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# ivy + BEAN

THE MUSICAL

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# Getting to Know You:

## THE CAST OF IVY + BEAN THE MUSICAL

**Bean is loud, wild, and goofy and loves to have fun. Ivy is quiet and “proper.” We asked the cast of *Ivy + Bean The Musical*, “Are you more like Ivy or Bean and why?”**



**William Beebe (Leo)** I feel I have personality traits of both Ivy and Bean. Around my friends, I am more like Bean and am more talkative and outgoing. If I don't know you, I am quieter like Ivy.



**Blake Dreckman (Eric)** I'm definitely a Bean. While I love a good book like Ivy, I have more of a loud and boisterous attitude to me.



**Chloe Byrd (Zuzu)** I am much more like Bean. I love to play fun games with my family, tell jokes, and sing loudly. My friends and I also love to tell jokes and make people laugh!



**Anne Arthur Frett (Director)** I have some personality traits of both Ivy and Bean. Around my friends, I am more like Bean with being more talkative and outgoing. If I don't know you, I am quieter like Ivy.



**Carson Clark (Dad)** I am like Bean. Growing up, I would be outside wrestling my brother or goofing off and causing trouble with my friends. I also get antsy and cannot sit still for too long and am the complete opposite of a book worm.



**Shelby Kephart (Mom)** I feel like I am more like Ivy. I like to keep to myself most of the time and I am pretty quiet. Once you get to know me though, I break out of my shell and you will see a different side of me!



**Megan Clement (Sophie)** I am definitely more like Ivy because I am quiet and reserved. But I have parts of me that catch people by surprise like the time when my friends and I found a snake in the pool. I was the one who without hesitation picked it up and brought it to safety!



**Brooke Krug (Assistant Stage Manager)** I am a mix between both but overall I'm more like Ivy. I am more like her because I like hanging out with my friends and I like to read!



**Ellie Cole (Choreographer)** I'd say that I could go either way, but I'm probably more like Ivy. I'm quiet and bookish like her, but then once I start talking to someone my personality comes out. Also, I was a witch for Halloween when I was Ivy's age, so it matches!



**Anna McKernan (Choreographer)** I share more qualities with Ivy since I love going on quiet walks and reading books. Although, I do share some fun and goofy qualities with Bean, especially when I'm having fun with my friends.



**Vivian Rosalie Coleman (Bean)** I am definitely more like Bean. I am very loud and outgoing especially with my friends, but I do love a good book!



**Eric Mohlis (Music Director)** I am more like Ivy. I'm a little more of a rule follower and enjoy reading but have a big imagination. Being a witch or wizard was definitely something I wanted to be when I was 7 years old!



**Natalie Padilla Sanchez (Nancy)** I would consider myself to be more like Ivy. Just like Ivy, I am quiet in most settings. Although, when I meet people who share interests with me, it becomes easier to be myself!



**Madison Stone (Ivy)** I would say that I am definitely more like Ivy. When I was little, my favorite thing to do was read, and I got a lot of books as presents. I even got my books taken away from me instead of TV time when I was in trouble!



**Abbie Stern (Assistant Stage Manager)** I'm definitely more like Ivy! I love to read and hang out with my friends, and love getting to know new people!

**What about you?  
Are you more like  
Ivy or Bean?**



## About the Author Annie Barrows (b. 1962)

Annie was born and raised in California. As a child, she spent so much time in the library, they hired her to shelve books when she was just 12! She writes books for both children and adults, including all 12 *Ivy + Bean* books and the best-selling *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*.

In her own words: “I think I’ve spent my entire life trying to recreate one day of my tenth year. That was the day I read until I lost all sense of my real life and joined the life of the book instead. It was like walking into a dream. I want every kid to have that experience. I want to have it again, too. And finally, I’ve discovered a way: I write books.”



Scan the QR code to read 5 Questions with Annie!



## About the Playwright/ Composer Scott Elmegreen (b. 1985)

Scott Elmegreen calls himself a storyteller. He credits his successful musical theater writing career to a simple continuation of childhood interests: when he was five years old, he loved to write stories, and though his methods have evolved, that basic desire is at the center of all his work 30 years later!

## ¡VIVE LA FRANCE!

Ivy, Bean, and their friends all live on Pancake Court, a *cul-de-sac* in their neighborhood. A *cul-de-sac* is a dead-end street with a rounded end for turning around. But did you know, *cul-de-sac* is a term borrowed from the French language, and literally means “bottom of the bag”? Here are some other words we use that are borrowed from the French. See if you can match these French words with their literal English meanings.

- |                |                            |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Debut       | a. To remember             |
| 2. Bouquet     | b. Walking hospital        |
| 3. Chandelier  | c. Little hook             |
| 4. Souvenir    | d. Bunch of flowers        |
| 5. Crochet     | e. To restore with food    |
| 6. Restaurant  | f. Candle holder           |
| 7. Ambulance   | g. To meet                 |
| 8. Parachute   | h. Protection against fall |
| 9. Déjà vu     | i. Beginning               |
| 10. Rendezvous | j. Already seen            |

1. f, 2. d, 3. f, 4. g, 5. c, 6. e, 7. b, 8. h, 9. j, 10. g

## AFTER THE SHOW: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Have you ever heard the phrase “Don’t judge a book by its cover”? When Bean sees Ivy for the first time, she doesn’t think they can be friends because she looks “boring.” **Why wouldn’t we want to judge someone on their appearance?** Has that ever happened to you?
- Bean and her sister, Nancy, get on each other’s nerves and argue a lot. Why do you think that is? Do you have any brothers or sisters? **Do you get along or do you bicker?**
- On the surface, Ivy and Bean have very opposite personalities. **Why do you think they become such good friends?** In what ways are they different? How are they the same?
- **Do you have to be like someone to be good friends with them?** How are you different from your friends?

