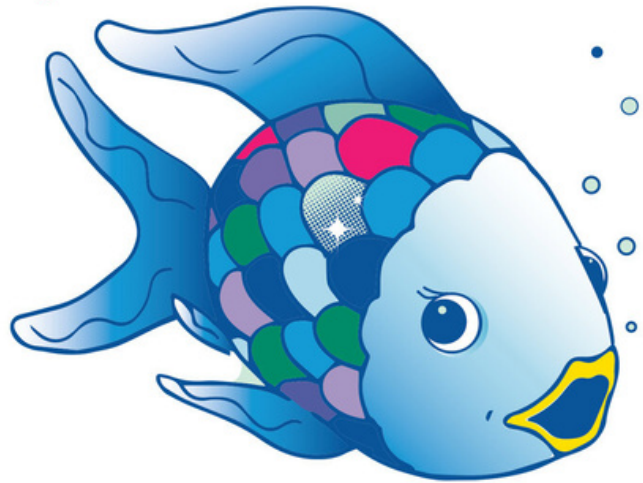




TMP FAMILY THEATER TEACHER GUIDE

The Rainbow Fish Musical



The Rainbow Fish Musical
October 18-26, 2025

Directed by Kayla Littleton
Music Directed by Thomas Morisada

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ABOUT THE SHOW

SYNOPSIS

With shiny, multi-colored scales, Rainbow Fish is the most beautiful fish in all of the ocean, and the only one of his kind. When Rainbow Fish refuses to share his vibrant, shimmering scales, the whole ocean seems to turn against the vain creature. Unhappy that no one adores him anymore, the Rainbow Fish seeks out the wise Octopus, who helps him learn that it's far better to be admired for being kind than for being beautiful.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

As an educator, *The Rainbow Fish* has always been my favorite children's book to read to young kids. Not only are the illustrations stunning, but the story itself is an important one for kids to learn and remember into adulthood.

This show takes Marcus Pfister's timeless story, sets it to some fun music and leads us on a journey way out in the wide blue ocean. Audiences get to follow Rainbow Fish as he goes on a great journey to discover that there is something more important than being the most beautiful fish in the sea.

Through meeting a cast of colorful under the sea characters, he goes on an adventure that is all about friendship, kindness and sharing our gifts with others.

Not only is the story of *The Rainbow Fish* beautiful, but the fish themselves are too! Our cast will be performing using hand-crafted, bright and big puppets of all of the beloved book characters plus some new friends. Audiences of all ages will enjoy this undersea adventure!

MEET THE TEAM

Marcus Pfister (Author) was born in Bern, Switzerland. After studying at the Art School of Bern he worked in graphic design before publishing his first picture book *The Sleepy Owl* in 1986. He has illustrated over 65 books and his works have been translated into more than 60 languages!

Austin Zumbro (Playwright) has written and composed over 30 plays and musicals, including *Llama, Llama Live!*; *Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site the Musical* (TBA Award Winner); *Fly Guy, the Musical*; *The Day the Crayons Quit, the Musical*; and *The Rainbow Fish Musical*, which won the AATE Distinguished Play Award in 2020.

Kayla Littleton (Director) is a Director, Teaching Artist, Dramaturg and Actor based in Tacoma and currently serves as the Director of Education at TMP. Her primary focus is youth engagement in the arts. She holds a BA in Theatre Arts from University of Puget Sound. Some of her favorite directing credits include *Mamma Mia!*, *The Little Mermaid*, and *Cinderella*.

Thomas Morisada (Music Director) graduated from PLU with degrees in music and theater, with a focus in vocal music. Thomas has more recently found his way back to musical theater, having performed on the TMP stage in recent productions. Thomas has music directed and taught classes in the Tacoma area, and is also an instructor for private voice.

AT THE THEATER

Live theater is incredibly exciting and fun for all ages, but can come with a bit of a learning curve for young audiences who are not used to the art form. Below are some tips and instructions to share with your students before attending the theater.

