



Childsplay's
360° Theatre Resources for Schools



By Anne Negri

Directed by Andrés Alcalá

Scenic Design by Kimb Williamson

Costume Design by D. Daniel Hollingshead

Lighting Design by Tim Monson

Sound Design by Christopher Neumeyer

Stage Manager: Samantha Monson

The Cast

Lyf.....Nathan Dobson
Meta.....Kaleena Newman
Taur.....John Moun
Mom.....Kate Haas
Dad.....Jon Gentry/Jeremy Schaefer

January 28 –February 5, 2012
Tempe Center for the Arts, Studio Theatre

School Tour: February– May, 2012

Recommended for ages 6 and older

www.childsplayaz.org

About *With Two Wings* and Your Theatre Experience

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



U·S AIRWAYS

**WHERE EDUCATION AND IMAGINATION
TAKE FLIGHT**

The Story:

With Two Wings shows us a fantastical world of winged creatures through the eyes of Lyf, a young boy who has grown up sheltered from the outside by his differently-abled parents. Safe in their Nest, protected by a series of strict rules, Lyf has never even thought about trying to fly. His parents don't, and he's always known that it's not safe for him. But when two fast talking twins (Meta and Taur) burst into his world, questioning his family, and talking brazenly of learning to fly, Lyf begins to question his parents' rules for the first time. Ultimately, he has to find a way to reconcile the safe, grounded world of his parents and the exciting world of flight that his new friends represent. Audiences of all ages will connect with Lyf's struggle to stand up for himself and figure out who he really wants to be. Schools will be able to use the themes of the play to initiate constructive conversations in the classroom about cultural and physical differences and families will relate to the challenges that begin to emerge when children start to grow up and establish their own identities.

Themes/Curricular Ties:

Bullying * Peer Pressure * Coming of Age /Growing up
* Parent/Child Relationships * Celebrating differences
* Friendship * Mythology * Courage * Sibling
Rivalries * Journalism * Metaphor * Overcoming
Disability * Cultural differences * Aerodynamics

Major funding was provided by:





About Childsplay:

Childsplay is a professional non-profit theatre company of adult actors, performing for young audiences and families.

Our Mission is to create theatre so strikingly original in form, content or both, that it instills in young people an enduring awe, love and respect for the medium, thus preserving imagination and wonder, those hallmarks of childhood that are the keys to the future.

What We Do:

In addition to our weekend public performances, we also offer three theatre experiences for our school audiences: Field Trips, School Tours and Artist in Residence Programs. Field trip performances, where students come to the theater and see a production, can be booked by contacting Beth Olson at 480-921-5757. School Tour Performances, where we come to your school or other location and perform, can be booked by contacting Jaime Fox at 480-921-5751. Artist in Residence Programs, where students do theatre activities in the classroom, can be individually designed to meet the needs of your school or can be based on one of our many existing formats (page to stage, creating original work, use of drama to teach curriculum, professional development for teachers), can be booked by contacting Korbi Adams at 480-921-5745.

Our Home:

The Sybil B. Harrington Campus of Imagination and Wonder at Mitchell Park (formerly Mitchell School) is where you'll find our administrative offices, costume shop, prop shop, rehearsal spaces, and Academy classrooms. We love to hear from our audiences. Send your letters and reviews to:

Address: 900 S. Mitchell, Tempe, AZ 85281

Phone: 480-921-5700

Email: info@childsplayaz.org **Web:** www.childsplayaz.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/chidsplayaz

To help enrich and extend your theatre experience, check out the 360° Theatre Resource Center on our website!

We perform at the Tempe Center for the Arts
700 W. Rio Salado Parkway
Tempe, AZ 85281

Theater Etiquette:

It's helpful to review the rules of theater etiquette before seeing a show, especially since this may be the first live theater experience for some of your students. Please take a moment to discuss the following pointers prior to seeing the performance:

- Use the restroom before seeing the show as we do not have intermission during our school performances.
- Stay seated during the performance.
- Be respectful to the performers and other people in the audience by not talking during the performance. Remember, the actors can see and hear the audience just like the audience can see and hear them.
- Appropriate responses such as applause or laughter are always welcome.
- Food, candy, gum and beverages will not be allowed in the theater/during the performance.
- Use of cell phones (including text messaging), cameras or any other recording device is not allowed in the theatre/during the performance at any time.
- Following the performance (time permitting) there will be a brief question/answer session where audience members will have an opportunity to ask the actors questions about the production.



