



# Tomás and the Library Lady

## Brave Little Company

## Performance Grades K-5

### ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

*Tomás and the Library Lady* is based on the book by Pat Mora, adapted for the stage by José Cruz González, and produced by Brave Little Company. Tomás and his family are migrant farm workers, and they make the long drive from Texas to Iowa every summer in search of work. Even Tomás and his younger brother have to help in the fields. Tomás has a big imagination and knows his Papa Grande's tall tales by heart – but he's terrified to return to school in Texas because even though he's smart, he doesn't understand English very well. That summer, Tomás discovers the library, a place that holds all kinds of adventures for him – and makes a friend, the Library Lady, who teaches him with patience and understanding. Set in the 1940's and based on the life of the writer and educator Tomás Rivera, *Tomás and the Library Lady* uses English and Spanish to tell the story of an unusual friendship that bridges languages, cultures, and generations.

### TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills):

Grade	LanguageArts/Reading	Theatre	Soc.Studies	<b>The Students Will:</b> * Understand and use new vocabulary. * Understand, make inferences, and draw conclusions about drama, fiction, characters, and theme, and provide textual evidence to support their thinking. * Write literary texts. * Interpret characters, using the voice and body expressively to create dramatizations. * Respond to and evaluate theatre and theatrical performances. * Research information using a variety of resources and create a written, oral or visual presentation with bibliographic citations.
K	K.5, K.6, K.8	K.2, K5	K.12, K.14	
1	1.6, 1.7, 1.9	1.2, 1.5	1.15, 1.17	
2	2.5, 2.6, 2.8, 2.9	2.2, 2.5	2.16, 2.18	
3	3.4, 3.5, 3.7, 3.8, 3.18	3.2, 3.5	3.13, 3.17	
4	4.2, 4.3, 4.5, 4.6, 4.16	4.2, 4.5	4.19, 4.21	
5	5.2, 5.3, 5.5, 5.6, 5.16	5.2, 5.5	5.22, 5.24	

### STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness):

Reading	Grades 3,4,5	Reporting Category 1	<b>The Students Will:</b> * Understand new vocabulary and use it when reading and writing. * Analyze, make inferences and draw conclusions about theme, genre, elements of drama and fiction and provide evidence from the text to support their understanding. * Use a flexible range of metacognitive reading skills to understand an author's message.
		Reporting Category 2 Figure 19	

### Academic Vocabulary:

Character	Theme	Conflict	Overcome
Scene	Script	Discrimination	Imagine
Story structure	Emotions	Nightmare	Seasons
Plot	Motivation	Librarian	Bilingual
Setting	Dialogue	Fear	

**CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS:**

**Before the residency:**

- Talk about stories that you have heard from your grandparents or other family members.
- Discuss who migrant workers are, what they do, and some of the difficulties they face.
- Pretend that you are going on a road trip and that you can only take **one** of your favorite possessions with you. What would it be and why?

**After the residency:**

- Talk about something that made you afraid and how you overcame your fear.
- Design a poster to inspire children and adults to read. Hang the posters in the hallways. \*\*
- Visit the school library and check out your favorite books. Then go on a field trip to the public library, explore the library and get a library card.

**Language Arts:**

- Work with a partner to create and act out a **Readers Theater** for the story *Tomás and the Library Lady*.

- Make a **Characters' Emotions Chart**:

Characters	Emotions that he/she felt during the play	How his/her feelings changed during the play	What happened in the play to make you think this ( <b>proof / evidence</b> )

- Work with a partner to figure out the **theme** -- what you learned about life from this play. Fill in the **Theme Chart** to help you decide:

Story	Plot – What happened in the story <i>Questions to Consider:</i>	Theme – What you learned about life from what happened in the story:
<i>Tomás and the Library Lady</i>	Who was involved? What was the conflict? What was the end result? Why does this happen?	

- Create characters and write stories together in small groups, then individually.

