

# THE VULTURES' SONG

## Three Creative Challenges for Families

These challenges are presented in a way that children can readily use them but they are suitable for any age group from age 9 to 100+!

### CHALLENGE 1

#### The Story of a Photograph

Find a photograph of a significant journey you have taken in your life. It doesn't have to be a long journey or one outside of your country. It could be a short journey or one that you have made lots of times. You could use a printed photograph or one that is on a phone, online or from social media. It could be a photograph taken by you or one that features you. Think of a friend, a family member or someone in your school or community that you want to know more about. Maybe it is someone who saw The Vultures' Song with you. If you can't think of anybody perhaps ask a parent or carer to recommend somebody. Ask this person if they would be happy to exchange stories about a photograph of a significant journey in their life. Arrange a time to meet up and take turns in telling the story of your photographs. Really listen to the other person and give them the space to tell you the whole story before asking questions and then swap – tell them the story of your photograph. When you have finished take it in turns to tell each other about what you liked and learned from their story and photograph.

Perhaps your conversation might inspire you to create a piece of music, a poem, some creative writing, a drawing or some craft or maybe some more photography?

### CHALLENGE 2

#### Border Crossings

Again think of a friend, a family member or someone in your community that you want to know more about. Maybe it is someone who saw The Vultures' Song with you. If you can't think of anybody perhaps ask a parent or carer to help. Arrange a time to have a conversation with this person. Ask them if they are happy to have a conversation with you about the idea of borders. Ask them what the term 'border' or 'borders' means to them, perhaps you could look it up in the dictionary together. Talk about what borders you both cross every day – they might be real borders e.g. fences/walls, or where your neighbourhood stops and another starts, or borders that exist in our minds or imaginations.

Perhaps your conversation might inspire you to create a piece of music, a poem, creative writing or a piece of art?



### CHALLENGE 3

#### Creative Transformations

Actors in The Vultures' Song use props in clever ways and often one thing is used to represent something else (for instance, a piece of clothing or a prop to represent a person or attitude). In the theatre this is called 'symbolism'.

To remind and inspire you here are some examples of this use of symbolism in The Vultures' Song:

- 1st Clip: One of the vultures 'becomes' the GIRL in the story, purely by the lead vulture giving her the scarf:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2IHVfw\\_BLM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2IHVfw_BLM) (1 minute 10 seconds in)
- 2nd Clip: The actors move the clothes so that they sway and move as humans:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pylsc0Yhacs>
- 3rd Clip: The actor playing the POSTMAN holds the handlebars to suggest he is on a bike. He moves his right leg up and down so that we believe he is doing a cycling motion. The other two actors use umbrellas to represent wheels and turn them at the same pace and in the correct direction to suggest the wheels moving forwards. Both the handlebar and the umbrellas are in a tatty condition, which could symbolise the poverty of the community around the train station:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qxvm1xxmPFc>
- 4th Clip: The bath tub and other props and bits of costume have been arranged to symbolise dead bodies:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NzpEq\\_4EKOo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NzpEq_4EKOo)

Now it's your turn to make some theatre at home. Turn a room in your home into something or somewhere completely new and surprise a member of your family or someone who visits regularly, perhaps taking them on a guided tour. What everyday objects can you reinvent? Be careful though – don't play with anything too precious or fragile! Perhaps this challenge might inspire you to make a longer piece of theatre?

**We would love to know how you got on with your challenges – what did you discover?**

**Please share any feedback, creative work and / or photographs via Facebook or Twitter: @theatreblahs using #VulturesCreativeChallenge**