Things to Talk about *Before Seeing the Show...*

From the Playwright, Anne Negri:

The original idea for *With Two Wings* came from a personal family experience and a question: what might life be like for a child born to two disabled parents? Around that same time, I had a dream about people with wings, which also led me to the Greek myth of Icarus and Daedalus. With all of those ideas spinning around in my head, I wrote the first draft as a 10-minute short play for a class I was taking at Arizona State University. This draft of the play only had Mom, Dad, Lyf, and Vera (this was Meta's original name). The play was also originally titled *Fly/Lyf* and had used multiple forms of puppets (hand puppets and shadow puppets).

From there, I was encouraged by my teachers and friends to expand the story and explore the characters and relationships in more depth. As I wrote, the world became richer and richer and eventually Taur joined the story. I had several wonderful opportunities to work with incredible, passionate teams of people at Arizona State University, in Indianapolis, and in Evanston, Illinois. During those experiences I really began to see the world of the play, the detail of Dad's worknest and the wall, the role of storytelling, and the challenge of showing flying onstage. I also really worked to change my characters from cartoon-like archetypes into complicated, fascinating, and multi-faceted beings.

While working on the play at Childsplay, I was able to making small edits, add more rich details, and see what a professional director, actors, and artists could do with my story. It has been a delight and such a joy to see my little 10-minute play, born in Arizona, take flight on the Childsplay stage. This play has truly come home!

Questions To Discuss Before Seeing the Production:

- 1) All families have rules. What are some of the rules you have to follow in your family? What are the consequences for breaking rules?
- 2) What does it mean to bully someone? What are some different examples of bully-

ing? Can peer pressure be considered a form of bullying?

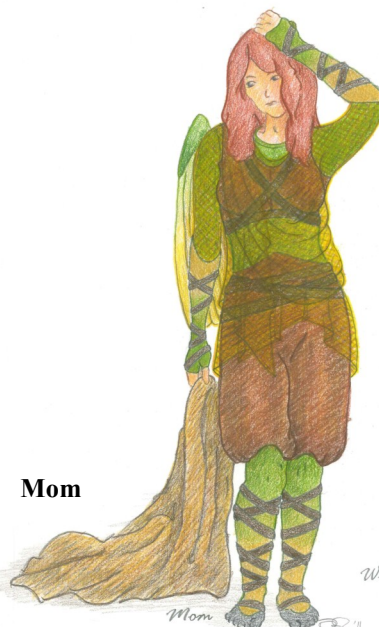
- 3) What does the word disability mean to you? What are some examples of disabilities?
- 4) What are some examples of hurtful words? Why are certain words more powerful than others?
- 5) What are some examples of creatures with wings (real or mythological)?
- 6) What are your parents' responsibilities to you and what are your responsibilities to your parents?



Lyf



Meta



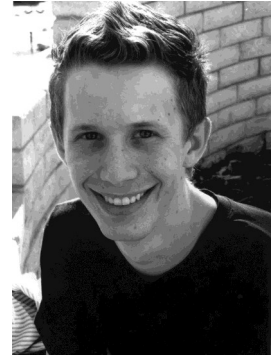
Mom

Costume Design Renderings by
D. Daniel Hollingshead



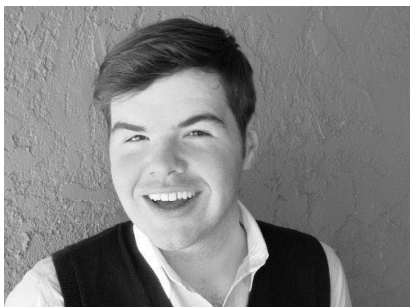
Childsplay's 360° Theatre Resources for Schools
Who's who in
With Two Wings
2011-2012 Season
www.childsplayaz.org

Nathan Dobson (*Lyf*) is excited to be returning to Childsplay for his second season after making his company debut as Sheldon in *Junie B. Jones*. Other Childsplay credits include: Tim, in the Arizona tour of *The Imaginators* and Chester in *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*. Nathan's roles outside of Childsplay include Solomon in *Speech and Debate* and The Telegram Delivery Boy in *Octopus*, both at Stray Cat Theatre.



