



Second Stage study guide

April-May 2017



By Y York

The Cast

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The Artistic Staff

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Puppet Design	Lynn Jeffries
Sound Design	Paul James Prendergast
Stage Manager	Joseph Governale
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WE WELCOME YOU TO HONOLULU THEATRE FOR YOUTH!

The year-round work of HTY is supported in part by a grant from the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts with funds from the Hawaii State Legislature. This support, with a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and gifts from private foundations, the corporate community and individuals, enables HTY to offer plays to schools at nominal cost.

Introduction

TEACHER PREVIEW

HTY invites you & a guest FREE to *Thumbelina* on Fri., April 7 at 7:00pm or Sat, April 8 at 4:30 pm at Tenney Theatre. Please call ahead for reservations.

USING THIS GUIDE

For a more complete list of Standards Connections, please visit the HTY website:

www.htyweb.org/sites/default/files/Can%20You%20Hear%20My%20Hands%20STANDARDS.pdf

BEFORE THE SHOW Activities	Page	STANDARD CONNECTION
Share information in the <i>Introduction</i>	3	
Try <i>Home: An Opening Activity</i> theme activity	3	Common Core (CC) Reading; CC Writing; HCPS World Languages
<i>Read The Bamboo Princess</i> and engage in a <i>Pre-Show Discussion</i> about the story	4&10	CC Reading
Guide students through <i>Pre-Show Writing: 'One Inch Tall'</i>	4	CC Reading, Writing, Speaking/Listening

---Take your trip to the HTY production of Thumbelina---

AFTER THE SHOW Activities	Page	STANDARD CONNECTION
As a class, create <i>Your Own Fantasy Story</i>	5	CC Writing
<i>Dramatize Your Story</i>	5	CC Speaking/Listening HCPSIII Drama
Draw <i>Your Own Story Board</i> with <i>For Students: Story Board</i>	5&6	CC Writing, HCPSIII Visual Art
Have students make a <i>Letter to the Actors</i>	7	CC Writing, HCPSIII Visual Art

CONTACT US. TELL US WHAT YOU THINK.

Feedback Forms: Please return an evaluation form after seeing the performance. We often contact teachers for further information, so include your name, school address and email address.

HTY Online: Visit our website for last minute changes or special offers, www.htyweb.org.

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For Teachers

INTRODUCTION from Artistic Director, Eric Johnson

Welcome to Honolulu Theatre for Youth's 62nd Season. We are celebrating the concept of "home" this season. We are excited to bring this classic story to the stage in both an entirely original script and with a unique idea for staging the production. At its heart this is a story about a small person exploring a big world and Y York has captured the natural world through a child's imagination in her new script. She also explores the power of stories to understand who we are and what our place in the world will be. We hope that through this guide you are able to explore the script and how stories are told theatrically. It has been an absolute pleasure having you as part of our extended family this year and we look forward to many more adventures in the year to come.

HOME: An Opening Activity

In our 2016-17 season, HTY desires to investigate and celebrate the idea of 'Home.' What is a 'Home?' Where and when do each of us truly feel at 'Home?' What are the stories that define your true 'Home?' Start your HTY journey before traveling to the theatre with the following activity:

I AM FROM poem: a poem that celebrates the uniqueness of a whole class

Materials: A single sheet of paper with the line 'I am from _____' repeated many times.

Procedure: Write topic headings on the board that refer to those aspects that make each of us unique (birth place; ethnicity; favorite foods, games, subjects, nature, etc.; family names; something a parent always says; a family tradition or any related topics). Ask students for ideas to include on the board under each topic. Alternatively, have students write one answer for each on small slips of paper. Read aloud the your blank 'I am from' poem, filling in the blanks with randomly chosen ideas from the board or slips of paper. For a template for this activity, please see:

www2.scholastic.com/content/collateral_resources/pdf/t/Target_I_am_from%20poem.pdf

RESOURCES

BOOKS (local library)

Other Andersen Stories

Eric Carle's treasury of classic stories for children by Aesop, Hans Christian Andersen, and the Brothers Grimm
Princess and The Pea illustrated By Paul Galdone

The Little Mermaid

Stories about Strong Females

A Paper Bag Princess by Robert Munsch
I Like Myself by Karen Beaumont
Stand Tall Molly Lou Mellon by Patty Lovett

Tiny Character Stories

Issun Bôshi: the one-inch boy by Icinori
Momotaro: Peach Boy, illustrated by George Suyeoka; adapted by Ruth Tabrah & Kirsten Whatley
You are (Not) Small by Anna Kang
SkippyJon Jones by Judy Schachner

WEBSITES

Hans Christian Andersen

* museum.odense.dk/en/knowledge/knowledge-hans-christian-andersen
* www.hellokids.com/r_75/reading-learning/tales-for-children/classic-tales/hans-christian-andersen-fairy-tales

For Teachers

Before seeing the Show

READ THE BAMBOO PRINCESS

Before seeing the HTY production of THUMBELINA, you and your students might find it enjoyable to read another story about a tiny girl (SEE page 8 of this guide). Before you read, let the children know that the THUMBELINA play will be similar in some ways and different in others. They can look forward to the exciting experience of comparing one tiny person story to another tiny person story!

