

JOURNEY WORKPACK

SYNOPSIS

Scene 1

An old man is making a boat out of materials he has found on the beach. He has a bird which can talk.

"I help him, he feeds me".

An old woman arrives and sets up her camp. The old man tells her she must go.

"You can't stay here."

"Why not?"

"It's my beach."

"Do you own it?"

"Just clear off!"

"But I've nowhere else to go."

"Leave!"

"Why should I? I like it here."

The bird is mystified at the behavior of the human beings.

"Why didn't you make friends with her?"

"No."

"Why?"

"She's a stranger."

The bird approaches the woman fascinated by the bright objects she possesses. The old woman gives the bird some water to drink. The old woman tells the bird she is on a journey back to the place where she grew up. She hasn't been there for years. She has walked a long way. They are tired and go to sleep.

Scene 2

The old man disturbs their sleep by making a loud noise.

"Would you mind being quiet please, I'm trying to sleep."

The noise continues. She retaliates by grinding coffee which makes a horrible squeaking noise. They argue. Finally in anger he splatters paint over her canvas.

Scene 3

The old woman cleans up her painting. The bird is fascinated by the colors and shapes. The old woman was painting a picture of her home but it is ruined now. Suddenly she realizes that the bird has been talking to her – and faints!

Scene 4

The bird tries to wake the old woman. The captain also tries and discovers that she is cold. They think she is dead and decide to take her on the boat to her home. The boat is unfinished so they use the woman's things to finish constructing it.

Scene 5

At sea. The bird is hungry and angry that the captain is eating salted beef while she has only got a tiny piece of biscuit. She decides to get her own food by fishing. She catches nothing and returns to eat her biscuit. It has disappeared. She accuses the captain of stealing it. They hear groaning. The bird is scared, thinking it is the old woman. The captain says that it is the timbers groaning and the sound of whales singing in the deep. They go to sleep. The old woman wakes up. They think she is a ghost. She demands an explanation. The bird apologises for frightening her. The captain is angry and turns the boat round. They argue.

"This is my boat, I decide where it goes."

"You kidnapped me! The least thing you can do is take me to my destination." I'm the captain here, this is my ship."

"Take me to my home or I'll take my things back and then where will you be – you need me!"

Bird. "What about me? You need me, I'm the lookout."

The bird is upset by the arguing.

"Stop arguing you two! You'll cause a storm!"

There is a storm and the boat is wrecked.

Scene 6

They are shipwrecked on an island. The old woman builds a shelter. The old man builds a fire but he is thirsty. The old woman has water but she is cold. Time passes. They are lonely.

"I wish I had someone to talk to."

Slowly they learn to start sharing things. Every day the captain looks for his bird. He is upset. The old woman comforts him. They think that the bird is dead. They sing a sad song. The bird returns alive and well and they all celebrate.

Music

In the play we used music by composers working at the same time as Picasso; perhaps he heard this music and it inspired some of his paintings.

CAMILLE SAINT – SAENS

Carnival of the Animals

Fossiles – when the Captain and the Bird built the boat.

Personnages à longues oreilles – when the Captain splattered paint on the Old Woman's painting.

Finale – when all three make a sculpture.

MAURICE RAVEL

Daphnis et Chlœe – Lever du Jour
When the boat is sailing on the sea and the Beautiful Island.

CLAUDE DÉBUSSY

“Préludes – Les Collines d’Anacapri” – when the Old Woman arrives on the beach.

Images – Reflets dans l’eau
the Bird drinks water and the Old Woman finds a stream.

La Mer – Dialogue du vent et de la mer - The storm at sea.

ASTOR PIAZZOLLA

Five Tango Sensations – when the Captain and the Bird are beachcombing.

Paint to a piece of music. Use the shapes and colours that the music make you think of.

What can you see?

The Captain looks through his telescope.
The Old Woman looks very closely at things before she paints them.
The Bird looks at human beings.

Use a rolled up piece of paper or card as a telescope.
Look around you. What can you see?
Imagine you are on a boat or the island – what can you see now?

Look at a picture by Picasso.

- What colours has he used?
- What shapes can you see in the picture?
- Which is your favourite part of the painting?
- What is your least favourite part?
- Notice a tiny detail in the painting.

In small groups, look very closely at each other's eyes.
What colour are they?
Arrange yourselves in a line, with dark-coloured eyes at one end, and light-coloured eyes at the other.

In pairs, put a barrier between you – a cardboard box or a book standing up.
One child picks up an object and conceals it behind the barrier and describes it.
The other child has to guess what it is.

A collection of objects on a tray.
Close your eyes, pick up one of the objects.

- What shape is it?
- What does it feel like?
- What does it smell like?

Open your eyes.

Examine your object very closely.
Look at it from different angles.
What details do you notice?
What is the most interesting thing about your object?
Write a poem or paint a picture about your object.

Bird's Eye View

How does The Bird help The Captain?

When did The Bird feel happy?
Why?

When did The Bird feel sad?
Why?

When did The Bird feel confused?
Why?

When did The Bird feel frightened?
Why?