Jon Gentry (*Dad*) has been a member of Childsplay's acting company since 1982; Jon spent 6 months in Europe performing *Steen, Papier, Schaar* with Speel Theater. Some of his favorite Childsplay roles include Toad in *A Year with Frog and Toad* (the first time) and Benjamin in *The Yellow Boat*. Jon has also performed Max Bialystock in *The Producers*, Tupolski in *The Pillowman*, Roy Cohn in *Angels in America, Parts One and Two*, *Blue Orange*, *Compleat Wrks of Shspr* (Abridged) and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. His directing credits include *In My Grandmother's Purse*, *Stones In His Pockets*, *Belle Of Amherst*, *Rhubarb Jam*, *The Imaginators* (original production) and *Equus*. Jon was awarded a Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship by the Ten Chimneys Foundation, one of 10 actors in the United States to participate in the Inaugural Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship Program.

Kate Haas (*Mom*) is thrilled to return for her fifth season as an actor and teaching artist with Childsplay, where she was last seen as Garland in *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*. Previous roles include Isabella in *Androcles and the Lion*, The Good Fairy (and others) in *The Neverending Story*, Phoebe in *Miss Nelson is Missing!*, Mother/Grandmother in *A Thousand Cranes*, Miss Pross in *A Tale of Two Cities*, and Mother/Audrey in *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*. Her other favorite roles include Steph in *reasons to be pretty* and Jill in *Learn to Be Latina* (Stray Cat Theatre), Olive/ Agnes in *Times Square Angel* (Nearly Naked Theatre), and Judith in *The Ash Girl* (Arizona State University). Kate studies at the Megaw Actors Studio and holds a BA in Theatre from Arizona State University.



John Moum (*Taur*) is blessed to be returning for his third season at Childsplay after touring in *Ferdinand the Bull* (Ferdinand) and *New Kid* (Nick). He was most recently seen as Mr. Primm in *Lyle the Crocodile*. John is also a teaching artist for Childsplay's Academy and Conservatory programs. His favorite roles include Ronnie in *Hair*, Buck in *Zanna Don't!*, Britt Craig in *Parade*, Tobias in *Sweeney Todd*, and his first role as a frog in pre-school.

Kaleena Newman (*Meta*) Kaleena is excited to be performing in her second season with Childsplay. She was last seen as Willa Jo in the Arizona premiere of *Getting Near to Baby* in 2008. Kaleena is a junior theatre major at ASU where she was recently seen in their main-stage production of *Zoot Suit*. Previous credits also include Meta in *Fly/Lyf* (Phoenix Fringe) and the title role in *Seagirl* (ASU). Kaleena has worked as a Teaching Artist with Childsplay for the past three years and spent last fall in Washington DC studying American Sign Language.





Childsplay's 360° Theatre Resources for Schools
Post Show Discussion Questions and Six Pillars Connections for *With Two Wings*
2011-2012 Season
www.childsplayaz.org

Questions to Ask After Seeing the Production:

- 1) Meta and Taur are twins but they are different from one another. How? How are you similar to or different from your sibling?
- 2) Why did Lyf's mom keep him from the outside world? What could she have done differently to achieve the same goal? How do your parents try to protect you?
- 3) What are some examples of bullying in the play?
- 4) In what ways does Lyf stand up for himself in the play?
- 5) Lyf gains freedom when he uses his wings to fly. In what other ways does he gain freedom in the play?
- 6) People can "fly" in many different ways. What are some literal and figurative examples of ways people can fly?
- 7) Taur wanted to write about Lyf's family. Do you think that was fair? What types of things would you be willing to share about your family and what types of things would you want to keep private?

Questions Connected to the Six Pillars of Character

*** TRUSTWORTHINESS***

Which characters demonstrated trustworthiness and how?

RESPECT

Which character do you feel is the most respectful? What are examples of that character showing respect? Do any characters show disrespect?

RESPONSIBILITY

What are the responsibilities of friendship? How did Meta, Taur and Lyf succeed or fail in meeting these responsibilities?

FAIRNESS

What are some examples of characters being fair in their relationships? Do you think Lyf's mom's rules for him are fair? Why or why not?

CARING

What are different ways that Lyf's mom and dad care for him? What are different ways that your parents or family members care for you?

CITIZENSHIP

Lyf's mom and dad felt they had to exclude themselves from the community because they were different. What are ways that you can make sure that people with differences feel safe and welcomed in your community?



