me to say a brief word. After having driven FOUR AUBURNS and TWO CORDS, I regret to state that it becomes impossible for me to compare in the foregoing respect. So thoroughly am I set against your products that I give you my word that I shall never drive an AUBURN product—beyond the age of 100.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Joe Sanders.



HOW WELL DO YOU LISTEN?

Most of us are not really very good listeners. We don't pay close attention. We expect things to be repeated so we don't listen for details. Kids who listened to radio for fun (there was NO television or movies) became very good listeners. Let's see how you measure up! See how many of the questions you can answer after listening to the "Little Orphan Annie" radio broadcast on the LINK.

#1 - What time did Little Orphan Annie come on the radio?

#2 - Why is the mother excited about her son being in school in America?

#3 - Where was Caesare getting the family's water?

#4 - How do you get your decoder pin and secret book?

WORD TO THEME SONG -

Who's that little chatter box?
The one with pretty auburn locks?
Whom do you see?
It's Little Orphan Annie.
She and Sandy make a pair,
They never seem to have a care!
Cute little she,
It's Little Orphan Annie.

Bright eyes, cheeks a rosy glow,
There's a store of healthiness handy.
Mite-size, always on the go,
If you want to know - "Arf", says Sandy.

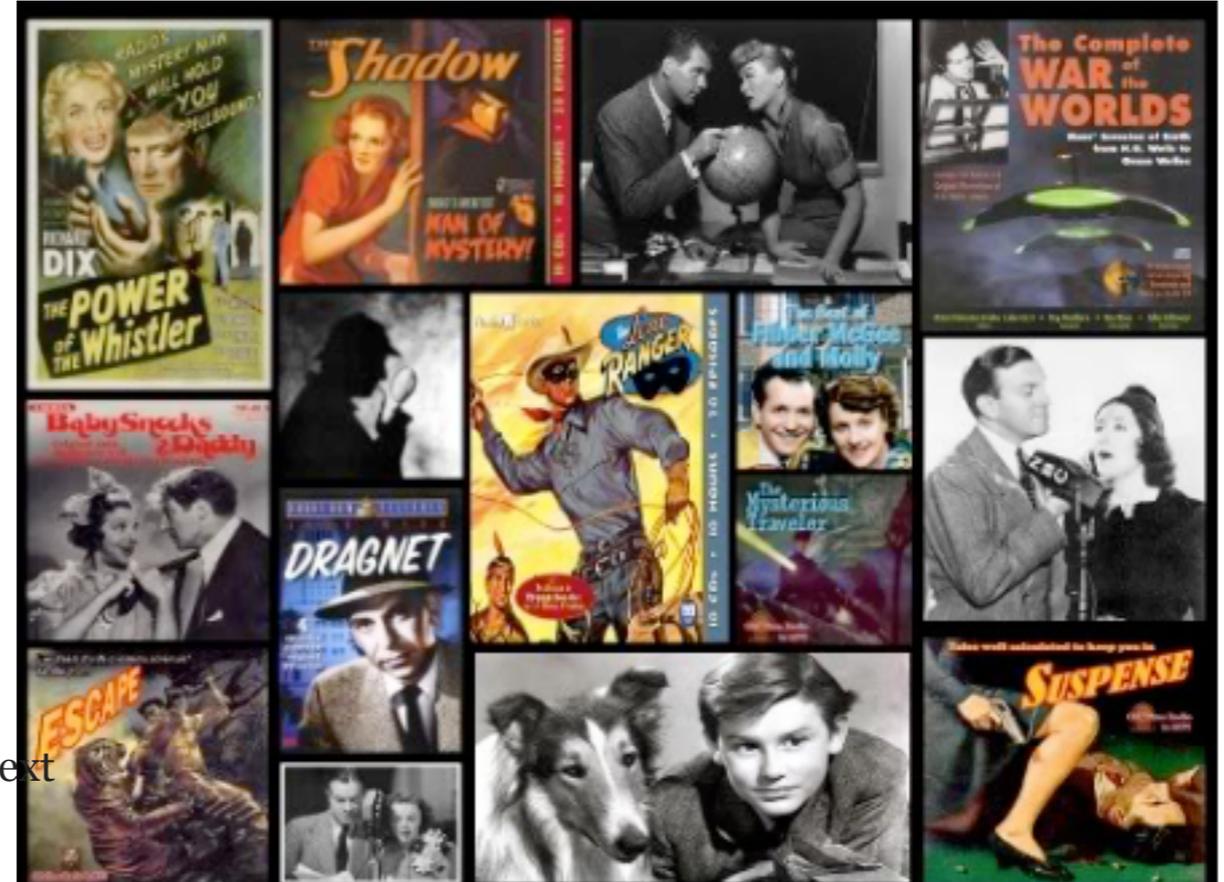
Always wears a sunny smile,
Now, wouldn't it be worth a while,
If you could be,
Like Little Orphan Annie?



