



You and Me and The Space Between



Teachers' Notes

Activities written by Jane Hamilton-Foster

About the Show

The island of The Proud Circle has sprung a leak and its citizens must find a solution to stop their home disappearing forever. But it's going to take all the ingenuity of their youngsters to ensure they don't lose their way of living in the process.

This funny and heroic story from one of Australia's finest playwrights for children, Finegan Kruckemeyer, is brought to life through narration, music and live drawings that emerge in large scale on a paper set. Part picture book, part play and all wonder, this new work will have you and your students engaged at every moment.

Creative Team

Director:	Sam Routledge
Writer:	Finegan Kruckemeyer
Designer:	Jonathon Oxlade
Composer and Musician:	Dean Stevenson
Lighting Designer:	Nicholas Higgins
Consultant:	Ian Pidd
Production Manager:	Andrew MacDonald



About Terrapin

Established for over 34 years, Terrapin is the centre of excellence for contemporary puppetry in Australia creating puppetry-based performances for all ages.

Telling sophisticated stories of humour and pathos, the company embraces new technologies whilst remaining true to the wonder and illusion resident in the age-old craft of puppetry. In its productions, the company aims to inspire families by encouraging them to express the power of their collective imagination through inventive play with the objects and devices that surround them.

Terrapin injects skills and programs into the Tasmanian community, supporting and developing artists and touring nationally and internationally.

Terrapin has created over 70 productions that have premiered in Tasmania. The company has toured across Australia, and internationally to Canada, China, Denmark, Hungary, Ireland, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, Taiwan, and the USA.

In 2012, Terrapin's production Boats won the Helpmann Award for Best Presentation for Children.

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Chief Executive:	Kevin O'Loghlin	Hobart TAS 7004
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Ideas for Student Activities



Narration Activity

Our story starts with Eve. And Eve is a girl, who is 12 years old, which is a similar age to a lot of other girls and she is also a similar height to a lot of other boys...

What is your story?

Describe You....

Write or speak in the first person and tell your audience who you are and what you like doing.

You could write this on paper (a Literacy activity) or you could speak directly to an audience (a Drama activity) – such as your class – or you could film what you say (a Technology activity).

The stories the students create should think about language – How can you make your simple story sound interesting? – you could use some of the following techniques...

- Alliteration: two or more words in a group that start with the same letter
- Similes: an object or a person is described to be “like” something else
- Characters: you could use voices to describe you – what do other people say?

Story Telling Activity

Parts of our story were pretty challenging... Eve told them from her point of view...

Think to yourself.... How could you tell a “challenging story”?

Choose a small “challenging story” from the newspaper or a magazine. Imagine that it is your story and that you have lived through the terrible thing that happened.

Can you tell that story as though you were there?...

Students could write their stories or deliver them directly to a live audience or they could film them if you have the means to do so.

Drama Activity

Tell a story directly to an audience.... The topic of your story will be given to you by your teacher (suggestions below).

You must tell your story without any “ums” or “ahs” or long pauses –

Story Suggestions:

The story about....

My Talking Dog...

How my Dad makes the best cakes...

The Rats in our walls...

The best ice-cream in town...

My Mum the bus driver...

Or, create your own...

Writing Activity: Similes

What is a Simile?... Find out....

Can you remember any descriptions or Similes from the performance...?

One example is when Eve is describing the storm the Island people get caught in, when their rope is cut, she describes what is happening to the Islanders:

(The Storm) shook us like an umbrella in a doorway – like a leaf on the rapids – like a die in the hand!

Can you think of some Similes:

Finish these...

The storm was like...

The beach was like...

He yelled like...

She ran like...

And write your own....

“Quick” Drawing Activity

Read the following descriptive passages to the class – This is an excerpt from our story - Give the students each a thick pencil and, as you read, ask them to “draw what you see in your imagination” – You don’t have to draw everything – go over your lines- don’t rub out – just keep drawing.....

