

## Teachers' Notes For From Halfway Around the World

### **Some things that you might like to discuss with the class before the production.**

- Indigenous people's Dreamtime stories.
- Maori Haka.
- The Tampa and Afghan refugees.
- Aesop's fables.
- Different types of cultures.
- Tall stories.
- Fairy tales.

### **Vocabulary**

Fable, Dreamtime, tortoise, hare, chant, cheer squad, Europe, gnome, denim, Afghanistan, Haka, cocooned, Tampa, moral, Aesop, culture, Canada, fairy tale, Maori, rhyme, tall story, indigenous, fictitious

### **Connection to the Curriculum.**

- How language is used in a variety of ways
- to interact effectively.
  - build and maintain relationships.
  - in a range of moral, social and cultural settings.

## **Some things to discuss after the performance.**

### **Who in the class was not born in Australia (comes from another culture.)**

Ask the class who comes from a culture/country that is not Australia.  
Discuss the differences in the various cultures.

### **What Types of Stories are talked about in the production?**

- Tall stories. (Exaggerations).
- Dreamtime. (Indigenous stories about the earth's creation).
- Fable. (Short stories with a moral).
- Fairy tale. (A short story with fantasy characters).
- Chants. (Repetitive speaking or singing words or sounds).
- Poems. (Tales told in a form with rhyme and rhythm).
- True Stories. (Tales which tell about real events).

## **Who was Aesop?**

A Greek story teller who lived around 600BC (2500 years ago).

## **How do we hear stories?**

Read (books).

Listen (radio stories, talking books).

Parents (tell or read them to their children).

Movies and TV are a visual form of story telling.

## **Who were some of the characters in the performance?**

Wayamba (the Tortoise Man) and Oola people.

Tortoise and the hare.

The Jaguar team cheer leader.

The Gnome and his wife.

Miss Susie.

Ilana from Canada.

## **Who was your favourite character?**

## **Some of the Other Cultures that are Talked About in the Performance.**

Australian Aborigines.

Canada.

Maori.

Afghan.

Teacher's Note: Type this link into your web browser to view a short example of the Haka:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c-lrE2JcO44>

## **Vocabulary**

Fable, Dreamtime, tortoise, hare, chant, cheer squad, Europe, gnome, denim, Afghanistan, Haka, cocooned, Tampa, moral, Aesop, culture, Canada, fairy tale, Maori, rhyme, tall story, indigenous, fictitious.

## What are Fables?

- Fables are short stories that illustrate a particular moral and teach a lesson to children.
- Usually tales about animals who act like people with animal traits.
- They entertain.
- Aesop was a story teller who lived in Greece around 600BC (2500 years ago).

## Some of Aesop's Fables.

### The Hare and the Tortoise.

The Hare was once boasting of his speed before the other animals. "I have never yet been beaten," said he, "When I put forth my full speed, I challenge any one here to race with me."

The Tortoise said quietly, "I accept your challenge."

"That is a good joke," said the Hare; "I could dance round you all the way."

"Keep your boasting till you've beaten me." answered the Tortoise. "Shall we race?"

So a course was fixed and a start was made. The Hare darted almost out of sight at once, but soon stopped and, to show his contempt for the Tortoise, lay down to have a nap.

The Tortoise plodded on and plodded on, and when the Hare awoke from his nap, he saw the Tortoise just near the winning-post and could not run up in time to save the race.

**The moral is "Slow and steady wins the race."**

### The Lion and the Mouse.

Once a Lion was asleep when a little mouse began running up and down upon him. This soon wakened the Lion, who placed his huge paw upon him, and opened his big jaws to swallow him. "Pardon, O King," cried the little Mouse. "Forgive me this time and I shall never forget it. Who knows but I may be able to do you a good turn one of these days?" The Lion was so tickled at the idea of the Mouse being able to help him, that he lifted up his paw and let him go. Some time after the Lion was caught in a trap, and the hunters who desired to carry him alive to the King, tied him to a tree while they went in search of a wagon to carry him on. Just then the little Mouse happened to pass by, and seeing the sad plight in which the Lion was, went up to him and soon gnawed away the ropes that bound the King of the Beasts. "Was I not right?" said the little Mouse.