5 Minute Activities:

1) All people have similarities and differences. Each of us has unique traits. Come up with a list of 5 things that all people have in common. Then make a list of 5 things that make you unique.

Does anyone else in your class share your unique traits? **Writing: Grade 4: S3: C1: PO1: Record information (lists) related to the topic.**

2) Using the Six Pillars of Character, try the Sound Scape activity. Students walk randomly around the room not interacting with others. The teacher says "respect" (or another pillar). Students then say out loud words they think of when they hear the word respect. Try not to speak all at once; think about give and take. Move through all six pillars then discuss the experience.

Language 6a: Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate, general academic and domain-specific words and phrases.

3) Lyf's family has some very specific rules. What are your family's rules? Write down at least 5 of your family's rules. Compare with another classmate. **Grade 1: SS:S3:C4:PO3: Discuss the importance of students contributing to a community.**

4) In the play, they say that "smidgen" means "small pigeon." With a partner, find other words that you can divide into 2 words or combine 2 words to create a new made up word (example: scary+ movie =scoovie). How many can you come up with in 5 minutes? Share with your class.

15 Minute Activities:

1) Play "Decision Alley." Divide class in half and assign one person to be Lyf. Line up facing each other to create an alley. One side is in favor of Lyf leaving the nest and the other side is against it (both sides should take a few minutes to brainstorm tactics before starting). Lyf starts at one end and slowly walks down the alley while actors on both sides call out comments or advice to try and convince him of their stance. By the time he gets to the end, he says (in character) what his choice is. Those in line: have an idea of who will say what. Student playing Lyf: if you can't decide, go through line a second time. **Theatre: S1: C2: PO202: As a character, play out her/his wants by interacting with others, maintaining concentration, and contributing to the action of classroom improvisations.**

2) Lyf's parents react differently to situations. In pairs, play out a scene in which Lyf goes to his mom to tell her he wants to go to flock. How would mom react? Play the scene again with Lyf going to his father with the same request. How would he react? Ask for volunteers to share some scenes with class and discuss. **Writing 3b: Use dialogue and description to develop experiences and events or show the responses of characters to situations.**

3) The pillar of responsibility is a theme in the play. Lyf and his parents have responsibilities to each other. Think about the people in your world (parents, friends, siblings, teacher, pet, etc.). Using the attached worksheets, create a graphic organizer showing your responsibilities to them and theirs to you. Write their name or group (friends, for example) in a circle and list responsibilities under it. **Grade 3: SS:S3:C4:PO3: Identify traits of character that are important to the preservation and improvement of democracy.**

