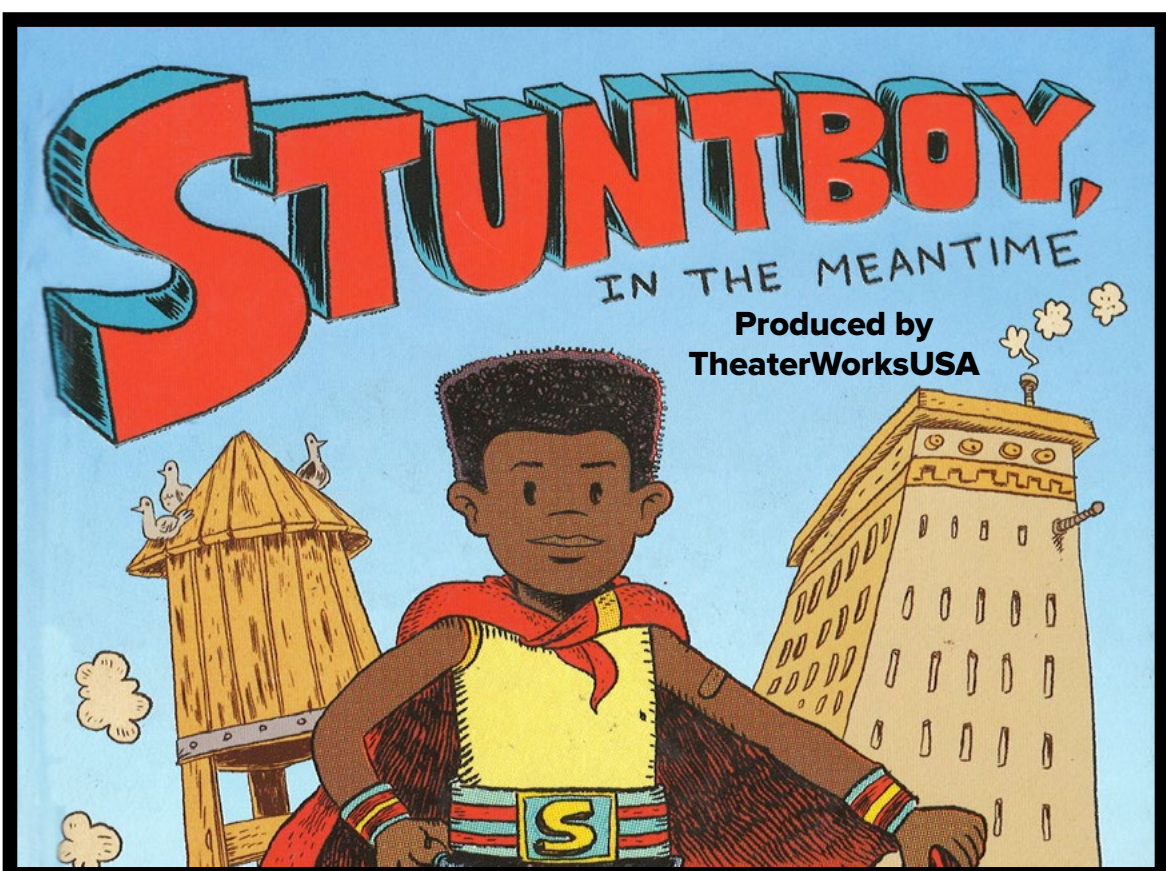


2025-2026

Discovery

Series RESOURCE GUIDE



DAYTON LIVE

Your Home for Arts,
Culture & Entertainment

Friday, Nov. 21, 2025
9:30 & 11:30 a.m.
Victoria Theatre

Welcome to the 2025 - 2026 Discovery Series at Dayton Live. We are very excited to be your education partner in providing professional arts experiences to you and your students!

STUNTBOY, IN THE MEANTIME follows middle-schooler Portico Reeves, whose superpower is making sure his parents and best friend, Zola, stay safe. He lives in the biggest apartment building on the block, a building with 50 doors, all of which would be swell except for the secret that Portico's parents are about to divorce. All this stress gives Portico "the frets," which his mom calls anxiety. Plus, like all superheroes, Portico has an arch-nemesis, Herbert, determined to prove that there is nothing super about Portico at all. Connecting themes such as compassion, community, transformation, and family, **STUNTBOY, IN THE MEANTIME** is sure to educate and entertain.