Remain seated the whole performance with your feet hanging off the seat, not tucked under yourself or kicking the seat in front of you.

Do not talk during the performance. It disrupts the actors and the other audience members. If an actor talks to you directly, it's okay to respond!

Use the restroom or get a drink of water **BEFORE** the show or during intermission (if there is one). Getting up during a performance can be distracting, so avoid it if you can!

Make sure to clap for things you enjoy and laugh at things you find funny! Actors appreciate the feedback!

After the show, the actors will line up in the lobby to greet you! Feel free to say hello and tell them something you enjoyed about the show!

FOR THE RAINBOW FISH SPECIFICALLY:

This show is performed with large puppets **AND** has actors who will come out in the audience. Please make sure to not touch the puppets and keep feet clear of the aisles!

PRE - SHOW

CLASSROOM DISCUSSION

Before attending the show, we encourage you to read the book with your class! After reading the book, you can use the following questions to guide a pre-show conversation with your class!

1. Why do you think Rainbow Fish was so hesitant to share his scales with Little Fish?
2. Why do you think Little Fish thought Rainbow Fish should share a scale? Why was that important to him?
3. Rainbow Fish sought out Starfish and Octopus for help, who is someone you go to for help?
4. Why do you think Rainbow Fish thought he needed to be the most beautiful fish to be happy?
5. When Rainbow Fish shared his scales with the other fish it made him feel like he finally belonged because he had something in common with the other fish. What are some things you have in common with your friends?
6. In what ways do you predict the musical will be different than the book we just read?

POST - SHOW

CLASSROOM DISCUSSION

After attending the show, allow students to share their thoughts on the show and experience. Here are some guiding questions to keep the conversation going:

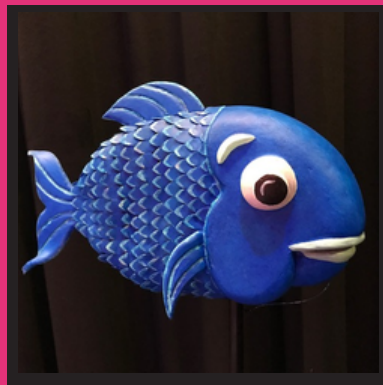
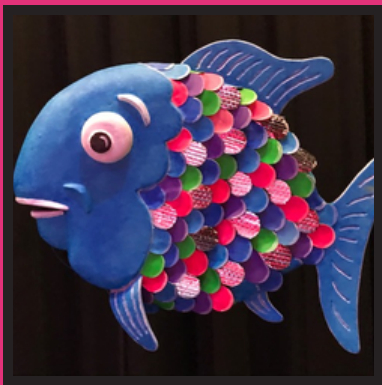
1. What was the biggest difference you noticed between the book and the musical?
2. What character was your favorite?
3. Which character did you relate to the most?
4. Rainbow Fish had to go on a scary journey to get help from the octopus, what do you think he was feeling on that journey?
5. What was your favorite song in the show?
6. What was your favorite moment in the show?

JOURNALING

The Rainbow Fish is about sharing the things that make us unique with the world. Though Rainbow Fish learns this lesson through physically sharing his shiny scales so everyone can feel beautiful, there are lots of other characteristics people possess that they can share with others.

Have students write a short journal entry about the things about themselves they think are the most unique. How can those gifts/talents/abilities help others? How does sharing those parts of themselves with their friends and family feel?

PUPPETS



The Rainbow Fish is performed with one of a kind, handmade puppets of all of the characters! After seeing the large puppets onstage at the show, have students create their own handmade puppets using paper, cardboard, popsicle sticks, etc. and perhaps even write a script to perform with them!

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING TMP FAMILY THEATER! WE HOPE TO SEE YOU BACK NEXT SEASON!

If you have any questions about this show or future ones, please feel free to reach out to Kayla Littleton, Director of Education.

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