

ROAD TO LOVE

Objectives

- Students will connect to major themes in *Hadestown* like Trust vs Doubt and Love vs. Fear.
- Students will explore their creativity and embody characters and improvise dialogue inspired by the major themes in *Hadestown*.
- Students will be encouraged to be critical of the voices in the back of their minds.

Materials needed

Activity

In *Hadestown*, we meet THE FATES, who are three voices “always singing in the back of your mind.” We also meet ORPHEUS and EURYDICE who are married and madly in love with each other. In order for their love to survive, ORPHEUS has to walk the long road out of the Underworld and he has to trust that EURYDICE is right behind him. If ORPHEUS turns around to check for EURYDICE, he will lose her forever. ORPHEUS has to trust that their love is strong and powerful enough to lead them on the road out of the cold and dark world under the ground and into the bright and sunny world on top. But on the road, THE FATES start to sing in the back of ORPHEUS’ mind. “Where is she? Where is she now?” ORPHEUS starts to let doubt to sink in... he starts to question himself. “Who am I? Where do I think I’m going? Why am I all alone?” If ORPHEUS listens to these doubts, if he lets his fear take over, he will lose his love forever. Basically, ORPHEUS is on the road from fear to love.

- Divide the class into groups of three.
 1. Cast one person as a MORTAL HUMAN with a desire (a want, a wish, a dream, etc.) This desire can be kept private.
 2. Cast one person as the VOICE of FEAR.
 3. Cast one person as the VOICE of LOVE.
- Invite all the students cast as the voices to stand on opposite ends of the room. The VOICES OF FEAR will stand in a line on one side of the room and the VOICES OF LOVE on the other. The MORTAL HUMANS will stand in between the voices, starting closer to the VOICES of FEAR.
- The goal for the MORTAL HUMANS is to think about their desire and to get to the other side of the room where the VOICES of LOVE are standing.
- The goal for the VOICES of LOVE is to get the MORTAL HUMANS to take steps towards them by encouraging them and cheering them on and affirming them.
- The goal for the VOICES of FEAR is to keep the MORTAL HUMANS on their side by calling out doubts and insecurities and making them question themselves.

- Go back and forth between the two VOICES to see who is more successful at getting the MORTAL HUMANS to move.
- Feel free to reset and switch it up by recasting and playing different roles, time permitting.

Reflection/Discussion

- How successful were the VOICES of LOVE at getting the MORTAL HUMANS to move?
- How successful were the VOICES of FEAR at getting the MORTAL HUMANS to move?
- What did it feel like hearing what the VOICES of LOVE had to say?
- What did it feel like hearing what the VOICES of FEAR had to say?
- What did it feel like to play the VOICE of LOVE? Was it easy to do or was it challenging?
- What did it feel like to play the VOICE of FEAR? Was it easy to do or was it challenging?

In *Hadestown*, the character of HERMES says: "I'll tell you where the real road lies. Between your ears, behind your eyes." What voices do you have inside your head that hold you back? What voices do you have inside your head that push you forward?

While you watch the musical, pay attention to THE FATES and how they serve the storytelling as the voices in the back of the characters' minds. And pay attention to the roads these characters travel on. When they're heading down to *Hadestown*, "way down under the ground," into the cold and the dark, and when they're "living it up on top," going into the warmth and the light.