30 Minute Activities:

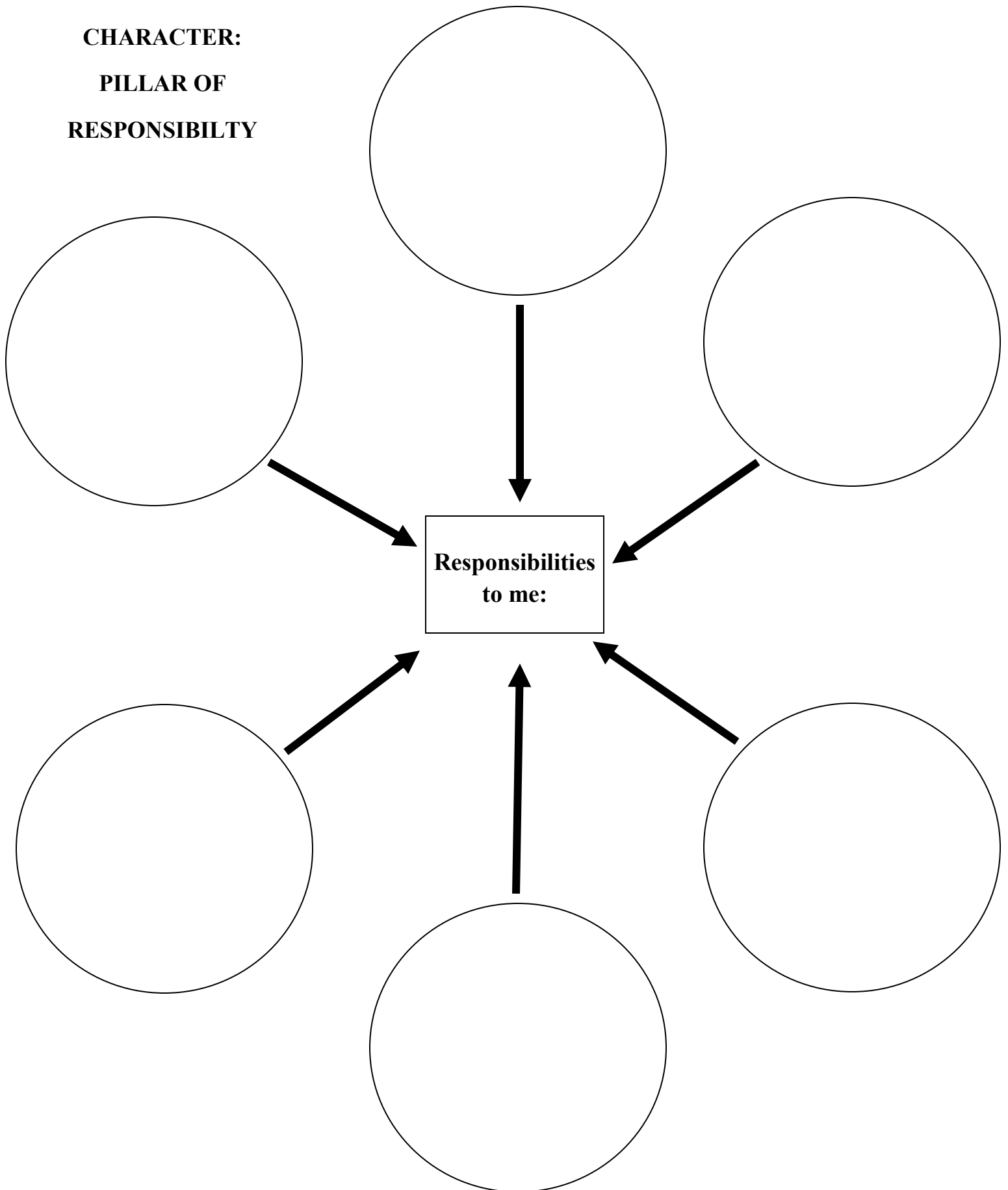
1) Talk about what happens at the end of the play. If the story was to continue, what do you think would happen next? Write a story or scene (includes dialogue and characters) about what happens next in the story. **Writing 3b: Use dialogue and description to develop experiences and events or show the responses of characters to situations.**

2) The art of Andy Goldsworthy was the inspiration for the scenic and costume designs in the show. Look at photographs of his sculptures for ideas and inspiration. Build your own miniature nest using found objects. Brainstorm a list of interesting materials that could be used (from nature or other). Display in your classroom. **Art: S1:C2:PO201: Identify and experiment with materials appropriately and expressively.**

