

BY DWAYNE HARTFORD

ADAPTED FROM THE BOOK BY **KATE DICAMILLO**

DIRECTED BY **DWAYNE HARTFORD**

WHAT THE PLAY IS ABOUT

With his handmade silk suits, wide array of hats and tiny gold pocket watch, Edward Tulane was the most exceptional toy in Abilene's room. He was adored and he was happy. But then, one day, he was lost. Based on Newbery-winner Kate DiCamillo's beloved book, Childsplay presents this breathtaking story of finding friendship, finding yourself, and eventually finding your way home.

CONNECTION TO STANDARDS

- **5.RL.3** Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text.
- **2.G3.1** Explain why and how people, goods, and ideas move from place to place.
- **3-5.H1.2** Identify examples of emotional, intellectual, physical, and social health.
- 21st Century Skills: Communication and Social Skills

TALK ABOUT IT

Start a conversation before the show:

- ★ What do you know about the story of Edward Tulane? How do you think the play that you are going to see will be different than the book version? How might it be the same?
- Have you ever lost something you loved? How did it make you feel and what did you do to cope with the loss?

Start a conversation after the show:

- what similarities and differences did you notice between the book and the play?
- ★ Edward can't do anything on his own and gets frustrated when people don't understand what he wants or needs. Have you ever felt that way? What can you do to change that?
- ★ What are some of the lessons Edward learns on his journey? What does he learn about himself? How do Edward's emotions change during the play?
- ★ Edward found comfort in looking at the stars and constellations. What brings you comfort?
- ★ Who did Edward meet that had the biggest effect on him? Why? Who has had a big effect on your life? How do the people around you help you on your journey?

WRITE ABOUT IT

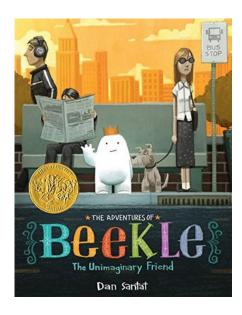
Journal entry or free-writing prompts for before or after the show:

- ★ Edward is an inanimate object but he has thoughts and feelings. What if you couldn't move or speak but your brain and heart worked? How would you feel? What would your thoughts be? What might you hope for?
- ★ If you could take a journey anywhere, where would you go and why? What would you do? Who would you meet? What would you learn? Map out your journey if you would like.

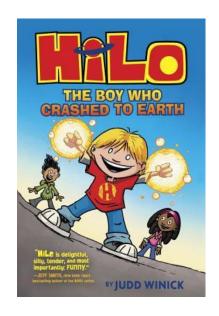
Our amazing volunteer librarian Sharon Ewers has put together a great list of books connected to ideas and themes in *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*.

READ ABOUT IT

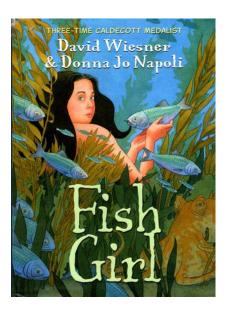
Find the full list by going to https://bit.ly/2YM1AMx and clicking Book List



The Adventures of Beekle: the Unimaginary Friend By Dan Santat Grades K-2



Hilo: The Boy Who Crashed to Earth By Judd Winick Grades 2-5



Fish Girl
By Donna Jo Napoli
Grades 4-8

EXPLORE IT



Theatre is a collection of choices. A choice is an artistic decision that is made to highlight a component of the character's personality, the story, or the theme. An actor's job is to draw evidence from the text to make choices that bring characters to life on stage.

Activity: Reading for Emotional Context

The next page of this document contains scenes from *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*. Have the students read the scenes. Work together to decide on vocal choices for the characters based on the text. Play around with different choices to to see how the meaning of the scenes change. Pay close attention to the text to find information about what the characters are feeling and doing. When making choices, think about pacing (fast or slow), pitch (high or low), emotion (what the character is feeling), and subtext (underlying meaning). Share the scenes with others!

