



Questions to Ask Before Seeing the Production:

- 1) The Aztecs used codices to record stories and history. What are the many ways we record our history and stories today?
- 2) Most families have stories that have been passed down from one generation to the next. Sometimes they are communicated orally and sometimes they are recorded in photos, letters or video. What is a story that you have been told by a family member? Are there cultural stories you were told (e.g. La Llorona)?
- 3) A talisman is an object that is believed to protect or provide magic powers. What are some examples of talismans from various cultures? Do you have a personal talisman (a lucky coin, crystal, etc.)?
- 4) Discuss the meaning of metaphor and simile. What is an example of a metaphor? What is an example of a simile? Look for the use of metaphor and simile in the play.
- 5) What do you know about the Spanish Conquest? Who was Hernán Cortés?
- 6) What do you know about the Aztecs and their culture before the Spanish arrived?
- 7) What are some of the many things the Spanish introduced to the Aztec culture? What are the riches that existed in the culture before the Spanish arrived?
- 8) What is a ritual? Look for examples of ritual when you see the play. What are some examples of ritual in your life or culture?
- 9) In the play, the brothers play a thinking game with their grandma. What are family games that you play?
- 10) Throughout history, people have been forced to change their names. When and why did this happen?
- 11) An omen is a thing or happening believed to foretell a future event, either good or evil. After the Spanish invasion, there were 8 omens recorded that supposedly predicted those events. What are other examples of omens in history or literature?
- 12) The Aztec people had a well established culture when the Spanish arrived. Culture can mean your personal heritage or the world you live in today. What are some elements of your culture? How would you describe your culture?



Childsplay's 360° Theatre Resources for Schools
Pre and Post Show Discussion Questions for *The Sun Serpent*
2011-2012 Season
www.childsplayaz.org

Questions to Ask After Seeing the Production:

- 1) What are some examples of visual images from the production that stayed with you after seeing the show?
- 2) Which character did you identify with the most and why?
- 3) Can you recall the use of metaphors and similes in the play?
- 4) Teudile presented Cortés with a basket with the very best things from his culture. What would your basket include?
- 5) Why does Tlememe choose to go to war? What are examples in today's culture about one person's point of view being influenced or changed by another person or group?
- 6) Anáhuac draws on the ground when he's nervous. What do you do to calm yourself or deal with fears?
- 7) How is Anáhuac's family divided by the arrival of Cortés? What are other examples of this happening in history and how is it happening today? What are issues that can divide a family?
- 8) What happens when a new element is added to an environment or culture? What happened to the Aztec people when the Spanish arrived? What are others examples of the introduction of plants, animals or diseases affecting environments or cultures?
- 9) Why does Anáhuac decide not to join his brother and fight with Cortés?
- 10) Most of the characters in the play are masked. Why do you think the director and designers chose to do this? Why do you think certain characters were unmasked?
- 11) What are some examples from the play that can parallel events that are happening in our world today?
- 12) Other than language, what production elements are used to tell the story and how did they help you to understand the story?
- 13) From who's perspective is the story told? History can be told from many different perspectives. What could be another perspective in telling this story?
- 14) What is genocide? Can what happened during the Spanish Conquest be considered genocide? What are other examples of genocide in history?
- 15) In the play, the soldiers are called monkeys. What other animals are personified in the play? If you were to self identify as an animal what would it be and why?