## TALKING POINTS FOR CLASSROOM DISCUSSION: GOLDEN DRAGON ACROBATS

### Show & Theater Company:
- Golden Dragon Acrobats

### Art Form:
- Traditional acrobat group from China

### Context:
- The art of Chinese acrobatics began about 4,000 years ago, most likely from people on farms performing tricks.
- Very important part of Chinese culture.
- Children begin training for these skills at about 6 years old, 6 days a week, for about 8 hours a day. They attend special boarding schools which train children to be acrobats.

  - How is a child who is training to be an acrobat in China different or similar to you?

### Main Concepts:
- The four most important skills for an acrobat are the handstand, tumbling, flexibility, and dance. Acrobats will focus on one of the four skills during their training and then specialize in certain acts depending on their strength.
- Perseverance (never giving up)

  - What happens when an acrobat makes a mistake on stage? They try it again! They will try even a few times until they get it right.

### Special Things to Look For:
- Chinese acrobatics has four elements: the handstand, tumbling, flexibility, and dance. Look for each of these in the show.
- When they stack things or people, the biggest person or object is always on the bottom.

  - Why do you think this is?
- The use of assistants to ensure safety.
- Special costumes

  - What do the costumes add to the show? How would the show be different without them?

### 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.

---

**Show info:** Golden Dragon Acrobats • Tuesday, February 11, 2020 • 9:30am & 11:30am • Grades PK-12