



THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

Music & Lyrics by William Finn, Book by Rachel Sheinkin

Winner of the Tony and the Drama Desk Awards for Best Book, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* is fast-paced and funny with a touching book, a vibrant score, and riotous audience participation. An eclectic group of six mid-pubescent vie for the spelling competition of a lifetime. Six spellers enter; one speller leaves a champion! At least the losers get a juice box.

AUDITIONS

Saturday, October 25th, 1:30pm - 5pm, Black Box

Sign up for an appointment on the call board, by October 10th.

Please prepare:

- 1 music selection, 30 seconds to 1 minute, in the style of the show.
 - BFA Musical Theatre majors: please bring prepared sheet music for the accompanist.
 - BFA Performance and BA Theatre majors: you may bring sheet music for the accompanist, but if you don't have experience preparing sheet music for an audition, you may instead bring an accompaniment track of your music. Please have the track cued up on your portable speaker.
- 1 comedic or seriocomic monologue, no longer than 30 seconds.
- 1 joke, no longer than 10 seconds.



CALLBACKS

By invitation only, Sunday, October 26th, 2pm - 5pm, Black Box

There will be sides from the script, cuts from the score, and improv.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
DEC 2025	1 7-10 design presentation music <i>P. F-Stopa zoom</i> <i>D. Llamazares zoom</i>	2 7-10 tablework prep music <i>D. Llamazares zoom</i> <i>M. Hernandez out</i> <i>J. Amores out</i>	3 7-10 music <i>D. Llamazares out</i> <i>J. Amores out</i>	4 7-10 music <i>D. Brown early out</i> <i>L. W-Gleeson out</i> <i>D. Llamazares out</i>	5 7-10 music <i>D. Llamazares out</i>	6
JAN 2026	5 7-10 read thru/tablework, cast off book <i>G. Anderson zoom</i>	6 7-10 tablework blocking sc 1 - 4 <i>K. C-Montano out</i>	7 7-10 blocking sc 1 - 4	8 7-10 blocking sc 1 - 4 <i>K. C-Montano out</i>	9 7-10 blocking sc 1 - 4	10 10 - 4 work thru sc 1 - 4 work choreography
11	12 7-10 blocking sc 5 - 9	13 7-10 blocking sc 5 - 9	14 7-10 blocking sc 5 - 9	15 7-10 work thru sc 5 - 9 <i>K. C-Montano out</i>	16 7-10 pas de deux review choreo <i>A. Newton out</i>	17
18	19 OFF	20 7-10 review music	21 7-10 music + choreography	22 7-10 transitions work thru <i>K. C-Montano out</i>	23 7-10 stumble thru	24 10 - 4 work thru full show run
25	26 7-10 run	27 7-10 run	28 7-10 understudy run	29 7-10 run <i>K. C-Montano out</i>	30 7-10 run <i>K. C-Montano out</i> Swing Off Book	31

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
FEB 2026	2 7-10 Designer Run/ Crew View	3 7-10 Dark TBD	4 7-10 Sitzprobe	5 7-10 Spacing <i>K. C-Montano out</i>	6 7-10 Run <i>M. Sonora out</i>	7 9 - 9 Tech
	8 9 - 9 Tech	9 6:30 - 9:30 Tech	10 6:30 - 9:30 Tech	11 6:30 - 9:30 Tech Dress	12 6:30 - 9:30 Preview <i>K. C-Montano out</i>	13 Opening
15 Show #3	16	17	18 Show #4	19 Show #5	20 Show #6	21 Show #7
22 Closing	23	24	25	26	27	28

SPELLING BEE TABLEWORK PREP

Welcome, Brave Speller.

As you take the holiday to work on the play and get off-book, please complete this 10-step assignment and bring it to our first tablework rehearsal on Monday, January 5, 2026.

PART 1: CONCEPT ANALYSIS

After close-reading the play/listening to the score online, as many times as you wish (although I recommend a bare minimum of 3 times), answer this question:

- What is the basic, universal, human experience explored in this play?

PART 2: CHARACTER ANALYSIS

1. Make a list of 10 simple facts about you and your world of the play. Are you a Brother? Mother? Rich or Poor? Age? Location? Time? Job? Likes? Fears? etc. *Facts are based on scripted given circumstances, they are not implied or imagined.
2. Make a list of all the things other characters say about you in the play - yes, every instance in the entire play! Copy the direct quote from text or lyrics and cite the page number.
3. Make a list of all the things you say about yourself in the play - yes, every instance in the entire play! Copy the direct quote from text or lyrics and cite the page number.
4. Make a list of at least 5 actions you perform in the play that reveal your nature. *Actions are based on scripted given circumstances, they are not implied or imagined.
5. Objective: What do you want the most (aside from “to win the bee”)? Why do you want this?
6. Stakes: What is at stake if you don’t achieve your objective? How high are the stakes? What happens to you if you lose what’s at stake?
7. How would you describe the state that your body might be in when a) arriving at the start of the play? b) During your most personally climactic moment? c) At the end of the play? (examples: relaxed, wound up, exhausted, abuzz, slash+dab, like water running over pebbles, etc.)
*Embodied states can be implied or imagined, or scripted, based on given circumstances.

PART 3: CONNECTION

After completing steps 1 - 7, step away for at least a day and let it marinate! When you come back to it, look over your work as a whole. Then answer these final questions:

8. What notable things did you discover about the play or character that you didn’t know before?
9. What is one thing you wrote in your analysis that has the potential to directly affect your performance in a visceral, embodied way? How so?
10. Reread your answer from PART 1: *What is the basic, universal, human experience explored in the song?* Now, as you, the actor and not the character: write at least a paragraph reflecting on a time in your own life when you had this same basic, universal, human experience. You need only share the details that you feel comfortable sharing, but the goal of this reflection is for you to consider personalization and your unique voice in the piece.