## WORLD RECORDS

Ivy and Bean and their friends are trying to set a world record, which made us curious about world records in theatre. Here is what we found out!

- The Great Auditorium in The National People’s Congress Building in Beijing, China, is the world’s largest theatre. It seats about 10,000. If The Playhouse seats 400 people, how many Playhouses could fit into the Great Auditorium? ( $10,000 \div 400 = 25$ )
- A 2,400-pound puppet of King Kong is the world’s largest puppet. It was created for the Broadway musical of the same name. Part marionette, part rod-puppet, and part animatronic, it was also one of the most complex puppets ever made.
- Broadway musical *Spiderman: Turn Off the Dark* is the world’s most expensive theatre production. It cost over \$75 million dollars to produce in 2011.
- The world’s largest stage is the Hilton Theater in Reno, Nevada. It measures 175 by 241 feet. By comparison, The Playhouse stage is 30 by 33 feet.
- The outdoor Theatre of Dionysus is the world’s oldest theatre. It was built around 500 BC, making it about 2,500 years old! To put it in perspective, The Playhouse has been around for a mere 105 years.

What world record do you want to accomplish? Go get it!

## THE DIRT ON DIRT

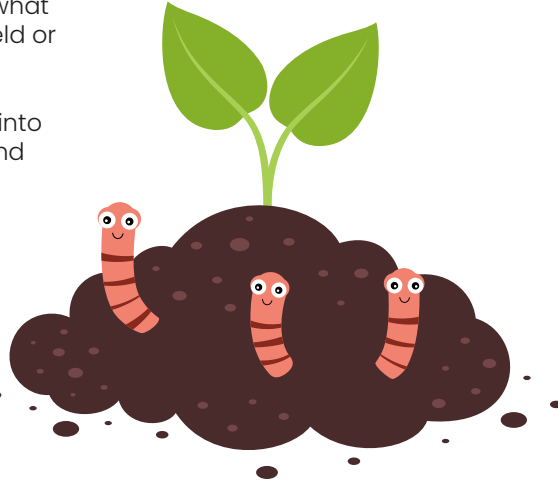
Bean and her friends love to play in the dirt and dig for worms, and that made us curious. What IS dirt anyway? Why are earthworms important? Here is what we found out!

- Dirt is made of sand, clay, and silt. Because it does not contain living things, it is considered “dead” and will not grow new life. Plants cannot grow in dirt.

- Soil has dirt in it, but also contains living things, like microbes, worms, fungi, and other organic matter. That is what allows it to nurture plant life in a field or garden.

- You can help transform your dirt into soil by adding organic compost and earthworms. Think earthworms are just for fishing? Think again! They eat harmful bacteria and the tunnels they make help loosen and aerate soil. Worm poop adds important nutrients and microbes as well. Gross, but so cool!

- Earthworms can eat their own weight in a day



## EDIBLE DIRT RECIPE

It is said that we all eat at least a little bit of dirt each day: the average person eats about six pounds of dirt over a lifetime. Eww! If you'd rather try something a little tastier, try preparing and eating this delicious edible dirt instead.

### INGREDIENTS

- Instant chocolate pudding mix
- 10–12 Oreo cookies
- Gummy worms

1. Prepare pudding mix per package instructions.
2. Place Oreo cookies into a sealed Ziploc baggie and crush into smaller pieces. A rolling pin works well for this!
3. Layer pudding and cookie crumbs in a cup. You can use a clean small flowerpot as well for added realism.
4. “Bury” some worms in the mixture to be discovered later with your spoon!



## SOIL SEPARATION

YOU WILL NEED: A clear jar with lid (glass or plastic), soil, water, and liquid dish soap.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Fill your jar about halfway with soil.
2. Add clean water until the jar is about 3/4 full.
3. Add one teaspoon of liquid dish soap and tightly screw the lid on the jar.
4. Shake the jar hard for 3 minutes, then wait for the soil layers to separate. This could take a few minutes or a few days.

The liquid dish soap surrounds each soil piece in the jar, so they stay separate and settle at the bottom without bringing along other bits that aren't the same as them.

**Stuff floating in or on top of the water layer:** Organic matter, like dead leaves, bugs, and sticks.

**Clay:** The smallest particles that fit the tightest together, causing water and nutrients to flow through.

**Silt:** Particles smaller than clay, but larger than sand.

**Sand:** The heaviest particles which allow larger spaces between particles that water and nutrients can flow out of.



### THINK LIKE A SCIENTIST:

- Which layer is the largest and makes up the most of your soil?
- Is there anything above the dirt floating in the water layer?
- How healthy do you think your soil/dirt is? (Hint: Were there any plants growing around where you dug it up?)



You can learn more about this experiment and try some others at this cool STEM website, **Boundless Brilliance**. Simply scan the QR code.



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