



Childsplay's 360° Theatre Resources for Schools
Pre and Post Show Discussion Questions for *Tomás and the Library Lady*
2011-2012 Season
www.childsplayaz.org

Questions to Ask Before Seeing the Production:

- 1) Tomás learns English as his second language. Does your family speak a language other than English at home? Have you ever been in a situation where you didn't understand the language someone was speaking? How did it make you feel?
- 2) Tomás develops a special relationship with the librarian. Is there an adult who has influenced your life or shared something special with you?
- 3) When Tomás reads, his imagination takes him right into the story. If you could become a part of one of your favorite books, which book and what part of the story would it be?
- 4) Tomás hears many stories from his Papa Grande. What is your favorite story that you like to hear again and again? Why do you think we like to hear stories more than once?
- 5) When did you first learn to read? What was the first book you read by yourself?
- 6) Tomás goes to a place that is very different from his home. Have you travelled to another place? What was different about it? What did you like about it?
- 7) We all have dreams when we sleep. Sometimes they are pleasant and sometimes they are nightmares. Share a dream that you've had. Have you ever had the same dream more than once? Why do you think that happens?

Questions to Ask After Seeing the Production:

- 1) How was the play similar to the book? How was it different? Do you remember images from the book that appeared in the play? What do you remember from the play that was not in the book?
- 2) All plays have three P's: *People* in a *Place* with a *Problem*. Where does the play take place? Who are the people? What are the problems? What happens at the beginning of the play? The middle? The end?
- 3) Tomás moves a lot between Texas and Iowa. Have you ever had two "homes" at once? What would it be like to have to leave your home for months at a time? What would you miss the most?
- 4) Tomás overcomes his fear of his teacher...what helps him overcome his fear? Have you ever had to overcome something you were afraid of? How did you do it?
- 5) What did the Library Lady learn from Tomás? What are some of examples of ways adults can learn from young people?
- 6) Tomás had to practice a lot in order to become good at reading and speaking English. What is something you've had to work very hard to achieve?
- 7) Papa Grande thinks Tomás is going to be a writer or painter someday. What do your parents or grandparents want you to be? What do you want to be?
- 8) Tomás has a hard time saying goodbye to the Library Lady. Have you ever had to say goodbye to someone who you knew you wouldn't see for a long time? How did you feel?
- 9) The actors play more than one character. How do they make the characters different from one another?