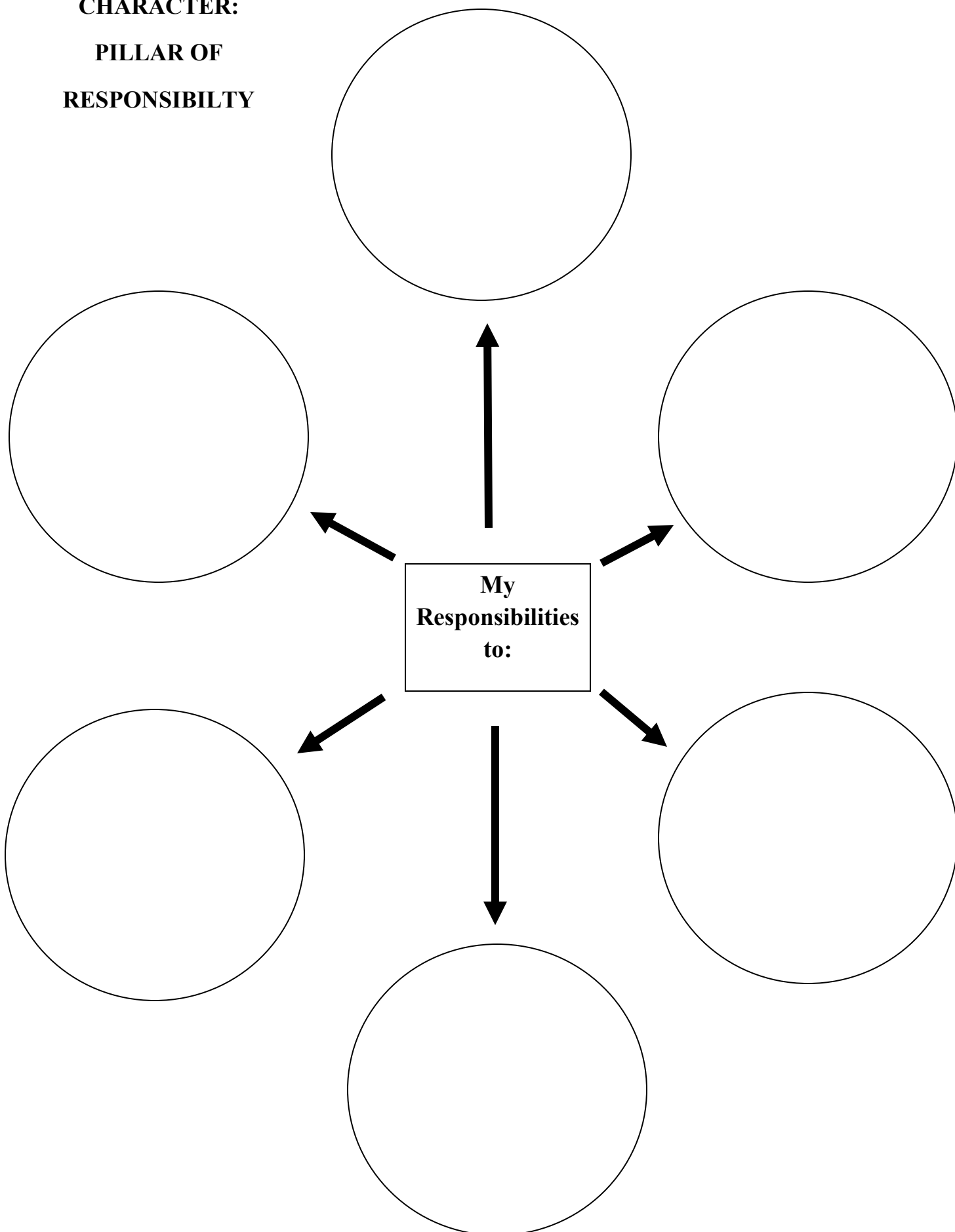
3) Divide into groups of four. Come up with a list of questions that Taur would ask Lyf and his family if he were given an interview. Think about the characters and how they would act/react. Play the scene. Talk about how it felt to be the characters in the interview. How might the interview be different if Meta conducted it? Try it again with Meta conducting the interview. Share some of the scenes with the class. **Writing 3b: Use dialogue and description to develop experiences and events or show the responses of characters to situations.**

4) You'll need several large pieces of butcher paper for this activity. In pairs, take turns outlining and then measuring your "wing span" (basically the upper part of your body with outstretched arms). What would your wings be made of (feathers, leaves, paper, metal, etc)? Using colored pencils, crayons and/or markers, draw/decorate your wings. Hang your drawings in your room or hallway. Who has the widest wingspan? Who has the smallest?

CHARACTER:
PILLAR OF
RESPONSIBILITY



**CHARACTER:
PILLAR OF
RESPONSIBILITY**





**Childsplay's 360° Theatre Resources for Schools
Booklist and Websites for *With Two Wings*
2011-2012 Season
www.childsplayaz.org**

*Prepared with the help of Tim Wadham, Member,
National Board, Association for Library Service to
Children and Sarah Sullivan, www.slatebreakers.com

Mythology

Greek Myths by Deborah Lock
The McElderry Book of Greek Myths by Eric A. Kimmel
Lost in the Labyrinth by Patrice Kindl

Friendship

Picture Books:

Charlie and Lola: My Best, Best Friend by Lauren Child
Hooray for Amanda and Her Alligator! by Mo Willems
Can I Play Too? by Mo Willems
Lost and Found by Oliver Jeffers
Bink and Gollie by Kate DiCamillo & Alison McGhee

Chapter Books:

The Wild Girls by Pat Murphy
Lucky Breaks by Susan Patron
Clementine, Friend of the Week by Sara Pennypacker
The Clockword Three by Matthew J. Kirby

Courage

Picture Books:

Dream Big by Ian Falconer
Jenny's Moonlight Adventure by Esther Averill

Chapter Books:

Snow Treasure by Marie McSwigan
Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell

Parent/Child Relationships

Picture Books:

