

TALKING POINTS FOR CLASSROOM DISCUSSION: THE POUT-POUT FISH

Show:

The Pout-Pout Fish by TheaterWorksUSA

Art Form:

A musical (a play with music), performed by live actors and puppets.

Context:

- *The Pout-Pout Fish* is based on a best-selling book of the same name, written by Deborah Diesen with pictures by Dan Hanna. It was first published in 2009.
- Sequels to the series include *The Pout-Pout Fish and the Mad, Mad Day*, *The Pout-Pout Fish and the Worry-Worry Whale*, and *The Pout-Pout Fish in the Big-Big Dark*.
 - ? Have you read any of the books in the series? What do you know about the Pout-Pout Fish?

Main Characters:

- Main characters include:
 - Mr. Pout-Pout Fish, our **protagonist**, or main character, who always sees the worst in things
 - Shimmer, Pout-Pout's best friend, a shimmerfish, who sees the silver lining in things
 - ? Shimmer and Mr. Pout-Pout Fish are very different. Are your friends similar to you or different from you? How?
 - Ms. Clam, their friend
- ? What other sea creatures might show up in this story?

Main Concepts:

- This story talks about how Mr. Pout-Pout Fish sometimes focuses too much on the negative—he always frowns or pouts and never smiles
- Of course, it's okay to feel sad or scared, but being brave and grateful is important to!
 - ? What is something you do when you are scared or sad that helps you feel better?
 - ? Shimmerfish helps Mr. Pout-Pout change his attitude. What is a way you could help your friends? Or how could your friends help you?

Special Things to Look For:

- Which characters are puppets, and which characters are live actors?
- How do the actors make the puppets move? Can you see?
- The stage isn't actually underwater, but how do they make it look like it is?
- Do you think the Pout-Pout Fish will change to smile more and pout less or not?

Theater Etiquette:

- 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/no texting (even for 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 Information: *The Pout-Pout Fish* • November 29, 2022 • Grades PK-2