PRE-SHOW DISCUSSION

- **Imagination:** Who likes to pretend? What do you like to pretend? What do you like to pretend to be? What do you pretend with (imagination)? What special things can you do with the imagination?
- **Favorite Magical Creature:** What is your favorite magical creature? What is fun about that creature? What might you do with that creature? Where might you go? What might you play?
- **Curiosity:** What happens when you feel *curious*? When have you felt *curious*? What did you learn, know or see when you felt that way? What did you do when you were feeling *curious*?

PRE-SHOW WRITING: 'ONE INCH TALL'

Before seeing the HTY play, guide students to write or draw in response to the question, "What would you do if you were shrunk to only one inch tall?"

Read Shel Silverstein's poem either before they write as an inspiration, or after so they can compare their ideas to the poet's.

One Inch Tall by Shel Silverstein

If you were only one inch tall, you'd ride a worm to school.
The teardrop of a crying ant would be your swimming pool.
A crumb of cake would be a feast
And last you seven days at least,
A flea would be a frightening beast
If you were one inch tall.

If you were only one inch tall, you'd walk beneath the door,
And it would take about a month to get down to the store.
A bit of fluff would be your bed,
You'd swing upon a spider's thread,
And wear a thimble on your head
If you were one inch tall.

You'd surf across the kitchen sink upon a stick of gum.
You couldn't hug your mama, you'd just have to hug her thumb.
You'd run from people's feet in fright,
To move a pen would take all night,
(This poem took fourteen years to write--
'Cause I'm just one inch tall).

For Teachers

Play-related Activities

YOUR OWN FANTASY STORY

Create an original story with your class. Using THUMBELINA as a model, guide your students to help suggest ideas for a story that features a magical creature of their choice getting in a little trouble but still having quite an adventure.

PROCEDURE

- Make a list of *creatures* and *locations* suggested by the class.
- Decide on one location and one animal. Ideally the animal is a stranger to the location and truly wants something. For example, a *forest goblin* visits *an elementary school* to *eat up students' lunch*.
- Ask students to imagine what might happen when the creature visits that place. Who might the creature meet? How might they feel when they meet the creature? What trouble does the creature cause? How do the people teach the creature something new? Or how does the creature teach the people something?
- Start your story: 'Once upon a time there was a ...' Pause occasionally to encourage students to suggest the next action. Continue the story until you have a satisfying end.

DRAMATIZE YOUR STORY

After your class has created a new story, guide them in the activities below to explore and act out the story through drama.

FREEZE: Guide students to shape their bodies as each of the characters and then have them freeze in their poses/shapes. What does the character look like? (Freeze). What does the character like to do? (Freeze). What's something funny that the character likes to do? (Freeze).

ACTION: Guide students to walk about the room as each of the characters. How does the character feel? How fast or slow does the character move? What is this character doing as he/she walks about?

STORY EXPLORATION

Narrate parts of the story, guiding the students to act out the moments as you tell them. Explore different parts of the story more than once each time, encouraging the students to try new ways of showing the action.

STORY PLAY

Ask for or assign volunteers to portray each of the characters. Narrate the entire story, guiding students to play out each moment as you tell it. Repeat the experience, enlisting new volunteers each time until all of the students have a chance to perform.

YOU OWN STORY BOARD

After seeing THUMBELINA or creating a story of your own, guide students to use the FOR STUDENTS: Story Board page in this guide to draw important events from the story in each of the boxes. Encourage them to imagine how they can capture the entire story in four scenes.

For Students

A Storyboard

Draw the story of THUMBELINA. What are four important things that happen in the story?

