

TALKING POINTS FOR CLASSROOM DISCUSSION:: THE ADVENTURES OF TORTOISE AND HARE: THE NEXT GEN

Show & Theater Company:

The Adventures of Tortoise and Hare: The Next Gen by Lightwire Theater

Art Form:

Puppetry using lightwire technology, storytelling, and dance.

Context:

- Lightwire Theater has been featured on the TV show America's Got Talent. The show they make create a world of glow-in-the-dark characters using light wire.
- Light wire is electroluminescent; it's a thin copper wire coated in a substance called "phosphor," which glows when an electric current is applied to it. This is different than neon which uses gas inside a glass tube; when the gas is electrified, it glows from inside the tube.
- The story is based on the classic story of *The Tortoise and the Hare*, but set in a modern context.

Main Characters:

- Old Man Tortoise – Tortoise from the classic tale, moves slow and steady
- Tortoise Junior – the son of Old Man Tortoise
- Big Daddy Hare – Hare from the classic tale, very fast but takes long breaks
- Lil' Hare – the son of Big Daddy Hare

Main Concepts:

- *The Tortoise and the Hare* is a very old story by a man named Aesop. It is a *fable*, meaning a short story that conveys a moral or a lesson.
- ? What moral does the original story tell?
- ? Do you know any of these other Aesop fables? (such as *The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse*, *The Fox and the Grapes*, or *The Grasshopper and the Ant*)
- This performance depicts modern technology which didn't exist when Aesop first wrote this story.
- ? What are some examples of technology you use every day? (such as TV, phone, car, iPad)
- ? What are some good things about technology?
- ? What are some bad things about technology?

Special things to look for:

- ? How do the actors make the creatures come to life in the performance? (using puppetry and dance movements)
- ? What parts of this story are familiar? What parts are new?
- ? What moral do you think this fable is trying to teach us?

Virtual Theater Etiquette:

As you watch this show, try to immerse yourself as you would if you were at the theater in person.

- Find a quiet space to watch.
- Respect your space – in the theater, we don't put our feet on the seats in front of us or jump and down in our chairs; wherever you're watching this, treat your space with the same level of respect.
- Limit distractions.
- Use the restroom before the show starts so you won't miss anything.
- Put any other electronic devices away.
- Clap when you see something you love!

Show info:: *The Adventures of Tortoise and Hare: The Next Gen* • Jan 24 – Feb 18, 2022 • Grades K-6