Video: Tara Ricasa
Theatre Artist/Educator

This worksheet was created as a part of Center Theatre Group's Theatre Artist Classroom Connections video series, accessible via CTGLA.org/ClassroomConnections.

Reflection Questions

- What is the one statement or piece of advice from this conversation that spoke to you the most, and why?
- Ricasa spoke about her family as a strong base of support for her as she began her career in the arts. Who, in your life, is YOUR base of support? Who, in your life, can depend on YOU for support?
- Ricasa and Ms. Woods mention that theatre training can give you skills that can apply to a range of jobs beyond the arts. What do you think you've learned in the theatre that could apply to things you do in the rest of your life?
- Ricasa speaks of a high school show that was very important to her. What is the project you have worked on that has impacted you the most, and why?
- Who in your life has "invited you to see the world in a different way?"

Learning Activity

Puppet Performance: Learners will bring in an object or select one from a variety provided by instructor. Learner will follow Ricasa's object exploration prompts, exploring the voice and movement possibilities for their object.

Learners will have four minutes to complete a free write from the perspective of the object. Possible prompts could be:

- "The best thing about being me is…."
- "Something you wouldn't know by looking at me is that…."
- "Something that I can't stand is…"

Learners will swap their writing with someone else in the group. The writing will become the script for the object. Learner will practice the writing in their object's voice, letting the object "perform" the speech as a monologue.

Learners will present a short puppet performance for their peers. Performance will include an entrance, an introduction, the monologue, and an exit.

Learners can build on their work by then using physicality to embody their object characters or can pair off to improvise scenes between their objects.