



Performing Stories: A Program for the Littlest Artists with the Biggest Imaginations.

The Goal:

The primary goal is of Theater O's Performing Stories to connect the participants' physicality and imaginations to a text that pertains to a unit of study occurring in the classroom. The books we are teaching for the 2022/23 School year are:

- *Whoever You Are*, Mem Fox
- *The Color Monster*, Anna Llenas
- *Grumpy Monkey*, Suzanne Lang
- *Do I Look Odd to You?* James McDonald
- *Maybe Something Beautiful: How Art Transformed a Neighborhood*, by Isabel Campoy and Theresa Howell
- *What If...* by Samantha Berger

We delight in collaborating with teachers. If there is a theme or unit of study that a teacher would like further explored or reinforced, we have a library of books we have used with this program and are always eager to add to it.

The Tools:

At Theater O, we use our bodies, our voices and – our favorite part- our imaginations to act out stories. Before we act out our stories, we need to be ready. So, we warm up our (you guessed it) bodies, voices, and imaginations.

- *Our Bodies*: we begin with a physical warm up, standing tall like trees, holding our bodies steady, and planting our feet like roots. Then we relax our bodies starting from the top and rolling down.
- *Our Voices*: We stretch out our faces. We trill to open our vocal cords. We repeat tongue twisters.
- *Our Imaginations*: We play energy ball, say-a-word, magic rock and many other theater games. We always go on an imagination walk, sometimes visiting another planet, sometimes climbing a rainbow, sometimes discovering a castle with many doors that take us to different magical locations.
- *Our Story*: Once we have warmed up our tools, participants listen and learn how to perform the story once. After hearing the story once, the class joins us in acting it out a second time.
- *Our Closing*: At the end of every Theater O "play," participants have a freeze dance party, followed by a bow, and a cheer.

Bilingual (English/Spanish) instruction:

When requested, Theater O will provide bilingual instruction.