The Queen of France by Tim Wadham
Monday is One Day by Arthur A. Levine
A Pet for Petunia by Paul Schmid
And I Love You by Ruth Krauss
Something to Do by David Lucas

Chapter Books:

Someday Angeline by Louis Sachar
One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams Garcia

Bullying

Picture Books:

Wings by Christopher Myers
The Rat and the Tiger by Keiko Kasza
The Bully from the Black Lagoon by Mike Thaler
Willy the Champ and Willy the Wimp by Anthony Browne

Chapter Books:

Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick
The Skin I'm In by Sharon Flake
Amelia's Bully Survival Guide by Marissa Moss

Metaphor

Similes and Metaphors by Ann Heinrichs

Celebrating differences

Picture Books:

I'm Like You, You're Like Me: A Child's Book about Understanding and Celebrating Each Other by Cindy Gainer
You Look Ridiculous Said the Rhinoceros to the Hippopotamus by Bernard Waber
Poodle and Hound by Kathryn Lasky
Grumblebunny by Bob Hartman

Chapter Books:

Habibi by Naomi Shahib Nye
The Girl Who Could Fly by Victoria Forrester

Coming of Age /Growing up

Picture Books:

Farfallina and Marcel by Holly Keller
Leo the Late Bloomer by Robert Kraus

Chapter Books:

Ninth Ward by Jewell Parker Rhodes
The Water Seeker by Kimberly Willis Holt
After Tupac & D Foster by Jacqueline Woodson
The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt

Sibling Rivalries

Picture Books:

Best Kid in the World by Peter Reynolds
Vera's Baby Sister by Vera Rosenberry
Julius the Baby of the World by Kevin Henkes

Chapter Books:

The Pain and the Great One by Judy Blume
Jacob Have I Loved by Katherine Paterson
The Penderwicks by Jeanne Birdsall

Overcoming Disability

Picture Books:

Zoom by Robert Munsch
Stand Straight, Ella Kate, by Kate Klise

Chapter Books:

One-Handed Catch by Mary Jane Auch
Warrior Scarlet by Rosemary Sutcliff
The Running Dream by Wendelin Van Draanen
Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper
Wonderstruck by Brian Selznick

Peer Pressure

Picture Books:

Mrs. Hunnicut's Hat by Jeff Brumbeau
Garmann's Street by Stian Hole
Stephanie's Ponytail by Robert Munsch
Those Shoes by Maribeth Boelts

Chapter Books:

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli
The Battle of Jericho by Sharon Draper

Interesting Internet Links:

www.fi.edu/flights/own2/forces.html

-a place to learn about forces of flight

www.learner.org/jnorth/tm/FlightLesson.html

-lessons on how birds fly

www.stopbullying.gov/kids/index.html

-anti-bullying site with webisodes

www.pacerkidsagainstbullying.org

-another great anti-bullying site for kids

www.morning-earth.org/artisnaturalists/an_goldsworthy.html

-info on Andy Goldsworthy, the artist who inspired the designs for this production

www.ucblueash.edu/artcomm/web/w2005_2006/maria_Goldsworthy/TEST/index.html

- more on Andy Goldsworthy

<http://charactercounts.org/sixpillars.html>

-Six Pillars of Character

<http://charactercounts.org/lesson-plans/index.html>

-free lesson plans connected to Six Pillars

<http://rakstagemom.wordpress.com/2012/01/06/a-homecoming-tale>

-a wonderful interview with the playwright





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Student Pages for:

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Today you saw a production of *With Two Wings*, performed by Childsplay. Here are some things to think about and some activities to do now that you've seen the show:

Tell your family and/or friends about the play:

- What was the play about? Who were the characters? Which character was your favorite and why? What did the characters do? Was there a character that you disliked? Why? What was your favorite part of the play?
- Talk about the music and sound effects that were used in the production. How did the music and sound effects enhance the performance?
- Draw pictures to help describe the different costumes and scenery. What was your favorite costume? What was something about the scenery that you liked? If you were a scenic or costume designer, what would you have done differently?

