### TALKING POINTS FOR CLASSROOM DISCUSSION: THE RAINBOW FISH

#### Show and theater company:
- *The Rainbow Fish* presented by Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia

#### Art form:
- A puppet show with narration
- Different puppetry styles: rod puppets, full-body puppets, and hand puppets
  - Are all puppets the same? What other different kinds of puppets are there? (sock puppets, finger puppets…)
- The puppets and scenery are painted with a special kind of paint called fluorescent paint, and the rest of the stage is lit in special light that lets the set and puppets glow but keeps the puppeteers invisible.
- A puppeteer is someone who controls a puppet and makes it move.
  - How else can puppeteers hide their bodies? (hide behind something, dress in dark clothes)

#### Context:
- Based on a book series by author Marcus Pfister. The first book, *The Rainbow Fish*, was published in 1992. There are several sequels, including the two others in this show: *Rainbow Fish Discovers the Deep Sea* (2009), and *Rainbow Fish Opposites* (2013).
  - Who has read a book in this series?
  - Why do you think the fish is called the Rainbow Fish?
- The books follow the story of a colorful, shiny fish and his adventures with other ocean creatures.
  - What other animals live in the ocean?
- Fun fact: There are real rainbow fish with colorful, shiny scales! They live in Australia, Papua New Guinea, and Indonesia.

#### Main characters/concepts:
- Rainbow Fish, our main character – we see him in all three stories
- Octopus – a wise creature with eight legs that gives Rainbow Fish good advice on making friends and being brave
- The deep sea creatures – Rainbow Fish travels down to the deep sea and meets new animals he’s never seen before
- The other fish – Rainbow Fish is not the only fish! Part of his story is figuring out how to be a good friend to the other fish who live near him.
  - What makes someone a good friend?

#### Special things to look for:
- What are some of the opposites that you learned in the show? Can you think of any other opposites?
- Puppets can’t make faces the way humans can, so how can you tell what the characters are feeling?
- How are the three stories the same? How are they different?
- What does Rainbow Fish learn about friendship?

#### Theater etiquette:
- Respect the theater, limit bathroom breaks, one person to a seat, do not kick the seats, no food or drink in the theater (bottled water okay), no audio, video recording or photography and remember to turn off cell phones/no texting (students and adults).
  - How is watching live theater different than watching a movie or TV?
    - Can’t pause, rewind, or fast forward with live theater. Every sound students make and moving around can affect the performers and other members of the audience.

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Show info: *The Rainbow Fish* ● Friday, October 18, 2019 ● 9:30am ● Grades PK-2