The information and activities in this guide have been carefully crafted to help you and your students explore the many ways a live theatre experience can create endless learning opportunities. Grade level icons will help you determine which activities are good for your students, too. Don't forget to take advantage of the local resources listed to extend the play-going experience and make even more curricular connections for you and your students. Thank you again, and welcome!

This show will share following themes: *friendship, anxiety, divorce, family/community, and processing emotions. Please be proactive of any students that might be sensitive to these topics and prepare any support tools they may need before seeing the performance.*



The Education & Engagement Team

Curriculum Connection

Grades
2-8

You will find these icons listed in the resource guide next to the activities that indicate curricular connections. Teachers and parents are encouraged to adapt all of the activities included in an appropriate way for your students' age and abilities. **STUNTBOY, IN THE MEANTIME** fulfills the following Ohio State Standards and Benchmarks for 2nd through 8th grades:



Learning Standards Related to **STUNTBOY, IN THE MEANTIME**

ELA: RL.2.3, RL.3.2, RL.3.3, RL.4.2, RL.4.4, RL.4.7, RL.5.2, RL.5.3, RL.5.4; RL.6.3, RL.6.6, RL.7.7, RL.8.7

FINE ARTS: Drama – 2.1RE (script terms), 2.2RE, 2.5RE; 2.1CO

HEALTH: 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.5.1, 1.8.1; 2.2.1, 2.5.1, 2.8.1; 3.2.1, 3.5.1; 8.5.1

SEL: A1.1.a, A1.2.1, A1.1.b, A1.2.b, A1.1.c; A2.1.a, A2.1.b; B1.1.a, B1.2.a, B1.3.1, B1.3.b; C1.1.a, C1.1.b; C4.2.a, C4.2.b, C4.3.b; D2.1.b

SOCIAL STUDIES: 2.GS.8, 2.GS.9, 3.GS.8 (community), 3.GS.9, 3.GS.10

Table of Contents

Pre-Show Conversation Starters

About the Show, About the Author	Page 2
Your Trip to the Theatre!.....	Page 2

Comprehension

Vocabulary to Know, Pre-Show Discussion Prompts.....	Page 3
Wanted: A Good Friend, We Could be Heroes.....	Page 4
My Superhero	Page 5
My Comic Strip.....	Page 6
Superhero Character Map.....	Page 7

Connection

Story Elements...Assemble!.....	Page 8
The Frets and Mindfulness, Emotions Unlocked	Page 9
Feelings Forecast.....	Page 10
Mindfulness Matters, Mindful Moments	Page 11
Yoga Flow – Sun Slutation.....	Page 12
More Than Just an Object.....	Page 13
Post-Show Discussion Prompts.....	Page 14
Resources for Students and Teachers	Page 15

Pre-Show Conversation Starters

ABOUT THE SHOW

Portico Reeves has a secret identity that only his best friend Zola knows about. As Stuntboy, he is the superhero who keeps all the other superheroes, and his fellow residents of Skylight Gardens (aka the Castle), safe. Lately, that means protecting Zola from their archnemesis, Herbert Singletary the Worst, learning to tame his own anxiety attacks (the Frets), and trying to keep his mother and father's fighting (*which always reminds him of an episode of Super Space Warriors*) from turning into an Explosion of Great Magnitude.



This show will share a story of divorce, moments of anxiety, and the following themes: compassion, community, friendship, transformation, family/family dynamics, imagination, and mindfulness. Please be proactive of any students that might be sensitive to these topics and prepare any support tools they may need before seeing the performance.



Photo – Adedayo Kosoko

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

New York Times bestselling author **Jason Reynolds** has written many award winning books. The recipient of a Newbery Honor, a Printz Honor, an NAACP Image Award, and multiple Coretta Scott King honors, Reynolds is also the 2020-2022 National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. He has appeared on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, *The Daily Show with Trevor Noah*, *Late Night with Seth Meyers*, *CBS Sunday Morning*, *Good Morning America*, and various media outlets. He is on faculty at Lesley University, for the Writing for Young People MFA Program and lives in Washington, DC.

