



## Performance Notes for Niels Bohr and the Barometer

### THREE WAYS THAT STUDENTS AND TEACHERS CAN UTILIZE THIS PLAY

1. Students can read the play aloud while sitting in the classroom. Ask the readers to skip all bracketed stage directions. You may prefer to rotate your actors to give all students a chance to read the speaking parts.
2. Students can perform the play in the classroom. Clear an area that can be used as the stage. Have the audience sit on the floor in front of the stage. Students in the play can make simple costumes and/or sets as described below. When the scene change, the characters "on stage" simply walk to the back of the room where they wait until their next appearance "on stage."
3. Students can perform the play on stage. Refer to the production notes that follow. Ask the actors to enter from the back of the room and move through the audience as they approach the stage.



### COSTUMES

- NARRATOR— Simple, nice clothes.
- STUDENTS— Matching uniforms of blue or white collared shirts tucked in to and khaki, gray, or black pants or skirts. (One color top and one color bottom should be chosen and all students should be within that same color scheme.)
- CLASS CLOWN— School uniform and a silly hat.



- **NIELS BOHR**— School uniform, but can look slightly disheveled, perhaps with his shirt un-tucked.
- **PROFESSOR** and **HEADMASTER**— Khaki or brown pants, white button-up shirts. If possible, floor length black teaching robes. Another option is a black blazer or sweater.
- **JANITOR**— Blue or gray pants and shirt.



## PROPS

### Scene 1

- A pile of papers, one for each **STUDENT**, for **PROFESSOR** to hand to **NIELS BOHR**.
- Pointer for **PROFESSOR**.
- Silly cap for **CLASS CLOWN**.
- Barometer for **PROFESSOR**. This can be made using an old wall clock or analog alarm clock. Plastic is better than glass, to avoid the possibility of breakage.

Another option is to make one from cardboard. Simply cut out a circle of desired size, paint it white or light tan. Paint the outer rim another color, such as black or brown and draw or paint numbers onto the face. For the pointer, you can draw or paint that on as well, or you can make a movable pointer. To do this, cut a pointer from construction paper or cardstock and punch a small hole near the base of the hand. Punch a hole in the center of the cardboard, and use a brad to attach hands. You can also paint on a skinnier second pointer.

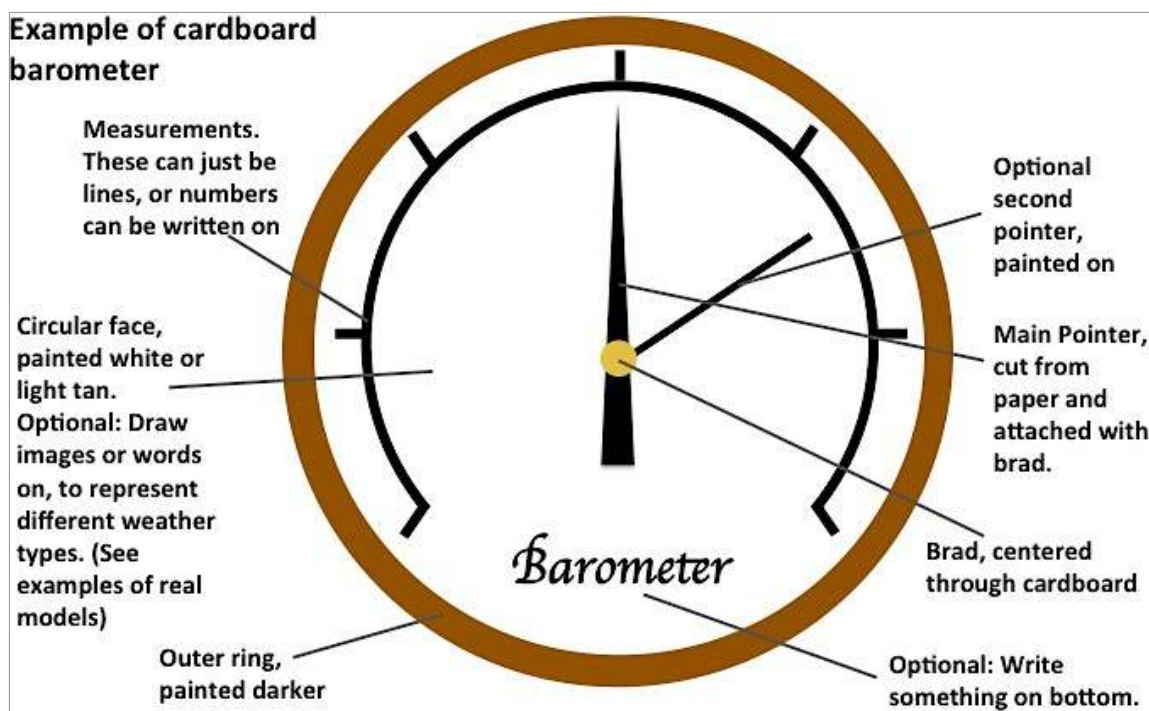
See next page for various images of barometers and an example of a cardboard model:



Images of actual barometers



Example of cardboard barometer



## Scene 2



- Small paper bag for HEADMASTER to carry.
- A type of pastry or bread for HEADMASTER to eat. This is carried in the small bag.



## SETS

To make Scene transitions easier, the stage is split into two sections. On one side of the stage is the classroom and on the other side is the headmaster's office. The chalkboard can act as a sort of divider between the two space.

If you would like to paint a backdrop, it can show the interior of a drab school building typical of the 1890's. A window or two can be painted, depicting a bright sunny day.

- **Scene 1**— Classroom, on one side of the stage. The classroom can take up 2/3 of the stage, since there are more actors and more action in this scene. On stage there is a desks and a chair for each STUDENT. In lieu of desks, you can use small tables, or you can use one or two longer tables with several chairs at each table. Towards the middle of the stage is the PROFESSOR'S desk, which can be a table.

Behind the PROFESSOR'S desk there is a chalkboard. You can use a real portable chalkboard, or you can make something to resemble a chalkboard. For the latter, you can cut flatten a large cardboard box and paint it black. Another option would be to cover the cardboard in black paper. Tape the cardboard to an easel or to a tall chair/stool- something that will allow it to be free-standing and taller than the PROFESSOR'S desk/table.

For the writing on the board, you can use real chalk, or you can use white paint or paint markers.

- **Scene 2**— Headmaster's office, on the other side of the stage. There should be a large desk or table in the center of the space. One chair can be behind the desk/table and two other on the sides.

Scattered around the space are various janitorial supplied- brooms, mops, buckets, etc.



See below for an example of how to set up the furniture on the stage:

