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“A Penny Plain and Twopence Coloured,” – How the Penny Theater format was used to animate and present Mary Chapin Carpenter’s book, “Halley Came to Jackson” to preschoolers and their families as a STEM outreach program¹ ELIZABETH JAN JABLONSKI², Noyes Children’s Library Foundation, DANIEL JABLONSKI, Noyes Children’s Library Foundation and Johns Hopkins APL, MATTHEW JABLONSKI, MF Jablonski Graphic Design, PETER JABLONSKI, Comp Sci student, Connecticut College, MAUREEN GREEN, CHARLES GREEN, Quince Orchard, Maryland Penny Theater Players, MEGAN WYBLE, MARGARET ARDILLO, interns, Noyes Children’s Library Foundation — The goal of this project is to develop a program for young children (3 to 8 years old) that provides basic information about concepts related to space, comets, time, and timelessness in a stimulating, memorable manner. The vehicle for achieving this goal is an adaptation of the children’s picture book *Halley Came to Jackson* to a modern update of the historical Penny Theater format. The resulting “show” is rich in the concepts listed above, and has been presented in a variety of venues and with a variety of supplementary activities to several hundred preschoolers and their families. Based on a combination of prior research on how young children learn and careful observation and follow-up to performances of “Halley,” numerous findings have been developed. The Penny Theater concept and the findings of this project are discussed herein.

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