**The moral is "Small friends might prove to be very important".**

## **Androcles and The Lion**

A slave named Androcles once escaped from his master and fled to the forest. As he was wandering about there he came upon a lion lying down moaning and groaning. At first he turned to flee, but finding that the lion did not pursue him, he turned back and went up to him. As he came near, the lion put out his paw, which was all swollen and bleeding, and Androcles found that a huge thorn had got into it, and was causing all the pain. He pulled out the thorn and bound up the paw of the lion, who was soon able to rise and lick the hand of Androcles like a dog. Then the lion took Androcles to his cave, and every day used to bring him meat for food. But shortly afterwards both Androcles and the Lion were captured, and the slave was sentenced to be thrown to the lion after the lion had been kept without food for several days. The Emperor and all his court came to see the spectacle, and Androcles was led out into the middle of the arena. Soon the lion was let loose from his den, and rushed bounding and roaring towards his victim. But as soon as he came near to Androcles he recognised his friend, and fawned upon him, and licked his hands like a friendly dog. The Emperor, surprised at this, summoned Androcles to him, who told him the whole story. The slave was then pardoned and freed, and the lion was allowed to go home to his native forest.

**The moral is “Good deeds are often returned”.**

# Activity Sheet K to 6

## From Halfway Around the World

### The Haka

The Haka is a traditional ancestral war cry, dance or challenge from the Maori people of New Zealand.

#### Maori

Ka Mate Ka Mate  
Ka ora Ka ora  
Ka mate Ka mate  
Ka Ora Ka ora  
Tenei Te Tangata Puhuruhuru  
Nana I tiki mai whakawhiti te ra  
me  
Upane Upane  
Upane Kaupane  
Whiti te ra.

#### English

It is death It is death  
It is life It is life  
It is death It is death  
It is life It is life  
This is the hairy man  
Who caused the sun to shine again for  
  
Up the ladder Up the ladder  
Up to the top  
The sun shines.

### Perform your own Haka

Students suggest some of the movements that they would perform during a Haka...slapping thighs, arms and chests and stamping the feet.  
Make up a routine/pattern that they can perform. For the boys, poking out the tongue is an important part of the Haka and for the girls, it is the wide opening of the eyes.

## Activity Sheet 3 to 6 From Halfway Around The World

**There were several types of stories talked about in the performance.  
What type of stories are these?**

- Rhythmic speaking or singing words or sound .....
- A short story with fantasy characters .....
- Stories with factual details .....
- Tales told in rhyming form .....
- Exaggerations .....
- Short stories with a moral .....
- Indigenous stories about the earth's creation .....

**Suggest your own ending to the rhyme with four new lines to finish it.**

Miss Susie had a baby  
The baby's name was Tim.  
She put him in the bathtub  
To see if he could swim.  
He drank up all the water.  
He ate up all the soap.  
He tried to swallow the bathtub  
But it wouldn't go down his throat.  
Miss Susie called the Doctor.  
Miss Susie called the Nurse.  
Miss Susie called the lady  
With the alligator purse.  
It's the mumps said the Doctor.  
It's the measles said the Nurse.

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.....  
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## Activity Sheet K to 2 From Halfway Around The World

**There were several types of stories talked about in the performance.  
What type of stories are these?**

**Draw a line from the list on the left to the correct type of stories on the right.**

Speaking or singing words or sounds

Fairy tale

A short story with fantasy characters

Dreamtime

Stories with factual details

Tall stories

Tales told in rhyming form

Poem

Exaggerations

Fables

Short stories with a moral

Chant

Indigenous stories about the earth's creation

True stories

Draw a picture of the Gnome from the performance.

## Activity Sheet 3 to 6 From Halfway Around the World

### Wordsearch

Haka, Aesop, fable, tall story, dreamtime, fairy tale, chant, poem, hare, tortoise, Maori, Tampa, culture, radio, lion, mouse, chant, cheer, gnome, rhyme, fact, moral, Canada

Some of the words go across.

Some of the words go down.

Some of the words are part of another word.

As you find each word in the word puzzle underline them in the puzzle and cross each word off the list.

a	d	t	d	s	g	b	b
s	t	s	r	e	e	h	c
d	n	n	e	a	j	m	w
r	o	k	a	e	s	o	p
h	p	t	m	g	l	u	a
t	o	r	t	o	i	s	e
j	t	p	l	p	o	e	t
r	h	y	m	e	n	e	k
t	o	a	e	l	b	g	e
n	p	k	s	b	t	n	t
a	d	a	n	a	c	o	s
h	t	h	p	f	n	m	t
c	u	l	t	u	r	e	l