Do Your Own “Little Orphan Annie” Radio Show!

Working in your “production group” take the script from the original radio show and create your own! You will need sound effects. Can you make it sound real? How will you have music in the background? **HAVE FUN WITH THIS!!!**

Radio Script



Pick ONE of these radio shows to listen to:

THE WHISTLER THE SHADOW

WAR OF THE WORLDS BABY SNOOKS & DADDY

THE LONE RANGER FIBBER MCGEE AND MOLLY

DRAGNET LASSIE

QUESTION: What is **BETTER** about listening to a radio story rather than seeing a movie?

Annie the Musical!!!

The idea of turning Harold Gray's "Little Orphan Annie" into a musical for theater was the idea of lyricist, Martin Charnin. A lyricist is someone who writes words for the songs in a musical. He convinced composer (someone who writes the melodies --the music), Charles Strouse, and librettist (someone who writes the dialogue for a musical), Thomas Meehan to help him create it!

The show places Annie, Daddy Warbucks, and Annie's dog, Sandy, in New York City in the midst of the Great Depression. It opened on Broadway in 1977 and was performed 2,377 times! It went on to win seven Tony Awards.

The creators share that Annie is an example of courage and a positive outlook in a hard time of despair.

PLAYBILL

PALACE THEATRE

In this chapter we will learn about theater production and words and techniques used in musical theater.



**Creators of
"Annie"
the Musical**



WHAT IS “Intellectual Property?”



After creating a musical, the creators **copyright** their work. This protects their work. It allows them and ONLY THEM to decide who may perform their show, where it may be performed, how it may be performed, and how much will be charged for using their work.

Anyone wanting to perform the show must pay a fee called a “**royalty**.” This gives the person a **license** to legally perform the work. This is how creators of theater shows get paid.

Intellectual property is also a term used with composers, authors, inventors, and anyone whose “idea” is copyrighted. A copyright is a legal document.

THEATER WORDS!!!

casting - deciding who will play each part and do each job

AUDITION - casting directors try to find the best actor for each part. They look for the following skills:

voice projection - speaking loudly enough to be heard

diction - speaking clearly, not mumbling; speaking slowly

singing voice - the ability to sing!

stage presence - staying in character; reacting to what is happening

concentration - paying attention, learning lines, knowing where to stand and what to do.

...on the next page is an example of the casting description for Annie

CASTING DESCRIPTION FOR ANNIE

Annie is a tough, smart little girl who nevertheless has feelings --especially when she thinks of what has become most important to her: a family who loves her. She has to be **motherly** in scene one, independent in scene two, **overwhelmed** in scenes four and five, **needy** in scene seven, and **hopeful** in scenes ten and eleven. The actor who plays Annie must be a **strong singer**. She must be able to **project** her voice without strain. She needs to possess all the characteristics on the casting list. The audience should see Annie as friendly and caring.