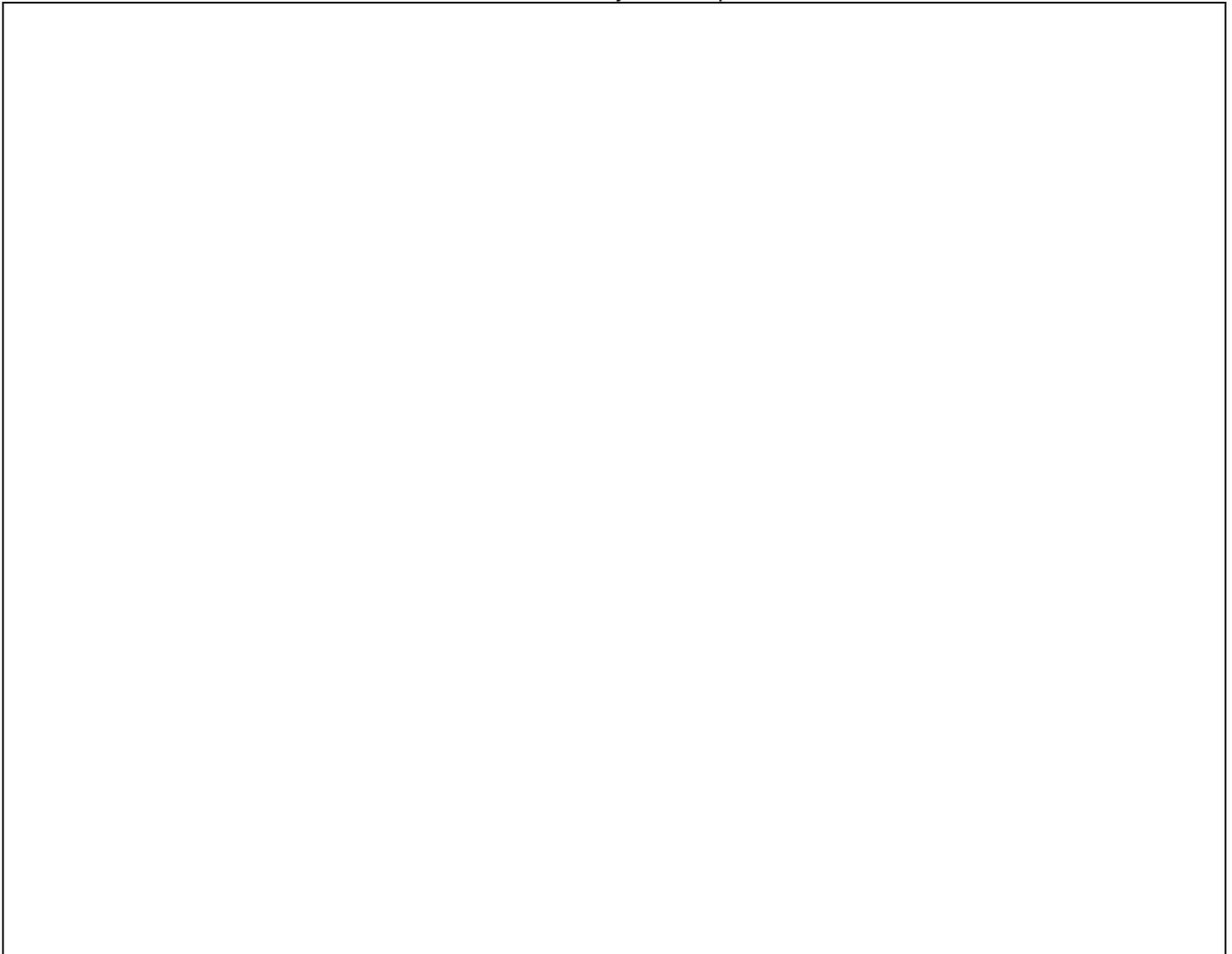
For Students

Letter to the Actors

Dear HTY Actors:

My favorite part of the play *Thumbelina* was _____

A Picture of my favorite part



The Story

A Read Aloud

AS YOU READ ALOUD

Stop occasionally at particularly engaging or tense parts. Ask students to make predictions about what might happen, giving reasons for their predictions.

The Bamboo Princess

A Japanese Folk Tale

Once upon a time there was an old man and woman. Every day the old man went to cut bamboo to make things out of them as this was his livelihood. One day, the old man went to the bamboo thicket and found there a strange bamboo. This bamboo was shining; a light came from its base.

The old man wondered, "That's strange! Why is this bamboo shining like that?" When he cut the bamboo he was really surprised. A lovely little girl was sitting in the bamboo and that was why it was shining! The old man picked the little girl up, put her on his hand and went back home in a hurry.

"Look what I've found!" cried the old man and he showed his wife the lovely little girl he had found in the shining bamboo.

The old woman thought, "It's certainly the gods that give us this marvelous little girl!" They called her the "Bamboo Princess" and loved and looked after her as if she were their own child.

The little girl grew up very quickly and became a gorgeous beauty. When the old man and his wife were tired or in a bad mood, they had just to look at her and they would feel better. They lived very happily with the Bamboo Princess, loving her as their own daughter. After finding the little girl in the bamboo, whenever the old man went to cut bamboo he would always find some gold inside. Soon he became rich and could afford to build a big house. He would not let his precious princess go out but nevertheless her beauty became known all over the country.

Hearing of this famous beauty, young men came from the whole of Japan to see her. But the old man would not let them meet the princess. Disappointed, many of them went back home. But there were a few young men who were very determined to meet her and even marry her. There were five of these men and they came every day to the house of the old man, regardless of the weather.