Picasso used the handlebars and saddle of a bicycle to make a sculpture of a bull. He used a toy car found in his garden plus the handles from a couple of coffee cups to make the sculpture of a monkey. Make a sculpture of The Bird using different objects.

Anna, the actress who plays The Bird, observed the behaviour of pigeons and other birds when she was creating her character.

Look closely at different birds; what do you notice? See if you can imitate the way they move.

During the storm, The Bird flew away; The Captain said he didn't need her.

- ❖ Why did she go?
- ❖ Where did she go?
- ❖ How did she feel?
- ❖ What happened to her?
- ❖ Why did she return?

Draw a picture or write a story about The Bird leaving.

Write a postcard that The Bird sends from wherever it is she has gone; on the card you can express The Bird's feelings and worries in a concise way.

In pairs, one of you is a bird who can talk, the other is a human.

Have a conversation. Ask each other questions about your different lives.

Make a nest and decorate it with things you have found.

Imagine The Bird has got her feet wet with paint from The Old Woman's paint palette.

Paint the patterns as she walks over a piece of paper.

Make up a story about when The Captain first met The Bird.

Stories Are Everywhere

The Captain and The Bird start the day beachcombing.
What do they find?
(Mirror, top hat, pearl necklace, blue material.)
Who do you think these things belong to?
How do they end up washed up on the beach?
Make up a life-story for these objects.

When The Old Woman was a child, she used to talk to the moon. The moon told her secrets about people in far-off lands.
What secrets did the moon tell?
In pairs, one of you is the moon, the other is a child. Tell each other secrets.

On the boat at night, The Bird hears noises.
She is scared.
The Captain explains, *“That’s the timbers talking; the boat’s alive, see. The timbers talk to me, groan a bit, let me know how they are doing”*.

Make up a story or poem in which the timbers of the boat talk about:
what they feel
what they can see
what they can hear
as they sail through the deep, deep sea.

On the island, The Old Woman and The Captain both keep a journal to help express their feelings.

The Captain writes;

“Explored my half of the island today. Nothing much here. I wish I had my telescope. I need to see out. I wish I had someone to talk to”.

The Old Woman writes:

“I found a stream today. I’ve got enough to drink, but I feel so cold. This is a beautiful island, I would like to paint it. I wish I had someone to talk to.”

Make up some other entries for their journals.

What am I feeling?

Curious Happy Lonely Excited Tired Suspicious
Impatient Proud Jealous Angry Lost Irritable
Sad Kind Cold Relieved Shy Hungry

Can you remember moments in the play, when the characters had these feelings?
Who felt what?
Why?

Use coloured pencils or crayons to draw different feelings.

Can you think of times when you have had some of these feelings?

Frozen pictures
Over a count of five, make a shape with your body to words such as 'sad', 'excited', 'confused', 'lost', etc.
Over a count of five, add in facial expressions.
Then make a vocal sound to go with your statue.

How do different colours make you feel?
Look at some pictures by Picasso.
What feelings do the pictures express?
What colours does he use?
Paint a picture using only one colour to show a mood.

As proud as a peacock.
As hungry as a wolf.
Make up some phrases for the other feelings.

Use a pencil to make marks on a sheet of paper to express different feelings.
What sort of line goes with each feeling?

Making Friends

Why does The Captain not want to make friends with The Old Woman?

Why does The Bird want to make friends with The Old Woman?

Everyone hold hands in a circle – how does it feel?

Paint or draw a picture of a special friend.
Everyone in turn holds up their picture and says a few words about the special friend – perhaps where they live, what they like doing, what they like about them, etc.

The Old Woman and The Captain spend much of their time quarrelling before they become friends.
Talk about times when you have been arguing, fighting and pushing and how you overcame these difficulties.

Treasured belongings

The Old Woman treasured her painting; The Captain treasured his telescope.

Bring in a toy or treasured possession and make a display table for them.

In turns, pick up your toy/object and tell everyone why it is important to you.

Working together imaginatively

When the characters in the play work together rather than against one another, then things are much better for them. They have to share things and help each other.

In pairs, use mime to pick up and carry:

- a pane of glass
- a high stack of eggs
- a long pole
- a block of ice.

Repeat this exercise, this time setting a hazard, i.e. you are now carrying these things along an icy zig-zag path or along a rocky cliff path in the wind.

In groups of four, work together to:

- build a high wall
- fold an enormous sheet
- pull an elephant out of a hole
- push a car up a hill.

Looking at paintings

Look at a painting by Picasso.
Everyone is asked to suggest a few words to describe it.

What does the word 'beautiful' mean to you?

Think of something you thought was really beautiful.

How did it make you feel?

If the painting could speak, what would it tell you?

If the painting could move, how would it move?

Pick three paintings by Picasso and make up a story to join all the paintings together.

Which colours has Picasso used in the painting?

How many colours has Picasso used in the painting?

Paint a picture of your best friend, using only two colours in as many different shades as you can make.

What is your favourite colour?

Collect lots of things of one colour, arrange the objects on table.

Put the objects in order of light to dark shades.