<https://www.jasonwritesbooks.com/books>

Get excited for your trip to the Victoria Theatre by checking out this video!

- 1 Pickle Jean, our Audience Etiquette Monitor, helped us learn about BRAVO. Do you remember what each letter stands for?
- 2 Based on this video, what are some ways you can be the best audience member you can be?
- 3 How can you as an audience member help the performers onstage do the best job they can for you?
- 4 Is this your first visit to a theatre? If so, what are you most looking forward to?



Vocabulary to Know



COMMUNITY –

is a group of people living in a particular area. They can be made up of a large or small group of people. Another way to think of community is a group of people with shared interests that may or may not live together.

PUN –

a figure of speech; a silly use of a word where it can suggest two or more meanings, or the meaning of another word that sounds the same.

Ex. I'd tell you a pun about a broken pencil, but it's pointless.



MEDITATION –

a practice that can focus or clear your mind using both physical and mental techniques.



ALLEGORY –

a story with more than one meaning. You may know some famous allegories like **The Tortoise and the Hare**, or the film **Zootopia**.



ANXIETY –

a feeling of fear, dread, and uneasiness

SUPERINTENDENT –

a manager responsible for repair and maintenance in a residential building. Your school also has a superintendent, which is a person who oversees your school district.

IRATE –

angry or enraged. A source for the “Iratators,” the enemy of the Super Space warriors.



Pre-Show Discussion Prompts

NOTE: This show will share a story of divorce and moments of anxiety. Please be mindful of any students that might be sensitive to this topic and adjust the following prompts as needed.

- 1 In this play, there are fewer actors than characters. Ask your students to observe the performance closely to see if they can tell which actors may play more than one part.
- 2 What does family mean to you? Friendship? Community? What are some examples of how people can show others that they care?
- 3 The show will talk about parents getting a divorce. Have you had an experience with a divorce or know a friend who has? Share some ways that families can maintain a loving family and relationship even though they no longer live together. What do you think might comfort a friend who has parents going through a divorce?

Wanted: A Good Friend!

Before the activity, discuss:

Describe Zola and Portico's friendship. In your opinion, what makes them such good friends? How do they demonstrate that they care about each other?

Choose a moment in the story when you think their friendship is particularly strong, and explain why you chose it. What do you think is the most important characteristic to look for in a friend? Are there times that Zola showed friendship to Portico? What did she do?



Activity:

Create an advertisement for a new friend! Grab a blank piece of paper and be as creative as you'd like. List or draw the qualities and characteristics you look for in a good friend, and what **YOU** could offer them in return.



We Could Be Heroes

Before the activity, discuss:

Explain the difference between a hero and a superhero. Who are some of Portico's heroes? Who do you know that you consider a hero? Explain why you think they are heroic. If you could choose, would you rather be a superhero or a regular hero?

Portico and his best friend, Zola, imagine themselves and the other people who live in Skylight Gardens as superheroes, complete with special powers. If you could choose a secret superhero identity for yourself, who would you be? What would be your secret power? What would be your mission? Would you work alone (like Wonder Woman), with a partner (like Batman and Robin), or with a team (like the Avengers)?

Then...

Now that you have your idea of your superhero, make them come to life! You can: draw them in costume, create a comic strip about one of your superhero's adventures, or make a character trait map. Use the next few pages, and complete as many as you would like.



My Superhero!