One day the Bamboo Princess said to the old man, "I am going to ask to these five young men something I wish. If one of them can bring it to me, I will marry him." But the princess did not at all want to marry anybody, so she asked for the most difficult things to find.

She asked the first one to bring her the cup of Buddha, made of stone, which is in India. To the second, she asked for the golden tree trunk which bears precious stone fruits. To the third, the pelt of the mouse of the sun which is said to be in China. To the fourth, the five-colored jewel which shines at the neck of the dragon. At last to the fifth, a cowrie, a shell that can be found in the nest of swallows. The princess asked for things that nobody knew existed and so the young men were disheartened.

After that the young men did not go to the old man's place for a while as they were all looking for the things the princess wanted. One day, the first man came and brought the cup of Buddha he had been asked for. But he did not go to India as he should have, and instead he got an old and dirty cup from a shrine near Kyoto. When the princess saw it, she immediately knew it was not Buddha's cup. Because though it was very old and made of stone, the cup that was from India always shone.

The second one did not know where this tree with a trunk made of gold and fruits of precious stones could be found, and did not want to make a long journey. Since he was very rich, he decided

to order one from some jewelers. Then he brought the tree to the princess. It was so magnificent she thought it was the real tree. She was thinking that she could no longer escape marrying him when the jewelers came and asked for their money. This was how the princess knew that it was not the tree she had asked for.

The third one, who had been asked for the pelt of the mouse of the sun, gave a great amount of money to some merchants who were going to China. They brought him a gorgeous pelt, saying it was from the mouse of the sun. He brought it to the princess, who said, "It's really a fine pelt. But the pelt of the mouse of sun does not burn, even if you throw it into the fire. Let's try it." And she threw the pelt in the fire. It burnt in a few minutes. The young man, angry and ashamed, went away.

The fourth was very courageous and he tried to find the dragon by himself. He sailed and wandered for a very long time, because nobody knew where a dragon lived. But during his journey, he was caught in a storm and nearly died. He could not search for the dragon any longer and went back home. Even then he was still ill and was not able to meet the Bamboo Princess again.

The fifth and last of all these young men, who had been asked for the cowrie -a precious shell that can sometimes be found in the nest of swallows, looked in all the nests. He thought he had found the shell and hurried down the ladder. In his haste, he fell and was badly injured. Moreover, what he had firmly in his hand was not the precious shell, but an old and hard swallow's dropping. That is how he too failed to marry the Bamboo Princess.

The reputation of the Bamboo Princess soon became known even to the Emperor so he also wanted to meet this beauty. One day he went to the house of the old man and saw the princess. He fell in love with her and wanted her to go with him to his palace. But the princess said to him, "I was not born on this planet, I cannot go with you." Nevertheless, the Emperor could not forget this charming young woman.

One summer, the Bamboo Princess was weeping and looking at the moon. The old man asked her what was wrong but she would not answer. The princess grew sadder every day and she would always look at the moon and cry. The old man and his wife were really worried, but as the princess remained silent they could not do anything for her. Then on the day before the full moon of mid-August, the princess explained to the old man and the old woman why she was so sad. "I was not born on this planet. I left the Moon to live here a few years, but now I have to go back where I belong. When the moon is full tomorrow, people from the Moon are coming to take me back. I have been very happy with you, thank you very much." she said.

The old man and his wife could not endure this and they were profoundly sad. They told the princess not to go back, but she answered, "I have to go back. I do not want to, but I must. I am really sorry." Then the old man decided to go and ask the Emperor for help. He told him the story of the Bamboo Princess and the Emperor immediately sent two thousand warriors to the house of the old man.

On the night of the full moon of mid-August, the old man's house was surrounded by warriors. Half of them were posted on the roof and the others were around the house trying to protect the princess. In the house, the old man and his wife were with the Bamboo Princess waiting for the people of the Moon. Outside, the warriors were looking at the moon and gripping firmly their bows and arrows. When the moon became full, the people from the Moon came down. They were Moon nymphs and were sparkling and shining so much that the warriors were dazzled and could not use their bows. The strangest thing was that they had also lost their will and could not fight. The warriors, the old man and the old woman were helpless. The Bamboo Princess came out of the house towards the nymphs of the Moon.

"I do not want to leave you, but I have to. I must go back to where I belong. Please, sometimes think of me", she said to the old man and woman. She also wrote a good-bye letter to the Emperor. After that, the nymphs put a cloak from the Moon on her shoulders and suddenly the Bamboo Princess forgot everything about her life on earth. Then she returned to the moon with the nymphs.

A POST-READING DISCUSSION

QUESTIONS

Who are the major characters?
Where does this story take place?
What is the problem in the story that has to be solved?
What do you think the story is trying to teach you?

RETELL

In pairs, take turns telling the story to each other.