

SCAREDY CAT

PRESENTED BY

TERRAPIN



2021 SCHOOLS TOUR
TEACHER RESOURCES
FINN O'BRIAN & TERRAPIN

ACCESS PARTNER



Terrapin Puppet Theatre is assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, and through Arts Tasmania by the Minister for the Arts.



SCAREDY CAT

CURRICULUM LINKS

- Examining literature
- Communicating and interacting for health and wellbeing
- Understanding how drama works

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ACTIVITIES

Almost all of the following activities could also be in-class discussions. Please feel free to use the ideas as they are or modify them to make them work for your students.

SOME MAIN THEMES

Anxiety → Play

Scared → Confident

Loneliness/Isolation → Connection

Which characters in the play have these journeys?

How do they move from one feeling to another?

What did the characters in the play learn?

Helping each other

Does the furniture remind you of anyone? Why?

Where do they live?



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WRITING ACTIVITIES

CURRICULUM LINKS: RESPONDING TO LITERATURE, CREATING LITERATURE

1:

- What comes next in the story?
- Where do you think the cat lives?
- Will they keep being a KILLER CAT FOR HIRE?
- What will happen to the furniture in the basement?

CURRICULUM LINK: RESPONDING TO LITERATURE

2:

- Who was your favourite character? Why?
- Do any of the characters remind you of someone you know?
- Draw them, and draw the person they remind you of.
- How are they similar and how are they different?

CURRICULUM LINK: RESPONDING TO LITERATURE

3:

- Draw two of the characters. How do they feel about the cat?
- How does the cat feel about them?
- How do they show this?
- What is similar and what is different about the characters?



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WRITING ACTIVITIES

CURRICULUM LINK: ETHICAL UNDERSTANDING

4:

- What do you think of the mice in the play?
- What were they looking for? Why?
- What do you think they were doing before the play started?
- What do you think of the cat's choice to not kill them?
- What do you think they will do after the play?
- Do you think they learned anything?

CURRICULUM LINK: RESPONDING TO LITERATURE

5:

- Draw each of the characters.
- What words would you use to describe each character?
- Write the words underneath your drawing.
- What do you think they would say if they could talk?
- Add a speech bubble to your drawing and fill it in.

CURRICULUM LINK: RESPONDING TO LITERATURE

6:

- If you were a piece of furniture, or an animal, what would you be? Why? Draw yourself as that furniture or animal.



PLAY/ACTING ACTIVITIES

CURRICULUM LINKS: LANGUAGE VARIATION AND CHANGE, EXPRESSING AND DEVELOPING IDEAS, UNDERSTANDING HOW DRAMA WORKS

1a:

- What was each of the pieces of furniture?
- They didn't talk – so how did they communicate?
- If they could talk, what do you think they would say to the cat? What would they say to the mice? What do you think their voices would sound like?

1b:

- Act out one of the characters using your body to look like how the character moved. What would they say? Can your classmates guess which character you are playing?

CURRICULUM LINKS: LANGUAGE FOR INTERACTION, EXPRESSING AND DEVELOPING IDEAS

2:

- If the furniture in this classroom could talk, what do you think it would say?

Have the students cut out speech bubbles from paper and blue-tac them to furniture around the classroom. Let the children write on the speech bubbles what they think each item would say.



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CHARACTER BUILDING & PUPPETEERING

CURRICULUM LINK: UNDERSTANDING HOW DRAMA WORKS

Bring in an appliance or object from home, or find something in the classroom. What character can it be? Where is its face? What age is it? How does it move? What is its special trick? What would its voice be like? What would it say to people who use it?

CURRICULUM LINK: UNDERSTANDING HOW DRAMA WORKS

1:

- Make a 30 second scene of the appliance or object ‘waking up’ and moving around.

2:

- Team up with a classmate who has an object that might work together with your character. How would they interact?



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ANXIETY

CURRICULUM LINKS: COMMUNICATING AND INTERACTING FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Do you ever feel like the cat did when they were very scared?

What makes you feel like that?

What helps calm you down when you feel like that?

What should you do if you think someone is feeling very anxious or very stressed out?

What is the owner of the house scared of?

What is the cat scared of?

What are the mice scared of?

Is there anything that makes you feel scared?

What can people do when you feel scared?

The furniture gang in the play teaches the cat about being brave. What helps you feel brave?

How does the furniture gang make the cat feel safe?

What skills does each furniture friend teach or do to help the cat?

What would you teach the cat?

Make a poster with some suggestions to help you or someone else when they are feeling anxious.

Some links to best practice strategies for helping children with anxiety, which should form some of the suggestions:

- <https://healthyfamilies.beyondblue.org.au/age-6-12/mental-health-conditions-in-children/anxiety>
- <https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/anxiety-in-children-2018081414532>
- <https://childmind.org/article/what-to-do-and-not-do-when-children-are-anxious/>



OLD THINGS & OBSOLESCENCE

CURRICULUM LINKS: EXPRESSING AND DEVELOPING IDEAS

1:

- Why was the furniture gang left all alone?
- Do you have any furniture or objects in your house that have been left and kind of forgotten?

2:

Find pictures of a cassette tape & player, table-top hair dryer

- Do you recognise these objects? Do you know what they are used for? They are not seen very often anymore, but they used to be very common! Is there anything like this in your house?
- What things that we use today do you think might become disused in the future? What might we have in the future instead? For example: What do you think a music player might look like in the future? Draw it!



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ANIMALS WITH JOBS

CURRICULUM LINKS: ETHICAL UNDERSTANDING, EXPRESSING AND DEVELOPING IDEAS

1:

- In the play, the cat's job is to be a mouse killer.
- What other animals have jobs?
- Do you think they like having jobs?
- What other jobs could a cat or other animal have? Think about different things that they can do. EG: a cow could be a slow lawn mower, chief stamp licker at the post office, or a country taxi service (Moober).



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