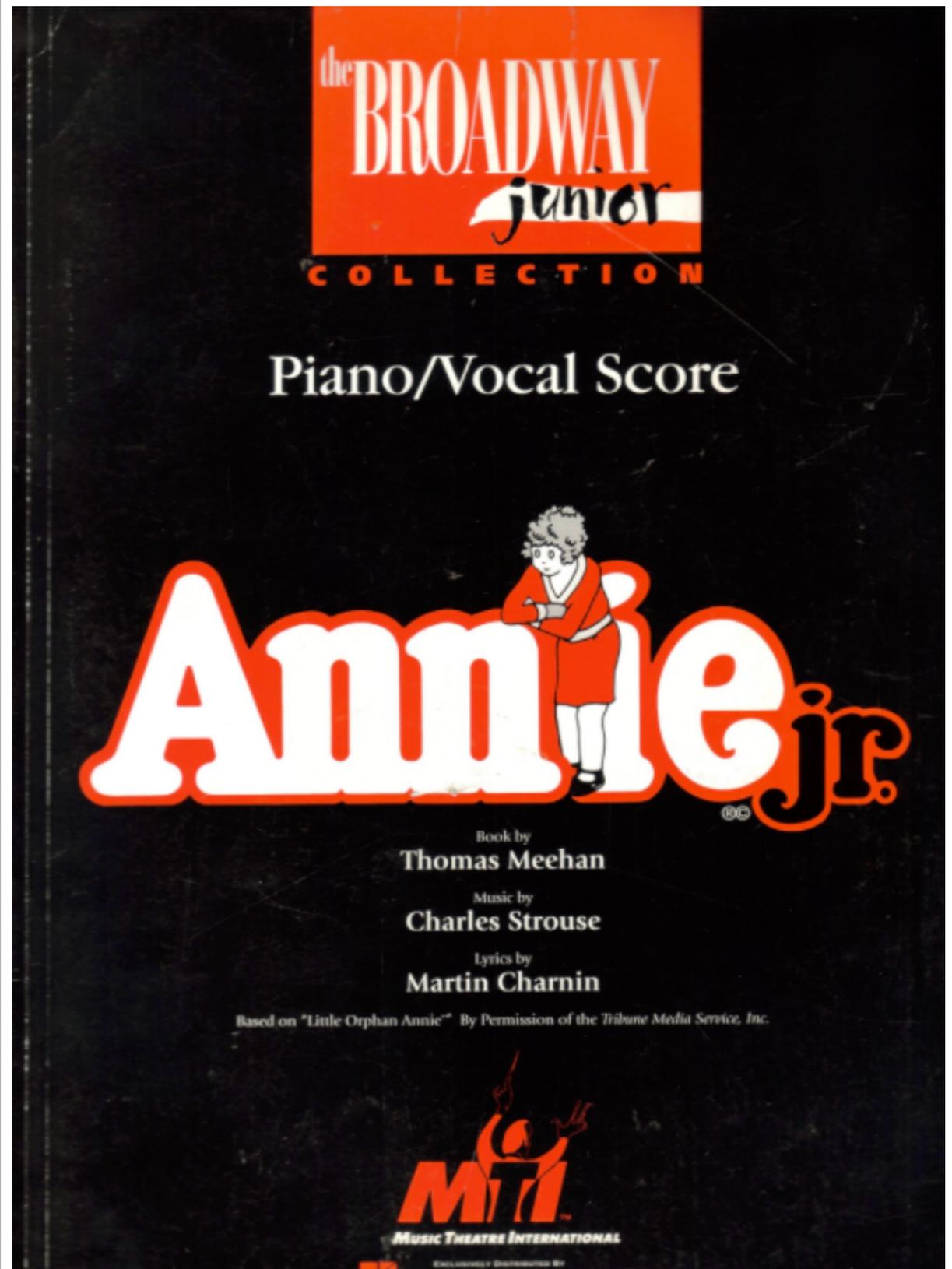
Vocal Range: A (below middle C) to high E.



**Casting “Sandy” is a major responsibility!
What are some of the casting descriptors they
may have for casting a dog?**

We will be using your Libretto/Vocal Score book as a learning resource as well as for rehearsals.

YOU ARE TO BRING THIS BOOK TO G.T. EACH SESSION!!! Take care of this book. It is your's to keep. If lost, you will be responsible for the cost of the book.



ACTIVITIES

Tableaux

Thought Tracking

Living Comic Strip

Comic Strip Song Writing

Perform a Radio Play!

Hotseat

Story from a Bag

Something Permanent

Depression Glass Field Trip

Annie Movie Night

Bugsy Malone Movie Night

Grapes of Wrath Movie Night (5th & 6th)

Out of the Dust

Children of the Dust Bowl

