

## ***Gender Choices Workshop Lesson Plan for 3rd-5th Graders***

Adapted from 24<sup>th</sup> Street Theatre (Los Angeles, California) in collaboration with Classics in the Classroom for *Princess Ten Ten and the Dark Skies*

### **20 minute Workshop for 15 children**

#### **ACTIVITY 1: CULTURAL MAPPING GAME**

The purpose of this game is to see where the students stand with these prompts. I've mixed "male" and "female" activities and "jobs" that both suit the play and the time. It will help the discussion about the play later.

#### **5min**

##### **"Things that you like"**

- Get group to stand up.
- *When I say "Go," I want those of you who like/participate in martial arts, kick boxing, karate and even boxing to go to the right.*
- *Those who would rather stay home and bake cookies or help mom with dinner, or if you love making breakfast for your parents on the weekend, you will go to the left.*
- *OK, go!*
- Acknowledge boy/girl ratio (regardless of the outcome, the discussion is valid).
- *Ok, come back.*
- *Now those who love fashion, fashion design; who love to look good; who love to go shopping; who love to get the latest pair of tennis shoes or the latest styles in clothing, you will go to the right, "you little fashionistas."*
- *Those who would rather stay home and read a book or write poetry will go to the left.*
- *Ok, go!*
- Acknowledge boy/girl ratio.
- Have them sit down.

#### **5 min**

##### **"Jobs/Careers that you might want"**

- *Now in this tableau of "courage" (demonstrate) when I say "go" you will get up and freeze into this pose if you want to be a fire fighter, police officer, or a soldier.*
- *In this "nurturing" tableau (demonstrate), you will get up and freeze if you want to be a veterinarian, gardener, nanny, caretaker or nurse.*
- *OK, go!*
- Acknowledge boy/girl ratio.
- Note: Having them in a circle might help them see each other's "jobs/tableau"

#### **5 min**

#### **ACTIVITY 2: DISCUSSION**

- *Have a seat.*

- Interview boys with “female” gender interests, and vice-versa.
- *What if I said you couldn't be a nurse, Frank? Or Maria, what I said only boys can be police officers/soldiers?*

**5 min**

**ACTIVITY 3: As it was before, so it is now...but you can be the change**

- *Well, there was a time when even just saying that out loud could get you in a lot of trouble. Patty wants to be a soldier, and female soldiers are just now going into combat. You think you'd make a good soldier? I do, too. Well kids, there was a time when your way of life was determined by your gender and your status. What's status? Today you can work hard and be just about anything you want to be. But 400 years ago that wasn't the case.*

Take Princess Ten Ten, for example, not only was she not allowed to do the thing she loved to do the most and wear the clothes she felt most comfortable in, she was bullied by her friends and sent away from home by her parents for trying to be her best Princess Ten Ten.

Hands up if you think that Princess Ten Ten should be allowed to learn what she wants to learn and wear what she wants to wear?

**Current Affairs**

We expect equality for our choices in the things we like to do, don't we? We expect that we should be able to play the sports we want to play, and learn the subjects we want to learn.

Equality is such a big word – who can tell me what it means? (equal, fair, the same)

Fair, yes, that is a good way to put it.

One thing we haven't talked about, though is clothes...it is so common to see girls wearing 'boy' clothes that most people don't even think about it if a girl wears jeans and a t-shirt.

Hands up if you think it is ok for a girl to wear boy clothes.

We don't as often see boys wearing 'girl' clothes, though do we? Why not? (laughed at, weird)

Hands up if you think it is fair that if girls can wear boy clothes without being laughed at, that boys should be able to wear girl clothes without being laughed at.