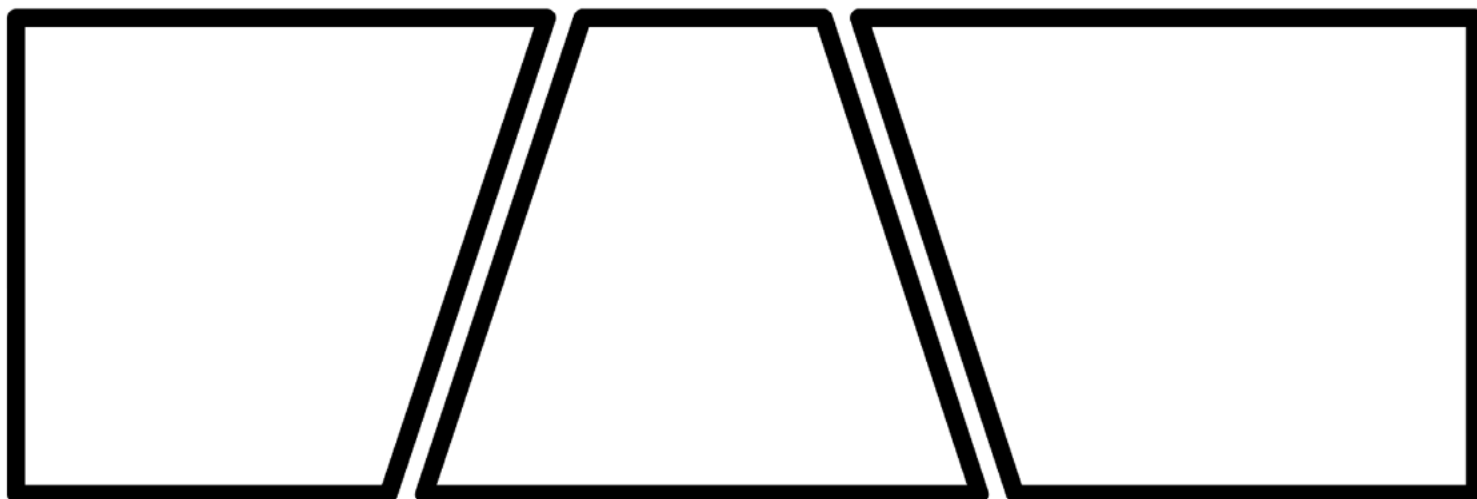
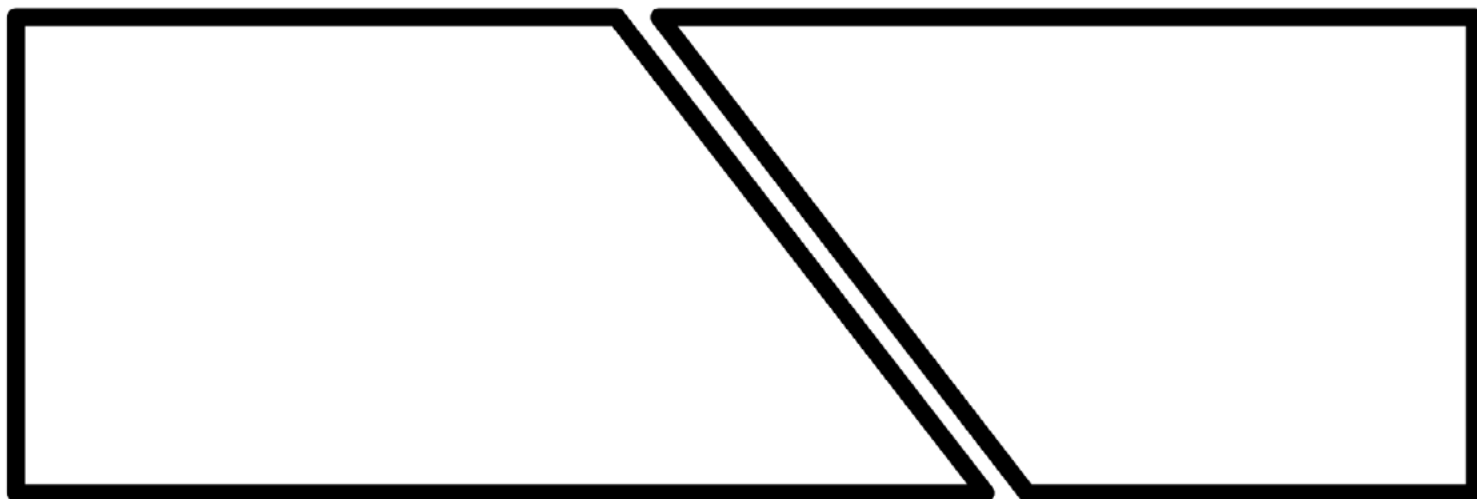
NAME: _____

