

## ABOUT THE SHOW

When we started looking for a story to adapt into a one-person play, we knew we wanted a story that would resonate with young people today facing these challenging times. We had no idea our search would take us back 3,000 years to Ancient Greece to a myth that explains how adversity first came to humans in the first place. Perfect!

The story of Pandora's Box, as with all Greek and Roman myths, is a lesson in the consequences of human weakness. Pandora cannot control her curiosity. She must know what is in that mysterious box! But in opening the box, she releases all the earthly "Troubles" into the world. More importantly, she releases the figure of "Hope." For it is only with "Hope" that we can face these uncertain times. With "Hope" for something better, we are able to keep moving forward.

.There are many different versions of the Pandora myth. We were immediately drawn to Nathaniel Hawthorne's more progressive adaptation for a number of reasons. First, he made the main characters of Epimetheus and Pandora children instead of married adults. Second, Hawthorne, the author of *The Scarlet Letter*, is an important American writer who is empathetic to the feminine experience. Third, in most versions of this myth Pandora is solely to blame for releasing the "Troubles" into the world. However, in Hawthorne's retelling Epimetheus is just as curious as she, and shares in the responsibility for what happens.

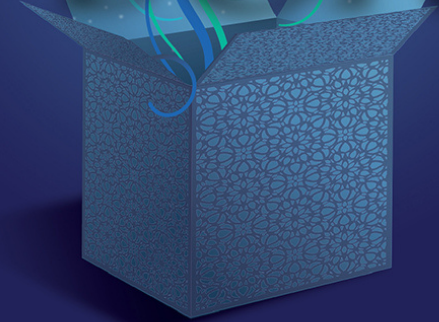
.We are all theatre artists at Childsplay and are accustomed to sharing stories with live audiences. Discovering the best way to tell this story through video was a fun and interesting challenge for us. We had a great time creating the virtual field trip performance and "Hope" you all enjoy it!

-Debra, Dwayne, Mara, Daniel, Anthony, and Jordan



## THE GUIDE!

# PANDORA'S BOX



## THE TEAM

Pandora's Box

From the short story, "A Paradise for Children" by Nathaniel Hawthorne.

Edited by Debra K. Stevens

Performed by Debra K. Stevens

Directed by Dwayne Hartford

Production design by D. Daniel Hollingshead

Stage Manager and Sound: Mara Nadolski

Technical Director: Anthony Lee

Production Manager: Rachel Solis

Videography and Editing by Jordan Gilliam

## DISCUSS

- ★ Is there such a thing as being too curious? Would you be less curious than Pandora?
- ★ Are we responsible for the actions of our friends? In what ways did Epimetheus contribute to Pandora opening the box?
- ★ What would a world without troubles look like?
- ★ What is the meaning of Pandora's Box for us today? What is your hope for the world at this moment?
- ★ How did the one actor in Pandora's Box bring the all characters to life? How did she use her voice and body to tell the story?

**Discover  
More  
Pandora!**

**Deepen your play experience with  
a virtual workshop led by the actor  
from the show! Email:  
[SDolensMoon@childsplayaz.org](mailto:SDolensMoon@childsplayaz.org)  
for more details.**

## EXPLORE

### Write Your Own Myth!

Pandora's Box is an ancient Greek Myth dating back to 7th century BCE. A myth is a traditional tale used to explain how something came to be or why certain things happen. Myths are not entirely factual, but are meant to help people better understand the experiences they have. Pandora's Box is a story to explain how trouble entered the world. Use the ideas and tips below as inspiration for writing your very own myth.

#### Myth Ideas

- Why the sun rises and sets
- How the internet came to be
- Why people dream at night
- Where water comes from

#### Myth Writing Tips

- Myth blend fact and fiction.
- Myths should teach a lesson or explain a complicated concept.
- Myths often contain magic.
- When using the gods and goddesses of Greek Mythology in your story consider giving them human traits such as curiosity, strength and bravery to make them more relatable.
- Consider character disguises. Often myth characters are disguised until their true nature is revealed at the end of the story.

## CHECK OUT THESE BOOKS!

Our fabulous volunteer librarian Sharon put together a great list of books connected to themes in Pandora's Box!

## CREATE

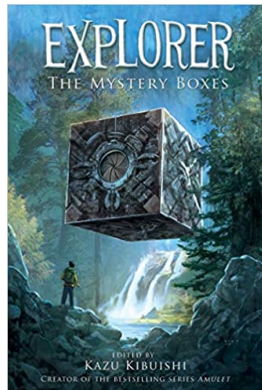
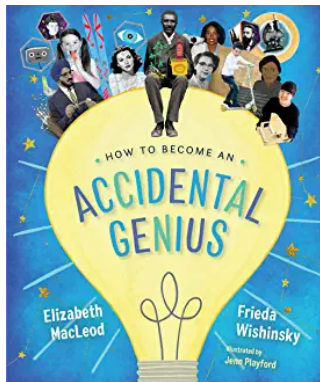
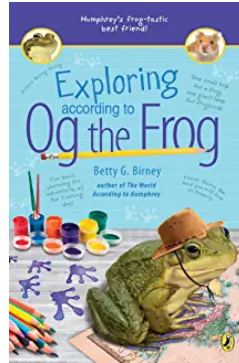
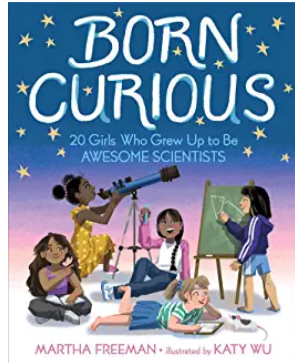
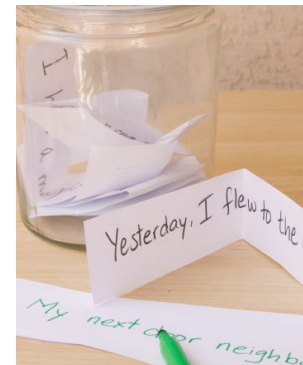
### Design Pandora's Box

Make a Pandora's Box using a shoe box or any box with a lid. Think about what shapes, colors and designs would tempt someone into opening the box. Use a variety of materials such as paint, stickers, feathers, paper, etc. to decorate the outside of your box. Inside the box create a space representing the world's troubles for the opener of your box to find. Consider adding elements to signify hope as well. Try to get someone to open the box!

### Story Jars

A group storytelling experience for the whole class! Ask each student to write a story starter or intriguing first line of a book on a piece of paper. Students fold their papers up and place them in the designated jar. Pull a paper out of the jar and build a class story off the story starter with each student contributing an idea as to what comes next.

Continue until the story has a natural ending. Story jars serve as a great transitional activity or as a way to activate a particular writing unit.



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more?**

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