



Mapping Connections to Your Theater Experience

This overview provides a preview of the big picture Enduring Understandings of each performance and preview of the Compelling Questions used to frame an Inquiry project in your classroom. We would love for what is happening on stage at Des Moines Performing Arts to provide a jumping off point to invite deeper engagement, to spark conversation, and connect to topics and objectives already present in your classroom.

The Snowy Day and Other Ezra Jack Keats Stories

March 9-10, 2020 at the Temple Theater

Grades PK-2

ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS

The lives of Ezra Jack Keats' fictional characters were based on his neighborhood. The lives of writers (and creators in all mediums) are often based on or inspired by their lives and experiences.

The stories focus on an African-American boy. Though stories are located in a particular time, place, and person, we find commonalities with the stories' characters and recognize our shared common goals, feelings, and experiences of being human.

COMPELLING QUESTIONS

- The performance tells the story of Peter's ordinary, everyday life, not the story of a hero or a celebrity. Why might have Ezra Jack Keats written the story about an ordinary kid? Why might the company have decided to bring it to the stage?
- What kinds of stories do you have about your ordinary, everyday life? How can you share those stories with others?
- The performance was based on books that were written in 1962 . Was it important to the audience that the characters of Peter and his family were African-American? Is it important now? Why or why not?

You can find more information on our website and in the Curriculum Guides that work to connect the themes of the performance to Social Studies, Writing and 21st Century Skills standards. Fine Arts Standards in Theater, Dance, and Music can connect when appropriate.

Preview of Standards connected to Inquiry Guide:

Social Studies

Developing Claims and Using Evidence
Communicating and Critiquing Conclusions
Taking Informed Action

Literacy/Writing

Research to Build and Present Knowledge

21st Century Skills

Technology Literacy 21.3-5.TL.3