POWERS: _____

TRAITS/CHARACTERISTICS: _____

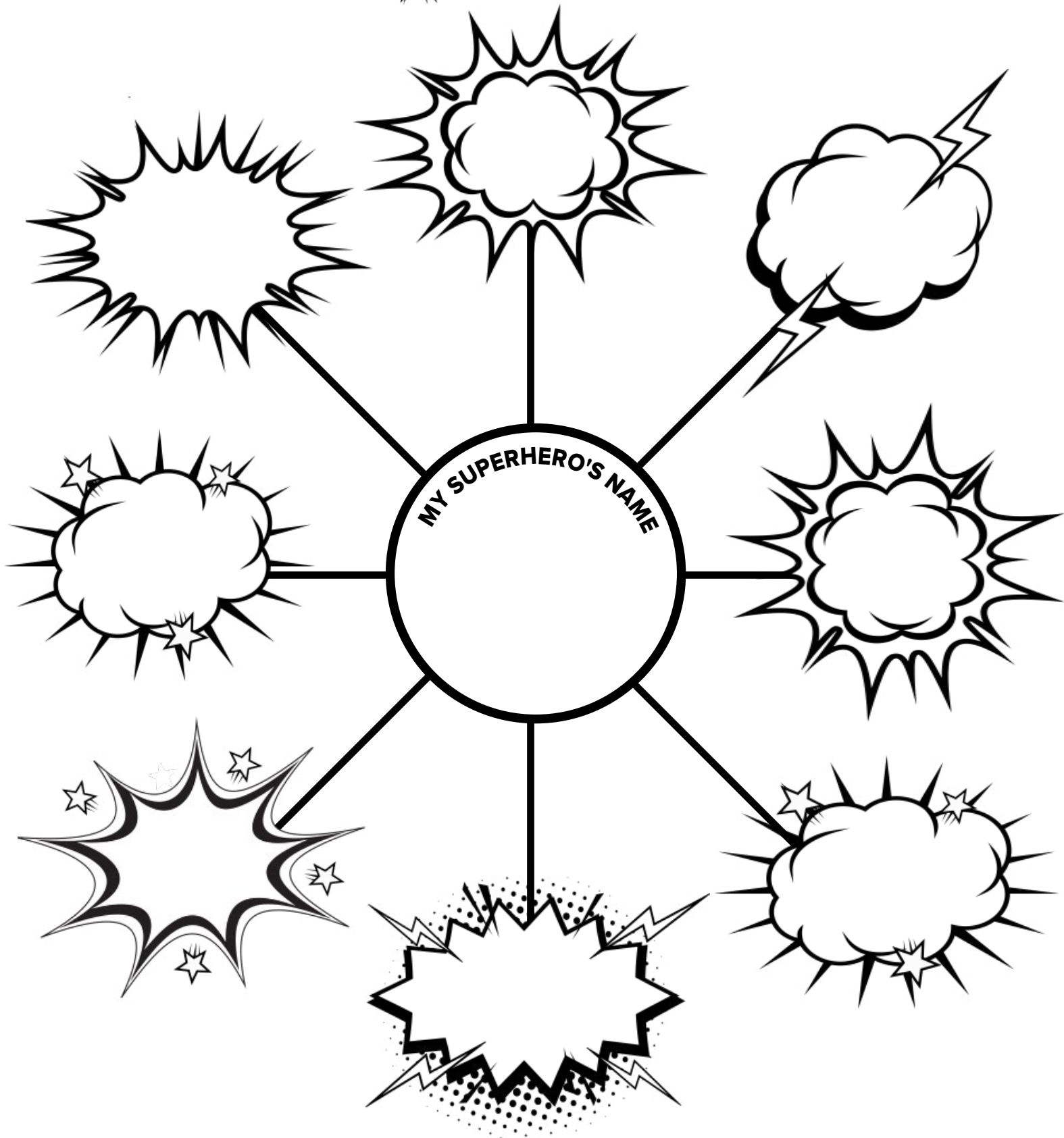
My Comic Strip

TITLE _____



Superhero Character Map

Write your superhero's name in the center circle. Then, add your superhero's traits and abilities in each burst provided.



Story Elements...Assemble!

Use your story powers to uncover key story elements! Be sure to use examples from the show or the book if you have read it.