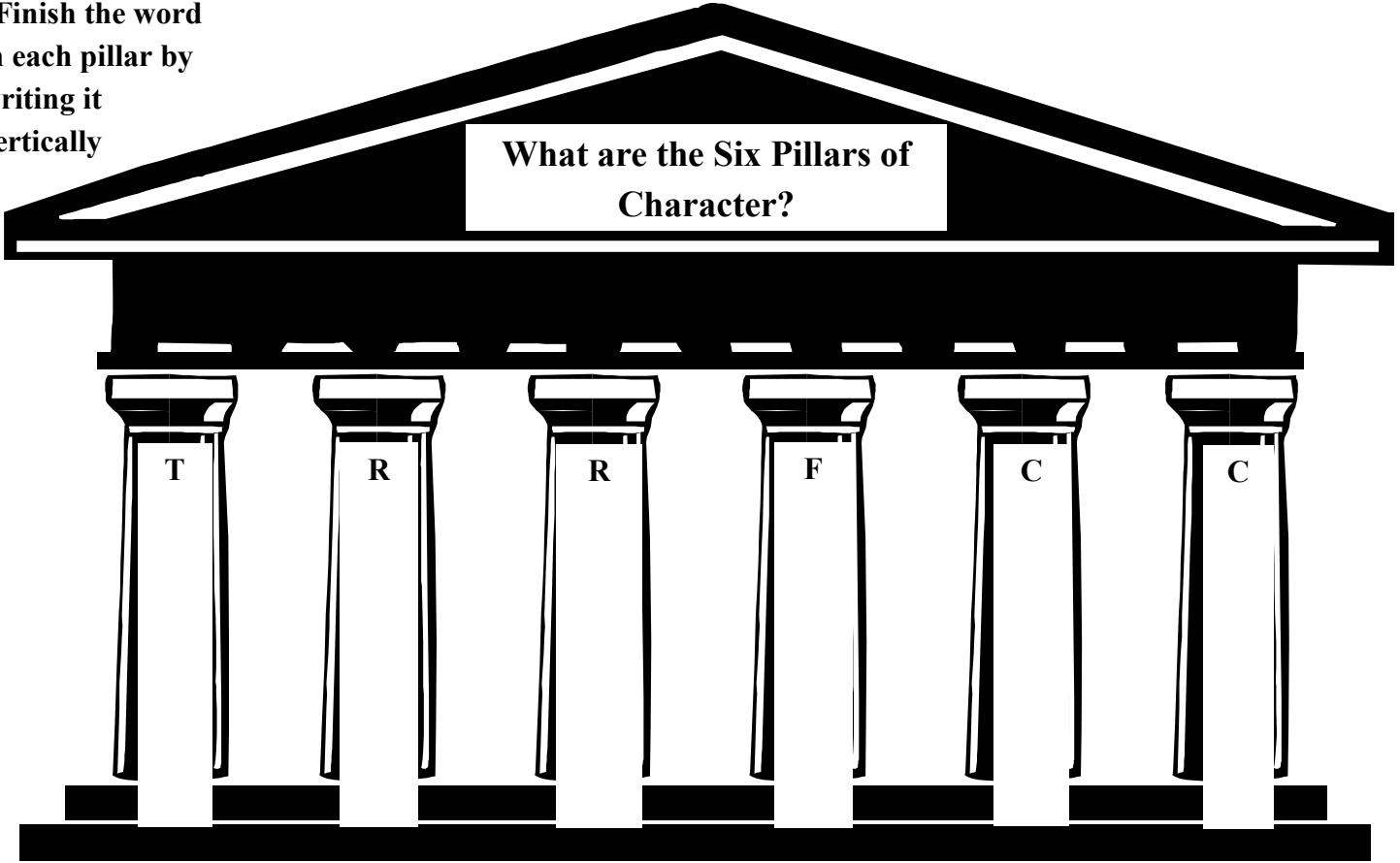
Interview:

In the play, Taur tries to interview Lyf for a newspaper article. Choose someone to interview. Make a list of questions to ask them. Taur wasn't very respectful in his questioning. How can you be respectful of the person you are interviewing and still get the information you want? Record your interview.

Worry Stone:

In the play, Lyf's mom uses a special stone to review the family rules and as a source for stress relief. Worry Stones have been used in various cultures for hundreds of years as a source for stress relief and in some cultures good luck. Find or create your own Worry Stone. You can use craft clay to make one or find one in nature. Carry it with you and rub it when you are feeling worried or nervous.

***Finish the word
in each pillar by
writing it
vertically**



**Think
about the
meaning
of each
pillar of
character.
Write
down one
example
of each
pillar in
the
boxes to
the right.
You can
use
examples
from the
play or
from your
life.**
