

## CLASSROOM DISCUSSION: MUFARO'S BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTERS

(15 min. total)

### Show & Theater Company: (less than 1 min.)

- Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters by Dallas Children's Theater

### Art Form: (1-2 min.)

- Musical theater (a play with songs)

### Context: (3-5 min.)

- Takes place in Zimbabwe, a country in Africa (point it out on a map)
  - An African folktale (a story handed down from one generation to another by word of mouth; are often used to teach a moral or lesson to children)
    - ? What types of stories or fairy tales with morals do you know? (Examples: "Pinocchio" – telling lies is wrong; "The Tortoise and the Hare" – never give up; "The Ugly Duckling" – don't judge people on their looks)

### Main concepts/characters: (3 min.)

- Main Characters:
  - Manyara (the nice sister)
  - Nyasha (the mean sister)
  - Their father, Mufuaro
  - The King
- The King sends a message across the land that he wants a wife.
  - ? What fairy tale do you know that this story sounds like? (Cinderella)
- The two sisters take a journey and meet an old woman, laughing trees, and a hungry boy who need their help. We'll see how each sister reacts.

### Special things to look for: (3 min.)

- Traditional African music
  - ? Why is this important to the play?
- This is a story about kindness and true beauty.
  - ? Can a person be truly beautiful if they are not kind?

### Theater Etiquette: (2-3 min.)

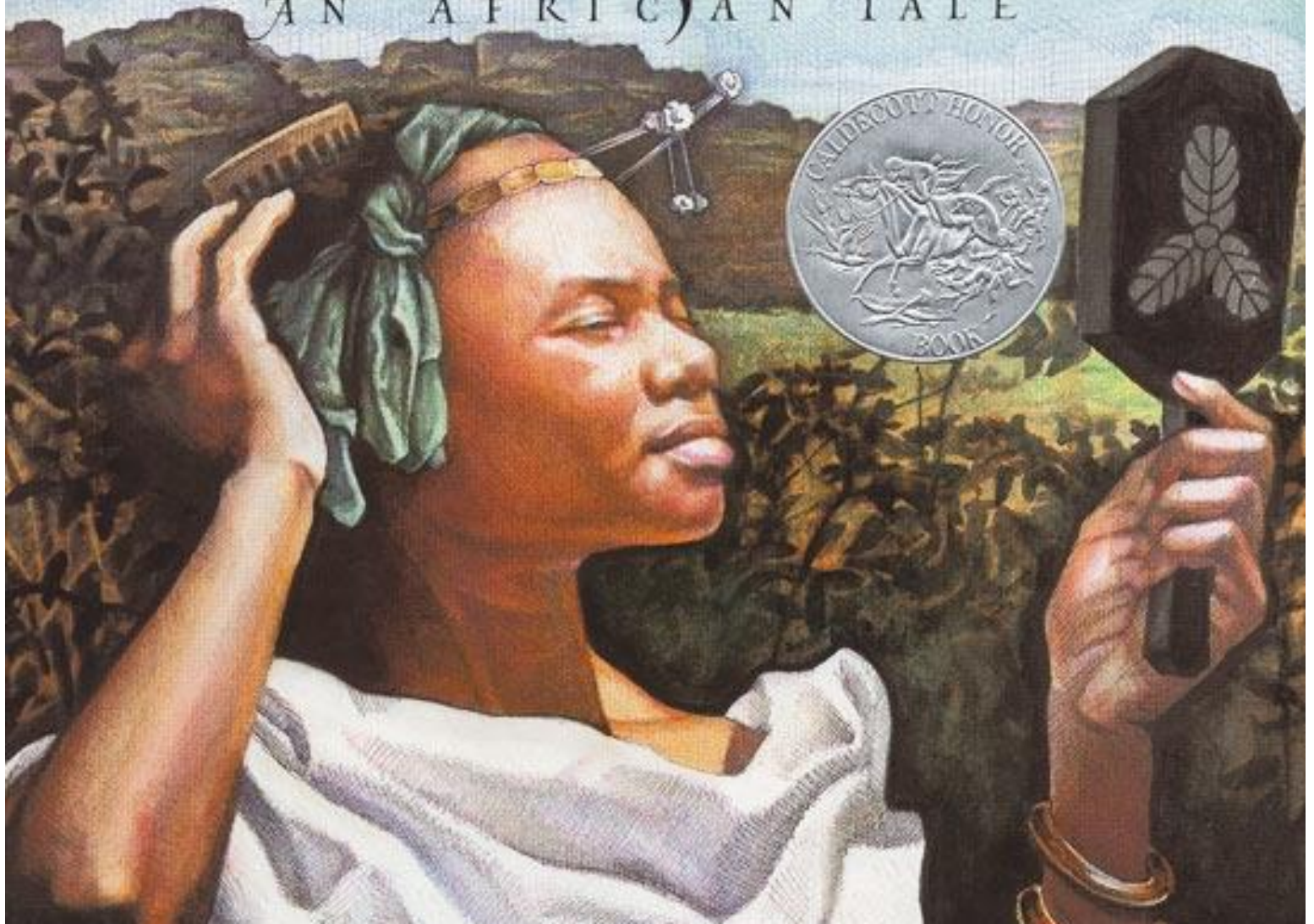
- Respect the theater, one person to a seat, limit bathroom breaks, do not kick the seats, no food or drink in the theater (bottled water okay), and turn off cell phones.
  - ? How is watching live theater different than watching a movie or TV?
    - Can't pause, rewind, or fast forward with live theater
    - Live theater is exciting, because each performance is unique
    - Students are in the same room as the performers. Every sound they make and moving around can affect the performers and other members of the audience.

JOHN STEPTOE



# Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters

AN AFRICAN TALE







**Zimbabwe**

