

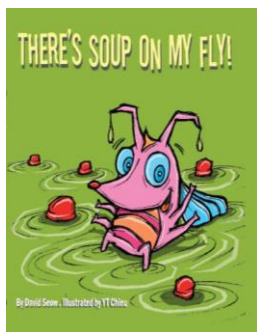
## SCHOOL ASSEMBLY PLAYS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS (NAC-AEP) National Arts Council Arts Education Programme 2017-2018

The Learning Connections (TLC) is approved by The National Arts Council since 2011 to promote arts education to lower and upper Primary school students through assembly plays. Our plays aim to:

- promote moral values and develop social-emotional competencies through parables/stories
- introduce theatre as an art form
- expand creativity and stimulate children's imagination
- enhance values and character development
- Instil essential knowledge, life-skills and core values

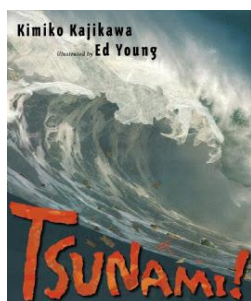
### Storybook Theatre

**Storybook Theatre** is an educational theatre show that features selected children's literature brought to life through 'live' performances for primary school students by professional stage actors. Storybook Theatre promotes reading and cultivates the love for books using theatre & performing arts as a platform to bring stories to life and stimulate children's imagination. The heart-warming stories we choose are based on universal themes and celebrate positive values.



The story we are bringing to life is **THERE'S SOUP ON MY FLY!** by David Seow. Like most kids, Jeremy Alexander longs for a pet, any pet, but he doesn't have any luck convincing his parents to get him one. When all seems lost a magic shape-shifting fly zips into his life. It's the best pet ever or so he thinks. But Jeremy Alexander and his fly soon find themselves in some very hot soup!

**There's Soup On My Fly!** is a musical theatre performance that offers children a rich arts learning experience through story, songs, dances and a variety of masked and 'live' puppet characters. The show aims to stimulate and develop children's imagination and critical thinking skills. Through the exploration of issues such as friendship and bullying, children will begin to gain a greater sense of self and social awareness, which are the essential building blocks for developing social and emotional learning competencies. **There's Soup On My Fly!** stimulates a sense of wonder and learning, at the same time, it offers children an exciting and fun experience!



### TSUNAMI! (Stories & Poems about Water)

Water. An essential part of life on earth. Using a plethora of tales, several stories have been chosen to present as drama in its best artistry form. This 'magical' play retells ancient myths and legends from Asia about water. These stories are told through mime, dance, movement, mask and puppetry, and peppered with excerpts from a short collection of modern poems by both Singaporean and foreign writers.

While the overarching message is one of conservation and sustainability, the performance is about a celebration of the power, beauty and majesty of water, and how it is truly the lifeblood of our planet. This performance also exposes the audience to **MOE's desired outcomes of education** such as **confident person, active contributor** and **concerned citizen** and key stage outcomes such as *to be able to distinguish right from wrong; to be able to cooperate, share and care.*





Books Used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Tsunami</i> by Kimiko Kajikawa</li> <li>• <i>Water</i> by Christopher Cheng and Susanna Goho-Quek</li> <li>• <i>Water Sings Blue: Ocean Poems</i> by Kate Coombs</li> <li>• <i>The Water Dragon</i> by Li Jian</li> <li>• <i>The Last Kappa of Old Japan</i> by Sunny Seki</li> </ul>
Suitable for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary school assembly/Arts Festival celebration/any occasion</li> <li>• World Water Day/International Water Week/Earth Day</li> <li>• READ! Singapore/World Book Day</li> </ul>
Themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Celebrating water as the Earth's life support system</li> <li>• Conservation and sustainability/Environmental protection</li> <li>• Myths and legends about water/To encourage interest in reading</li> </ul>

Programme Title: **Storybook Theatre**  
 Programme Cost: **S\$1,800** per 30-minute performance

Programme ID: **AEP0517391**

## AESOP'S FABLES

### The Wind & The Sun (and other fables)

Also suitable for International Friendship Day / Earth Day



The Wind and the Sun were disputing who was the stronger. Suddenly they saw a traveller coming down the road, and the Sun said: "I see a way to decide our dispute. Whichever of us can cause that traveller to take off his cloak shall be regarded as the stronger. You begin." So the Sun retired behind a cloud, and the Wind began to blow as hard as it could upon the traveller. But the harder he blew the more closely did the traveller wrap his cloak round him, till at last the Wind had to give up in despair. Then the Sun came out and shone in all his glory upon the traveller, who soon found it too hot to walk with his cloak on.