**Math:**

- Post a map of the U.S. Place a tack where Tomás' family starts driving and another tack at their destination. Connect the two tacks with a string. Measure the length of the string with a ruler and use the mileage conversion chart to calculate the actual distance. How many miles did they travel and how many hours did it take them to travel this distance? Show your work on paper and share your problem solving strategies with the class.
- Create original word problems using characters from the performance.

**Social Studies:**

- Research the history of migrant workers in the United States and about their difficult lives and the discrimination they encounter.
- Research the life of the real Tomás Rivera. In groups or partners, create a Venn diagram to compare and contrast the real life details from Tomás' Rivera's life to the details in the play.
- Research the route from Texas to Iowa. Draw a map on a piece of construction paper that leads Tomás from Texas to Iowa. Include roads and highways, towns, terrain, flowers and animal life that Tomás and his family may have seen along the way.

**Science:**

- Discuss the four seasons of the year and what causes the cycle of the seasons.
- Discuss the planting season and plant seeds in a paper cup to watch them sprout. Graph their growth over time on a chart.
- Draw pictures of a tree in each of the four seasons.

**Resources:****Stories to analyze:**

*Amelia's Road* by Linda Jacobs Altman

*Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez* by Kathleen Krull

**Related Websites:**

- Author Pat Mora: [www.patmora.com/ideas/#tomas](http://www.patmora.com/ideas/#tomas) \*
- Activities for *Tomás and the Library Lady*: [www.hfrp.org](http://www.hfrp.org) (\*\*Harvard Family Research Project)
- Seasons: [www.livescience.com/25202-seasons.html](http://www.livescience.com/25202-seasons.html)
- Migrant Farm Workers: <http://www.extension.org/pages/9960/migrant-farm-workers:-our-nations-invisible-population>
- Tomás Rivera: [www.learner.org/amerpass/unit12/authors-5.html](http://www.learner.org/amerpass/unit12/authors-5.html)
- How to Plant Seeds: [http://www.ehow.com/how\\_5078715\\_plant-seeds-cups.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_5078715_plant-seeds-cups.html)

**Related Smartboard Sites**

- Research Skill: Paraphrasing:  
<http://exchange.smarttech.com/details.html?id=c5e41c5e-993e-43c7-88f2-457c0b883293>
- Seasons of the Year:  
[http://exchange.smarttech.com/search.html?q=seasons&subject=Cross-curricular&subject=Science&grade=Kindergarten&grade=Grade+1&grade=Grade+2&grade=Grade+3&grade=Grade+4&grade=Grade+5&region=en\\_US](http://exchange.smarttech.com/search.html?q=seasons&subject=Cross-curricular&subject=Science&grade=Kindergarten&grade=Grade+1&grade=Grade+2&grade=Grade+3&grade=Grade+4&grade=Grade+5&region=en_US)
- Writing – Main Idea and Details:  
[http://exchange.smarttech.com/search.html?q=writing+a+play&subject=English+Language+Arts&subject=Science&grade=Kindergarten&grade=Grade+1&grade=Grade+2&grade=Grade+3&grade=Grade+4&grade=Grade+5&region=en\\_US](http://exchange.smarttech.com/search.html?q=writing+a+play&subject=English+Language+Arts&subject=Science&grade=Kindergarten&grade=Grade+1&grade=Grade+2&grade=Grade+3&grade=Grade+4&grade=Grade+5&region=en_US)
- Social Studies – Hispanic-Americans: Moving Forward - Activism:  
[http://exchange.smarttech.com/search.html?q=migrant+farm+work&subject=Social+Studies&grade=All+grades&region=en\\_US](http://exchange.smarttech.com/search.html?q=migrant+farm+work&subject=Social+Studies&grade=All+grades&region=en_US)

**ABOUT THE THEATRE COMPANY:**

Brave Little Company produces innovative theatre for everyone. They engage the audience by firing up their imaginations! Brave Little Company produces plays that embrace all of Houston's cultures and encourage multiple generations of families and friends to attend plays together. Founding Director Troy Scheid has over fifteen years of theatre education and production experience.