1)

By night, the musicians played and the couples danced and the singles mingled. The children ran in circles, and the babies slept in squares. And when dawn broke each morning, we took hundreds of tables from hundreds of houses, and set them up in a giant, unending circle round Hospital Rock. We received food from our left, and then passed it to our right, eating our fill, wiping our chins, then returning to the oars and rowing once more

2)

Ahead of us, rising high above the distant waves, was a huge cliff-face. And on top of it, were square houses. In some places though, they looked tall, like someone had thought to put twenty houses on top of each other, with shiny windows climbing all the way up. They twinkled sunlight out to us at sea and we had to squint to look at them. As we got closer, we noticed little things moving quickly on the surface. They looked like tiny houses too, with windows and doors on each side – but wheels beneath. They were only bed-sized though, so maybe they were for people who have to go somewhere but also want to have a snooze when they arrive. It was a good invention. In the air, the strangest giant birds lived, with four wings above their heads that turned in the fastest circles. They passed low, shaking the air so all our hats flew off.

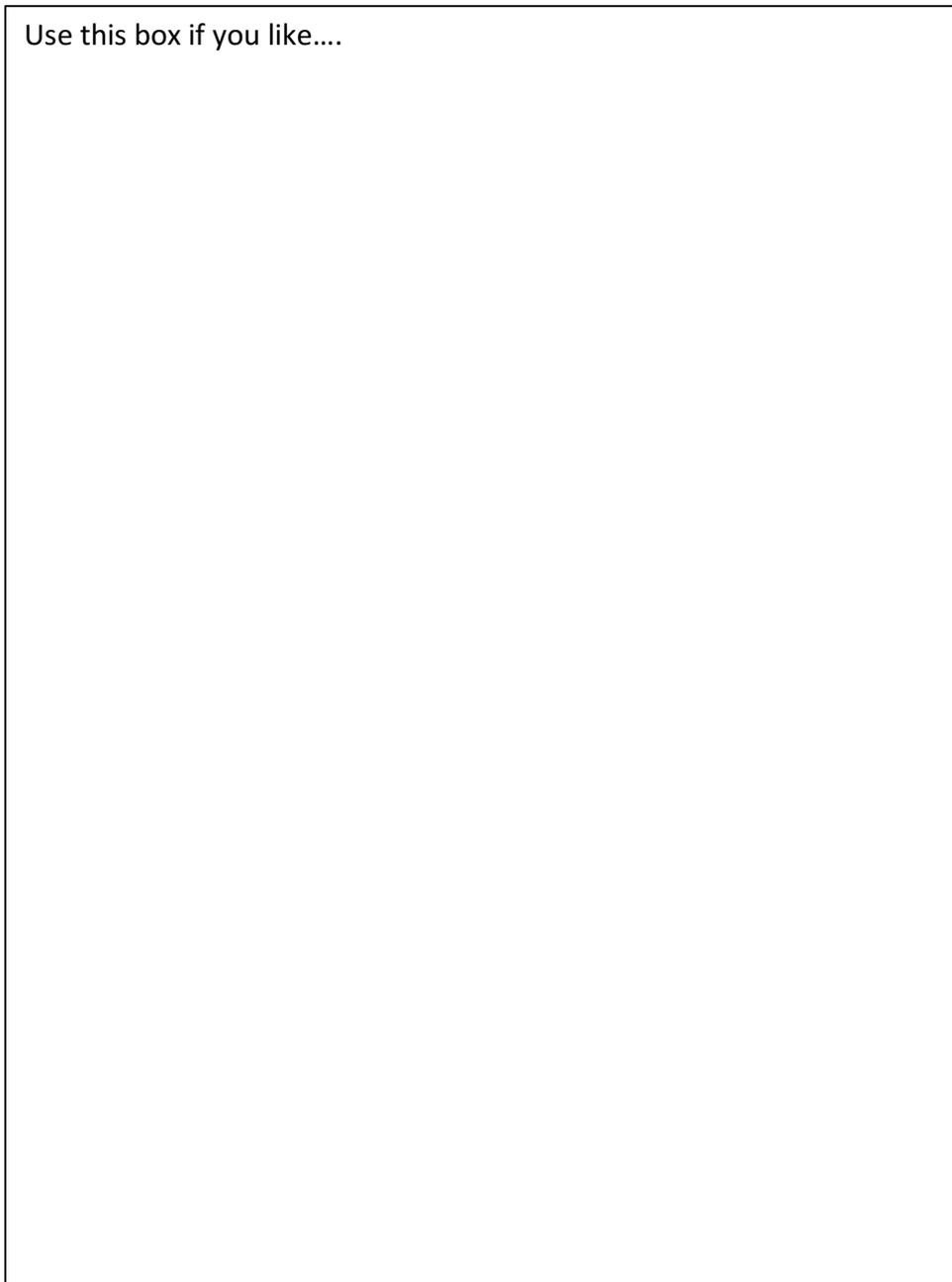
Use these Drawings and the description as a display for your classroom; add colour to them, as an art activity; have a class discussion, ask students to explain what they thought about this activity, is it hard to draw quickly... ?

