

SALTWORKS THEATRE COMPANY presents:

# ALEX REWRITES THE WRONGS



A play by Tom Long

TEACHER'S GUIDE

**ALEX REWRITES THE WRONGS** is a play about Alex, a young writer who strives to make the world a better place by creating stories that teach important lessons. Alex uses these stories to educate peers (and the audience) about the positive effects of practicing responsibility, compromise, and respect.

**THIS GUIDE**

- \* **Is designed for use before and after the play**
- \* **Provides an opportunity for dialogue and questions**
- \* **Is free to be photocopied**

RESPONSIBILITY

COMPROMISE

RESPECT



**Pre-Show Activities**

*What is a play?*

- \* Ask if anyone has ever seen a play. Work together to come up with a definition and discuss how plays are similar to and different from other mediums.
- \* Brainstorm a list of words associated with theater (actor, audience, lines, scene, places, etc.).
- \* Ask if anyone has ever performed in front of an audience. Come up with a list of behaviors that students would want an audience they were performing for to exhibit.
- \* Make some predictions about what a play called **ALEX REWRITES THE WRONGS** might be about.

*Character counts!*

- \* Have everyone think of a few of the people that they like to be around the most and then write down words that describe how those people treat others.
- \* Make a list of words that describe a good student, a good friend, a good parent, and a good teacher. What words show up on all of those lists?
- \* Create class definitions for responsibility, compromise, and respect. Come up with examples of each from books the class has read together.

**Saltworks Theatre Company:**  
**Believing that students can be positively changed through the power of live theater!**

Feel free to photocopy this guide.

## Post-Show Activities

### *Total Recall*

- \* Lead a discussion about what students have just seen.
  - \* What was your favorite part of the play? Why?
  - \* Who was your favorite character? Why?
  - \* Who was your least favorite character? Why?
  - \* Which of Alex's stories did you like the most? Why?
  - \* What do you think happens to the characters after the play?
- \* Have everyone draw their favorite scene from the play and share with the rest of the class. Display the pictures in chronological order to retell the story.

### *Responsibility, Compromise, and Respect*

- \* Create class definitions with examples for responsibility, compromise, and respect.
- \* Make a list of characters that both do and do not exhibit the character traits demonstrated in the play.
- \* Have students write about or draw a picture of a time that they were responsible, compromised, or showed respect.



### *Words Will Never Hurt Me*

- \* Have everyone draw and cut a large heart out of paper. Discuss the unkind things that were said to Becca/the hag in the play. For every unkind thing, have each person crumple their heart. Have everyone try to flatten their hearts out and discuss how the wrinkles and creases caused by mean words can't always be easily smoothed out.
- \* Draw and cut out a life-size silhouette of a child. Have each student think of a mean thing they have overheard and say it to the silhouette while they rip a piece off. After everyone has a piece, have them take turns apologizing and taping their piece back in place. Discuss how apologies partially mend but the damage is still done and hang the silhouette on the classroom wall as a reminder.

### *Rewrite the Wrongs*

- \* Write a story like one of Alex's that could teach someone about responsibility, compromise, or respect.
- \* Are there other words that you wish people at your school would learn? Write a story that teaches a lesson to help them learn those words.
- \* Can you think of a time that you saw something happening at school that you didn't think was very nice? Rewrite that scene so that it turns out the way you wished it would.

# GET IN TOUCH

Have your students connect with the Saltworks tour actors after the performance!

Send the actors your

- \* Questions
- \* Comments
- \* Pictures
- \* Poems
- \* Stories
- \* Ideas for new shows

They love hearing from students and will write back soon!

*Saltworks Tour Cast*  
*939 California Ave.*  
*Pittsburgh, PA 15202*



## Resources

**ALEX REWRITES THE WRONGS** is inspired by Sean Covey's book, *7 Habits of Happy Kids*, and can easily be tied into any The Leader In Me curriculum.

You can find descriptions of each of the 7 Habits, classroom posters, and student activity guides for Kindergarten through 6th grade at: [www.theleaderinme.org/resources/](http://www.theleaderinme.org/resources/)

Saltworks performs shows for K-12 audiences about all kinds of important issues, from manners to bullying and internet safety to substance abuse. Check out our facebook, twitter, and instagram pages for news and resources related to these issues not only for educators, but parents and students as well.



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