TITLE

SETTING

SOLUTION

PROBLEMS & CHALLENGES

CHARACTERS

THEMES

The Frets and Mindfulness

Explain the types of situations that cause Portico to get a **case of the Frets**. Which parts of his body are affected when he has the Frets? How does your body feel when you are anxious, worried, or afraid? What helps Portico feel better when he gets the Frets? What helps you when you are anxious?

Have a discussion about how our emotions impact how our body feels physically. Where do we feel sadness in our body, or anger, or happiness? How does this actually feel? Does our heart pound, do we get a headache, do we feel sweaty or have shaky hands? Do we think this is the same for everyone?



Emotions Unlocked

Teachers: Ask your students what it looks like, silently, when they are – happy, sad, scared, confused, angry, (etc). As they show the emotion using their face and body language, and have them look around the room to see what peers might have similar responses. Share the chart below by projecting or make a list on a board or classroom chart and fill in responses as a group.

Discussion/Active prompts to get started:



- ▶ How might feeling happy look when you are taking a walk outside, or visiting an amazing location for the first time? Walk around the room and try to feel that emotion.
- ▶ How might feeling scared look when you are on a roller coaster? In a new place? Trying something new?
- ▶ Can you feel two emotions at the same time? What might that look or feel like to you?
- ▶ **When identifying similarities amongst one another** – is it okay to not (*insert body language, ex. raised eyebrows*) when you're feeling (*insert emotion, ex, confused*)? Sometimes our faces and bodies do different things to express the same emotion, **and that's okay!**

Feelings Forecast

Special thank you to Artservatorey for inspiring this resource.

How are **YOU** feeling right now? Happy, excited, nervous? More than one emotion? That's okay too! Use the next page to draw a weather forecast of your feelings. How might the weather look if you are full of excitement? How might the weather look if you are very nervous? How would you walk through the elements? How might the weather feel on your skin? There is no right or wrong way to express or draw these feelings, **do your best!**



Feelings Forecast



I am feeling _____

I am feeling _____

I am feeling _____

I am feeling _____

Mindfulness Matters

Zola teaches Portico about meditation and yoga, two practices that help people encourage mindfulness and reduce anxiety. Individually or with a partner or group, try out a few of the below mindfulness and yoga exercises.

Once you've tried some out:



- 1 Talk about how your body feels after you complete each exercise or pose. Are your muscles feeling tense or more relaxed? Does your brain feel more focused?
- 2 What emotion(s) are you feeling? Do you feel happy or calm? Do you feel differently or the same as you did before you tried the exercises?
- 3 How do you think you would feel if you practiced a mindfulness moment before you took a test or participated in a competition?
- 4 How would you feel if you started and/or ended the day with a breathing exercise?



MINDFUL MOMENTS

Take 5/Mountain Breathing: Raise your non-dominant hand, and slowly trace it with a finger from the other hand. Start with your thumb. Move the tracing finger up your thumb as you breathe in, then move the tracing finger down the other side as you breathe out. Go slowly, giving each finger the same amount of time. Do the same for all five fingers, moving at an even pace. When you're done, you will have taken five slow, evenly paced breaths.



Calming Countdown: You'll use each of your 5 senses to make yourself more mindful. Start wherever you are. First, notice 5 things that you can see in that space. Then find 4 things you can feel. Next, listen for 3 things you can hear and notice 2 things you can smell. Last, focus on 1 thing you can taste. 5, 4, 3, 2, 1...



Rainbow Grounding: Enjoy this visual-and colorful-way to practice mindfulness. Start by taking a deep breath and looking around for an item around you that is red. Think about what the item is, what it does, how it may feel if you touch it or where it came from. Then take another breath and move on to the next color in the rainbow and repeat. If you can't find an object of one of the colors, move on to the next color. The colors of the rainbow are red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet.

Progressive Muscle Relaxation: This mindfulness technique can relieve stress and boost body awareness. Breathe in and tighten a group of muscles in one area of your body (like your hands) and hold it for at least 3 to 5 seconds, then relax the muscles as you breathe out. Do the same for your arms, legs, shoulders, eyes, mouth, stomach and feet giving each body part the same amount of time to tighten and release. Notice how you feel every time you release the tension in a specific muscle group. For some kids it might be helpful to pretend to help them tense their muscles; for example, pretending they are squeezing a stress ball with their hands or pressing their foot in sand.