The following are scenes from *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by Dwayne Hartford to be used for educational purposes only.

ABILENE: Why won't you sail to London with us tomorrow?

PELLEGRINA: Because I will not. That's why.

ABILENE: But I'll miss you.

PELLEGRINA: I'm glad.

ABILENE: You're glad?

PELLEGRINA: Yes. When those we love are not with us, we miss them. I will miss you. But instead of feeling sad, I will look forward to the wonderful moment we see each other again.

ABILENE: It seems to me that it would be better to stay together in the first place.

PELLEGRINA: We are all on our own journeys. We can't always be with those we love.

ABILENE: Well, we can try!

OLD DOLL: Every time a new person comes into our lives, we start off on a new adventure. I wonder who will come for me this time. Someone will come. They always do.

EDWARD: I don't care if anyone comes for me.

OLD DOLL: Don't say that! You must keep your heart open, ready to love and be loved.

EDWARD: I'm done with being loved. I'm done with loving. It's too painful.

OLD DOLL: Pish! Where is your courage? You disappoint me.

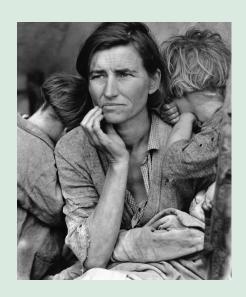
EDWARD: What did you say?

OLD DOLL: You heard me. You disappoint me. Open your heart. Someone will come for you. But first, you must open your heart.

EDWARD: Someone will come. Someone will come.

LEARN ABOUT IT

The Great Depression & The Dust Bowl



The **Great Depression** was a time of huge **economic crisis** in the 1930s. Many people were out of work, hungry, and homeless: ¹

- Herbert Hoover was President of the United States when the Great Depression began. Many people blamed him for it.
- In 1933, Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected president.
 - He put in place a set of laws and programs called the
 "New Deal" to help fix the economy.
- It ended with the start of **World War II**. The wartime economy put many people back to work and filled factories.

Farmers also struggled with the **Dust Bowl**:

- A large **drought** in the Midwest turned the soil into dust so crops could not grow.
- Millions of people migrated away. Around 200,000 migrants moved to California.
- With so much dust, there were huge **dust storms** called "black blizzards".
- The Dust Bowl ended when rain arrived in 1939.



Recognizing and Expressing Love

Love is the word we use to describe the strong positive emotion we feel about people and other things in our lives. **Different kinds of love** can be:

- The love family feels for each other.
- The love friends have for each other.
- The love people have for pets or other animals.
- The love for a place, activity, job, or belief.

"So many have lost. And yet, they still hold on. This is love. This must be love."

You can express love in many ways:

- Helping someone and treating them with respect. Accepting someone's differences.
- Talking to someone even when they are far away.
- Celebrating success and special times together.
- Encouraging and supporting someone.

1. Find more information about this history for young people on ducksters.com/history

ENGAGE WITH IT

Different things engage different people. Explore what is exciting to you!

- ★ What Love Means To You: Think about what you saw in the play and what you know from your own life. Write a poem, draw a picture, or tell a story about what love means to you.
- Family Fun: Learn about the community around you and go on a journey like Edward. Explore these FREE events around Arizona, such as museums, story times, and more! https://www.raisingarizonakids.com/free-family-fun/
- ★ Friendship Activities: https://www.healthline.com/health/parenting/friendship-activities#1
- ★ Icebreaker Activities: Edward meets many new people and takes on different identities. Play these games to help understand yourself and others.
 https://www.icebreakers.ws/classroom-icebreakers

EXTEND THE EXPERIENCE!

Bring a professional Teaching Artist to your classroom to lead an arts-based, standards-driven lesson connected to the play:

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#SHAREWITHUS

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#ChildsplayAZ

#EdwardTulane











ABOUT CHILDSPLAY

Childsplay is a nonprofit professional theatre company of adult actors who perform 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.

For more information: www.childsplayaz.org