*The moral of the story is true strength is in kindness and not in brute force.*

Two other fables **The Travelers and the Plane-Tree** and **The Tree and the Reed** will be incorporated into this play to enhance and expand on the teachings of strength, pride, humility, self-worth and gratitude to students.

### The Lion & The Mouse and The Hare & The Tortoise

Also suitable for Racial Harmony / International Friendship Day / National Day

In **The Lion & The Mouse**, a lion threatens a mouse that wakes him up. The mouse begs forgiveness and promises to repay the lion if he sets it free. Later, the lion is netted by a hunter; hearing it roaring, the mouse remembers the lion's clemency and frees the beast. *The story introduces the idea that a kind deed is never wasted and demonstrates that kindness is related to good citizenship. It also carries the moral that mercy brings its reward and even the smallest creature has its own unique ability and function; hence to never underestimate others.*



Our version of **The Hare & The Tortoise** is based on a motivational book written by Steve Borgia. It is about a tortoise and a hare who had an argument about who the faster runner was. They decided to have a race. The hare soon leaves the tortoise behind and confident of winning, takes a nap midway through the course. The tortoise, crawling at a steady pace, eventually overtook the hare and won the race. The hare realized that his overconfidence had caused her to lose the race so she asked for a re-match. This time, the hare ran with all her might and didn't stop until she crossed the finish line. The tortoise realized that if the hare didn't stop, there was no way he could ever beat her. He challenged the hare to another re-match with a strategy in mind. With the hare and the tortoise spending so much time together racing, they became rather good friends. They also developed mutual respect for each other as they realized they each had different strengths and abilities. They decided to race again, but this time, as a team.

*The moral of the story is it is good to be individually brilliant and have strong core competencies but teamwork is about harnessing each other's talents and letting the person with the relevant skills for a situation take leadership. Being supportive team members is necessary for a team to advance.*

### Belling the Cat and The Ant & The Grasshopper

Also suitable for National Day / Total Defence Day

The original fable of **Belling the Cat** concerns a group of mice who debate plans to nullify the threat of a marauding cat. One of them proposes placing a bell around its neck, so that they are warned of its approach. The plan is applauded by the others, until one mouse asks who will volunteer to place the bell on the cat. All of them make excuses. The story is used to teach the wisdom of evaluating a plan not only on how desirable the outcome would be, but also on how it can be executed. It provides a moral lesson about the fundamental



difference between ideas and their feasibility, and how this affects the value of a given plan. *Our version* takes this fable a positive step further, and we see the mice actually working together, taking action and following through with the plan that they have made. They decide it is no longer acceptable to make excuses and shirk responsibility, and they face the odds despite their fear of the cat. Ultimately, their planning and teamwork pays off, and they are able to bell the cat at last.

In the tale of **The Ant & The Grasshopper**, a grasshopper spent the warm months lazing and singing while the ant consistently worked hard to store up food for winter. When winter arrives, the grasshopper finds itself starving and begs the ant for food.

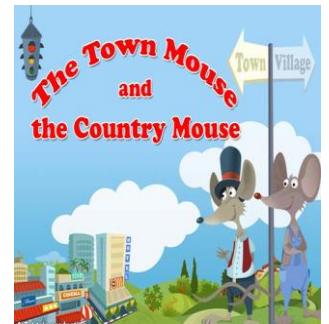
*The story teaches the virtues of hard work, consistency and proper planning for the future. There are rewards for hard work as well as consequences for putting things off to the last minute.*

### The Town Mouse & The Country Mouse

Also suitable for Racial Harmony / International Friendship Day

Town mouse visits his "ancestral homeland"

and he meets his long-lost country cousin who invites him to stay. Soon he finds that their lives couldn't be more different and that he has absolutely nothing in common with his cousin. He decides to cut his visit short but invites Country Mouse to come home with him, so that he can show him how much better life can be in the city. Country Mouse agrees. When they arrived, Country Mouse is shocked and could not adjust to city life. This sparks an argument between the two mice and they have to find a way to resolve their differences. The two mice soon learn that it is not that one place is better than the other, but rather a difference in cultures and lifestyles and that they have to come to understand, respect and appreciate each other's culture. *The story teaches perspective taking, empathy, integrity and respect for others. Through appreciation and perseverance for racial harmony, we can then achieve unity.*



Programme Title: **Aesop's Fables**

Programme ID: **AEP0517382**

Programme Cost: **S\$1,500** per 30-minute performance

## Storybook Theatre and Aesop's Fables programme costs – 50% subsidized by the Tote Board Arts Grant!

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