TALKING POINTS FOR CLASSROOM DISCUSSION: *THE INVISIBLE BOY*

LUTHER BURBANK CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Show & Theater Company:

- *The Invisible Boy* by Experiential Theater Company

Art Form:

- Musical Theater (a play with songs)

Context:

- This story follows Brian, who feels invisible until a new kid, Justin, arrives at his school
- This show is based on the book "The Invisible Boy," written by Trudy Ludwig
  - Trudy wrote her first book after her own daughter was bullied by some friends, and has since then written 12 children's books so far!
  - All of Trudy's books focus on helping children connect and engage with each other with kindness, empathy, and inclusion

? Have you read any of Trudy Ludwig's books before?

Main Concepts:

- Friendship
- Inclusion
- Self-Expression
- Kindness
- Empathy
- Celebrating Differences

Special Things to Look for:

- This show uses lots of sets and props—two big ways that bring a story to life on stage.
  - Sets are big pieces of structures, furniture, or backdrops that help set the scenes
    - **?** What set pieces do you notice in this show? What does it tell you about the setting?
  - Props are things that actors use or carry to help tell the story
    - **?** What sort of props does this show use?

? How are these props in proportion to how they are in real life? Are they everyday life sized? (an example is the pencils the actors use on stage)

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.