Drawing Activity

Draw a cartoon of the part of the show that stands out most in your mind. Remember your mind is different from everyone else- even though you have the same task- all your drawings and scribbles will be different...

Choose two colours to use... plus a black or grey lead.... What can you remember....

Use this box if you like....



Science Activity

Experiment – What floats?

Do apples float and pears sink? Test this out...

You will need – three apples and three pears, a large bucket or tub filled with water, some towels for drying off, and a knife for cutting the apples and pears up to eat, once you have finished the experiment!

What else floats? What doesn't float?

Choose a few other objects that you would like to test and see which ones float and which ones don't!

Geography Activity

You will need – a map of the World

Without studying the map - How many Islands are there – that you know of?...

Can you list them?

Students could write them down or the class could brainstorm on the board.

Once you've got some islands listed... Choose one....

Create a Poster Display about your chosen Island.

Your Poster should have some pictures and information on it. Information could include, The Name of the Island, Population of the Island, Culture of the Island, Climate of the Island.

Extra Activity:

Do Islands really float? What creates an Island? Was your chosen Island always an Island?

Imagination: sharing activity

As an “end of the day” short-thought-provoking discussion...

Ask the class:

Imagination is great! – In your imagination even Islands can float and be rowed or lifted to new places.

Have a think and If you could lift your home- where would you put it?

If students are struggling...

Would you lift your whole Island like Eve does? Would you just lift your house? Can you think of a movie where this happens?



Social and Cultural Activity

You can be as Philosophical or Literal as you and your students need, with this discussion. Start at any point and if they take you in a different direction, go with it, for as long as you feel comfortable. Use the following questions as a guide...

As a whole class or in small groups discuss the following...

Eves' home was in trouble. What happened to Eves' home?

What would you do if your home "sprung a leak?"

Where would you go?

Would you go?

Would you go together or by yourself?

Would you seek help from other people?

What if they weren't the same as you?

What if they didn't speak the same language?

Would you try to learn their language and teach them some of your language?

Would this be hard? Would you give up? Would you persevere?

Have you ever lived "somewhere else"?

How did you feel when you were living somewhere else?

If you haven't lived anywhere else would you like to?

Where would you like to live?

Music Activity

Discussion or reflection:

How did music enhance the story of Eve and her “Proud Circle”?

Were there fast bits and slow bits?

What effect did they have?

Find a slow piece of music and a contrasting piece of music (preferably without any lyrics) to play to the class. Ask them to listen and write down as many words as they can to describe the piece of music. (The piece of music should be between 30-90 sec)

Repeat with the contrasting piece of music.

Students could use these pieces of music to “underscore” a story they had written or told in a previous activity.

Extension:

The students will write fairly simple words. As a writer we need to find interesting words. Give each of the students a Thesaurus and ask them to find at least five different words that they can use to describe their pieces of music.

Music/ Percussion Activity

Read through the previous descriptive passages 1 and 2

As a class develop a percussion sound scape.

Divide up the class into groups of about 5 ask one to be the narrator and the others to be the “soundscapers”. Give them instruments or found objects or nothing, and ask them to create the soundscape of the story as it is read out to the class.

When presenting their work to the class the audience should have their eyes closed so they can experience just the sound.

Art Activity

What might these people be talking about?... what "idea" is forming in their minds...Is it all exactly the same? Who has started the idea?

Students can cut these images out and put them onto a poster with big images for the thoughts and an explanation of the ideas forming in their heads... You could take the images and make them bigger for a classroom display then add the thoughts around them... whatever works for you!

Insert Artist Drawing of three people with thought bubbles above their heads...