Yoga Flow – Sun Salutation

Make sure you are breathing in through your nose and out through your mouth while moving through the flow.

1 Mountain –
stand nice and tall with your shoulders back and hands resting on your heart or at your sides.



2 Upward Salute –
slowly raise your arms above your head and stretch high with your feet planted on the floor. Lean back slightly for an extra stretch!



3 Forward fold (forward bend) –
gently bend down with your arms hanging down and head down and relaxed. Try to touch your toes!



11 Forward fold (forward bend) –
slowly bring your left foot forward to meet your right, straighten to a standing position. Gently raise your arms above your head and stretch high with your feet planted on the floor. Lean back slightly for an extra stretch!



10 Lunge –
slowly bring your right leg forward, and lunge with your left foot back. Place your hands on your knee or the floor.



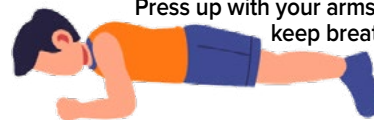
4 Lunge –
bring your left leg forward, and lunge with your right foot back. Place your hands on your knee or the floor lined up with your shoulders.



9 Downward dog –
using your arms, press up into a triangle shape keeping your head aligned with your shoulders and back flat.



5 Plank –
bring your left foot back to your right, stretch out with your back straight and forearms and elbows on the ground parallel to your shoulders. Press up with your arms and keep breathing!



8 Cobra –
gently stretch out and press your body to the floor. Push up with your hands and arms, and your back should curve to a snake-like position.



6 Table top –
bring your knees to the floor and keep them spread apart, hands on the floor and parallel to your shoulders.



7 Child's Pose –
fold down and rest your belly on the floor between your knees and thighs, and rest your forehead on the floor. Reach your arms straight in front of you, and relax your muscles.



More Than Just an Object

Many of the items that Portico’s parents quarrel over have a symbolic value; they are connected to a memory or idea that makes them important to the owner. Talk about why you think each item they are connected to is important to both of them. Think about an object you own that is important and valuable to you and share a bit about it on the lines below. You may also draw a picture of the item in the space provided. Use sensory details that help explain why this item holds special value to you.



Optional for classes: Have students bring in their item so that they may share it with the class, and read and/or elaborate on what they wrote.

Post-Show Discussion Prompts

Questions courtesy of: TheatreWorks USA, Simon & Schuster and the Scottish Book Trust

NOTE: Please be mindful of any students that might be sensitive to the themes of the show and adjust the following prompts as needed.

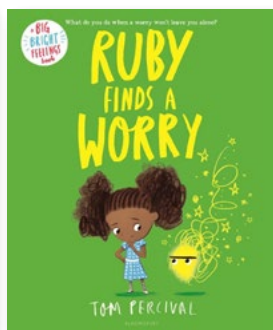
- ▶ What does Portico love about living in Skylight Gardens? What does the fact that he calls it “The Castle” suggest about how he feels about his home? What do you love most about the place where you live?
- ▶ Look up the definition of **community**. Which part of the definition do you think describes the community that is created by the residents of Skylight Gardens? Give examples of specific ways that they demonstrate that they care and look out for each other.
- ▶ When Portico’s mother says “in the meantime,” he thinks she says, “the mean time.” Why is “the mean time” a good name for what is happening in Portico’s apartment?
- ▶ An allegory is a story that has more than one meaning, and in this story, the Super Space Warrior episodes can be seen as an allegory for the conflict between Portico’s parents. Look up the meaning of the names “Mater” and “Pater.” How is this a clue to the allegorical meaning of Super Space Warriors? What words do the name of the show’s villains, the Irators, sound like when you say it out loud? How might Mater and Pater’s duty to protect the sun relate to Portico and his parents?
- ▶ In the final scene, Portico speaks with his parents about their divorce, and his parents are able to emphasize how important their family is, even though they won’t all live together. What does this family value? How do they show each other their values?
- ▶ What does a building superintendent do? Why do Zola and Portico conclude that the superintendent of Skylight Gardens is a superhero?
- ▶ What event leads to Herbert becoming friends with Zola and Portico? Why do you think Portico is finally able to feel sad about his parents’ separation? How do his friends let him know that they will be there for him? Why do you think he decides not to run in and stop his parents from fighting this time?
- ▶ Superheroes often live in two worlds- their ‘regular’ life and their life as a superhero. Portico can sometimes struggle in between multiple worlds- between his identities as Portico and Stuntboy, between his two parents, between his desire to protect others and his struggle to manage his own fears and anxieties. Are there any instances in your life where you have to change a lot about how you behave to match two different worlds or different expectations? Discuss as a group why this might be, and what the hardships or benefits are of having multiple versions of yourself.