Spelling Bee Scenic - platform

From Olivia de Guzman <odeguzma@fiu.edu>

Date Sun 1/25/2026 11:05 PM

To Christopher Goslin <cgoslin@fiu.edu>; Justin Delacuetara <jdela229@fiu.edu>; Tyler Correa <tcorrea@fiu.edu>; Anthony Galaska <agalaska@fiu.edu>; Jennifer Ivey <jivey@fiu.edu>

Cc Melissa Tavera <mtava025@fiu.edu>

Hello scenic team,

Thank you for the adjustments on the seesaw, and for allowing the cast this time to work with it. I had a chance on Saturday to peek in Mainstage and it is looking fantastic. I'm very excited to see more of your process.

On Tuesday, I'm interested in discussing the stairs to the platform with the bleachers and the possibilities of adjusting to increase safety and ease of use.

We are discovering in rehearsals that our version of the show is quite physically demanding and fast moving. And there will be four audience volunteers moving on the set at each performance, we anticipate a range of age and mobility from these community members. I'd like to discuss possibilities of increasing the run of the bottom stair because the rise of the second step up is about 9.5 inches.

I wanted to send this heads-up in an email and request that the stairs not yet be attached or finished before we have a chance to discuss in the production meeting.

Thank you very much,
Olivia

Olivia de Guzman
Assistant Professor, Department of Theatre

Florida International University
Miami, FL 33172
Office: WPAC 131A
(305) 348-2302

sent from my iPhone

Audience Volunteer Spellers

1) 40 minutes to curtain:

WRANGLERS: walk around the rotunda and lobby. Politely approach unassuming looking audience members and ask if they are good spellers. If they respond positively and are open to participating, let them scan the QR code on your clipboard. The QR takes them to a Google Form to fill out. If they can't fill it out, you can either assist OR take down their information on paper. Take notes as you go, noting 1 or 2 people who you think are "perfect" candidates, as well as all the people who are "definitely not" candidates.

- A diverse range of age, gender, physical type, etc.
- Must have mobility to climb stairs.
- NO FIU Theatre students!!!!
- No one who is drunk, stoned, high, or under any such influence.
- Children (age 10+) are okay... ONE child per performance max. If you choose a child, they should be assigned as Volunteer #4.
- Bonus if they have never seen the show before!

**In choosing audience volunteers, it's important to look for people who do not want to ham it up. We highly discourage selecting actors or comedians — you are looking for your most "normal" citizens, people who would not normally seek the spotlight, but can go along with good humor as activity takes place around them.

2) 20 minutes to curtain:

WRANGLERS: look through the Google forms. Choose the 4 best volunteer spellers. Fill in 3 seating charts + 1 announcement script with the volunteer names. One wrangler brings the first seating chart to Rona + second chart to Panch. The other wrangler brings the third chart + announcement script to Melissa.

3) 10 minutes to curtain:

WRANGLER: go to down right corner of the stage (house left), top of the stairs, hold up a flag.
MELISSA: make the announcement on the god mic.

WRANGLER: rally the volunteers at the down right corner. Give the scripted orientation with rule cards. At the end of orientation, give each volunteer a flag. They can give the flag to the friend(s) they came with, then come back and sit in their reserved seat until the show starts.

5) When a speller is eliminated:

Mitch will escort them to the down right stairs (house left), where an USHER should be in place to help them down the stairs. If the speller came with friends to see the show, those friends should now hold up their flag so the speller can find them in the house. The USHER can help escort them to rejoin their friend(s) in the audience.

FRONT OF HOUSE should be prepared to collect all flags after the show. The audience may not remember! Volunteers can keep their rule cards as a souvenir.

ORIENTATION SCRIPT

Welcome! We're so glad you're here. Thank you for volunteering to compete in the bee.

(check their names. if there's a specific pronunciation for their last name, make a note.)

So an actor will call up to the stage, you'll get a placard to wear around your neck, and the actors will help you find your seat in the bleachers *(show them the bleachers)*.

When you are called to take your turn spelling, you'll go to the microphone *(show them the mic)*. Make sure you keep your mouth close to the mic so that we can hear you clearly.

Now, let's go over the rules of the bee. *(give each volunteer a rule card)*.

Rule #1, No acting, please! You don't need to perform in any way, you just need to be yourself.

Rule #2, No matter what happens, you'll ask these two questions before you spell your word. First, ask for a definition. Then, ask to use it in a sentence. Then, spell your word.

If you're correct, you can go back to the bleachers for the next round. But if you happen to spell it incorrectly, you'll hear a bell, and then you'll follow Rule #3, meaning the comfort counselor will help you off the stage.

Did you come to the show with someone, friends or family? Great, then you'll take a flag *(give each volunteer a flag)*. We'd like you to find your friends and make sure they save a seat for you, in case you don't win. And you're going to give them this flag. Tell them that if you lose, to hold up the flag high, so you can find your seat quickly, because the show won't stop.

Any questions? *(quickly and cheerfully answer questions)*.

Great. So at this time, please go give your friend the flag, and then come back here, and you'll sit in these seats for the start of the show. *(show them the reserved seats)*. We should be starting in just a few minutes! Remember, any speller can win the bee, so do your very best and good luck!

ANNOUNCEMENT SCRIPT

Attention students! Attention students!

If you hear your name, please report to the usher on stage with the flag.

Attention students! If you hear your name, please report to the usher on stage with the flag.

_____,
volunteer #1

_____,
volunteer #2

_____ and
volunteer #3

_____,
volunteer #4

please report to the usher on stage with the flag. Thank you!