Resources for Students and Teachers

Books for Students

- ***There Was a Party for Langston*** – written by Jason Reynolds, illustrations by Raúl the Third. Simon & Schuster, 2023.
- ***The Cool Bean*** – written by Jory John, illustrated by Pete Oswald. Harper Collins, 2019.
- ***Ruby Finds a Worry*** – written and illustrated by Tom Percival. Bloomsbury, 2018.

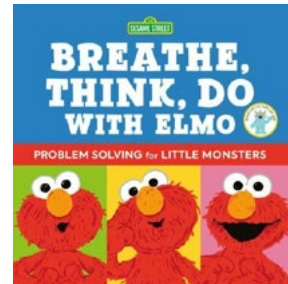


Publications for Educators & Parents

- ***The Core Components of Evidence-Based Social Emotional Learning Programs:***
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/search/all/?term=The+Core+Components+of+Evidence-Based+Social+Emotional+Learning+Programs>
- ***Research Finds Social and Emotional Learning Produces Significant Benefits for Students:***
<https://medicine.yale.edu/news-article/new-research-published-in-child-development-confirms-social-and-emotional-learning-significantly-improves-student-academic-performance-well-being-and-perceptions-of-school-safety/>

Resources for Educators & Students

- ***Breathe, Think, Do! With Sesame*** – from the Sesame Workshop, this free app provides a tangible way to utilize the “breathe, think, do” strategy when faced with a challenging situation. In the app, you help a monster complete 5 challenges using the strategy.
- ***Go Noodle*** – If you’re already using this in your classroom, definitely check out their Yoga and Stretching videos! <https://www.gonoodle.com/tags/EY9qOY/yoga-and-stretching>



- ***Back to School Yoga with Adriene*** – This playlist offers short and long yoga flows great for folks of all ages!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Td6zFtZPkJ4&list=PLui6Eyny-Uzx96y-T2Ok7l6SGcxSxXigUI>

Local Resources

The Dayton Metro Library is a fantastic resource for everyone. There are many great reading programs and resources for children and adults!



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DAYTON LIVE

138 North Main Street Dayton, OH 45402

**DAYTON LIVE
DISCOVERY**

The Education and Engagement programs of Dayton Live are made possible through the support and commitment of the following sponsors and donors whose generosity have opened the door of live theatre to the students of the Miami Valley:

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DAYTON LIVE CREATIVE ACADEMY

Interested in learning more about theatre?!

The Dayton Live Creative Academy offers a variety of professionally curated performing arts experiences for all ages. From classes for beginners, and summer camps for the adventurous, to Broadway after-school intensives for the curious, there are year-round activities for everyone in the family. Join us for fun, for adventure, and to develop your own creativity. This is performing arts education for **EVERYONE!**

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<https://www.daytonlive.org/education>

Dayton Live is an ACE Qualified Education Service Provider! Find out more about ACE funds: <https://education.ohio.gov/ohioace>



TheaterWorksUSA has been in existence for over 60 years. They were originally called Performing Arts Repertory Theatre founded by Jay Harnick and Charles Hull. Mr. Harnick's brother is Sheldon Harnick, the great lyricist and composer who wrote Fiddler on the Roof and She Loves Me. Mary Rodgers also became a founding member. Ms. Rodgers is a composer, screenwriter and author best known for her novel Freaky Friday.

TheaterWorksUSA's mission is to create exceptional, transformative theatrical experiences that are accessible to young and family audiences in diverse communities throughout New York City and North America. "Our vision is for a world in which theater gives rising generations a reason to look up, both figuratively and literally, from their devices," says Managing Director Michael Harrington. "We want to give them the opportunity to explore themselves and their communities with optimism and excitement." For more information about TheaterWorksUSA, visit <https://twusa.org/>.

