

**A LITTLE BIT OF BLUE  
BY LITTLE WING PUPPETS  
EDUCATION RESOURCES**



**SUGGESTED PRE-INCURSION ACTIVITIES**

Activity	Description
<p><b>Bunraku Puppetry - The Visible Puppeteer</b></p>	<p>The performance style of <i>A Little Bit of Blue</i> is based on Bunraku Puppetry. Bunraku is a traditional form of puppet theatre from Japan, a popular entertainment during the Edo Period (1603-1868). In Bunraku theatre, three puppeteers operate the one puppet on a table-height playboard. The puppeteers are visible as they manipulate the puppet. This technique has been adapted by contemporary theatre in productions such as <i>The Lion King</i> and <i>Warhorse</i>.</p> <p>Learn more about the origins of Bunraku Theatre with this educational resource for Year 3 &amp; 4 students, developed by the Asia Education Foundation at the University of Melbourne.</p> <p>Asia Education Foundation, University of Melbourne - Bunraku Puppetry Curriculum Resource  <a href="https://www.asiaeducation.edu.au/curriculum/the-arts/details/bunraku-puppetry">https://www.asiaeducation.edu.au/curriculum/the-arts/details/bunraku-puppetry</a></p>
<p><b>Detective Activities</b></p>	<p>To give students some context for the performance, begin with exploring the language and vocabulary associated with the Detective genre. These include: <i>investigation, suspect, case, evidence, clues</i>; as well as tools such as measuring instruments, magnifying glasses and fingerprinting.</p> <p><b>Detective Activities:</b></p> <p><b>What's in the box?</b>          At the beginning of the lesson, the teacher brings a box into class. The teacher places any object in the box, but students can't see what's inside. Next, the students investigate the contents by asking questions with yes or no answers. They develop their skills of reasoning and deduction. When they guess correctly, they get points or a prize.</p> <p><b>Fingerprinting game</b>          Ask students to look at the lines on their fingertips. Explain how they are a unique identifier and everyone's fingerprints are different. Explain how every time we touch something, we leave traces of our fingerprints behind. Ask each student to make two fingerprints with ink on two separate pieces of paper. When they are dry, mix them up, and ask students to examine them with magnifying glasses to find matching sets.</p>

## SUGGESTED POST-INCURSION ACTIVITIES

Activity	Description
<b>About Bowerbirds</b>	<p>The Australian Satin Bowerbird is a unique and fascinating creature. Satin Bowerbirds are found throughout Victoria. Are there any in your area? Learn more about the habits and life cycle here with these links:</p> <p>The Australia Museum - Animal factsheets, Satin Bowerbird  <a href="https://australian.museum/learn/animals/birds/satin-bowerbird/">https://australian.museum/learn/animals/birds/satin-bowerbird/</a></p> <p>BBC Earth - Sneaky Jewel-Thief Birds, 4mins  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihcHLbgaWbg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihcHLbgaWbg</a></p> <p>There's more than one species of Bowerbird, here's some background reading for teachers about different types of Bowerbirds:            The Nature Conservancy - Bowerbirds: Meet the Bird World's Kleptomaniac Love Architects By Justine E. Hausheer  <a href="https://blog.nature.org/2021/01/04/bowerbirds-meet-the-bird-worlds-kleptomaniac-love-architects/">https://blog.nature.org/2021/01/04/bowerbirds-meet-the-bird-worlds-kleptomaniac-love-architects/</a></p>
<b>Colouring in Comic Sheet</b>	<p>Here's a colouring in sheet that summarises the content of the show in comic format:  <a href="https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/g4r4euvkma8t2k5sqdr5h/Colouring-in-sheet-A-Little-Bit-of-Blue.pdf?dl=0&amp;rlkey=be5xh5sjom22tjxqeonwzzbj1">https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/g4r4euvkma8t2k5sqdr5h/Colouring-in-sheet-A-Little-Bit-of-Blue.pdf?dl=0&amp;rlkey=be5xh5sjom22tjxqeonwzzbj1</a></p>
<b>Bowerbird Paper Puppet</b>	<p>Here's an instruction sheet and pattern to make a simple Bowerbird puppet out of paper. The students can colour it in, cut it out and it has wings that flap!  <a href="https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/cca94fckuv9j22r5vos1v/h?dl=0&amp;rlkey=idkmory4dnnz59ctos52yg6ye">https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/cca94fckuv9j22r5vos1v/h?dl=0&amp;rlkey=idkmory4dnnz59ctos52yg6ye</a></p>
<b>Puppetry of Paper Video</b>	<p>An online workshop video by Little Wing Puppets that shows students how to make puppets out of paper and some techniques to help bring them to life. 12 mins  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPZ21PcibDM&amp;t=4s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPZ21PcibDM&amp;t=4s</a></p>
<b>Make a Bower</b>	<p>The male bowerbird makes intentional choices when selecting and placing objects to adorn his nest. He purposefully seeks out objects that are the colour blue, shiny or glittery objects and arranges them carefully. Like the bowerbird, carefully curate and create a Bower, in either the classroom or the playground, using sticks, dried grasses and found objects. Here's an example of one created by the community at MiRA in Marysville, VIC:  <a href="https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/rmc7bmxu7pcczx94q8ktr/Blue-2-By-Jeremy-Lavender.jpg?dl=0&amp;rlkey=8fgchsix3as7gz1l4nftvshv7">https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/rmc7bmxu7pcczx94q8ktr/Blue-2-By-Jeremy-Lavender.jpg?dl=0&amp;rlkey=8fgchsix3as7gz1l4nftvshv7</a></p>
<b>Birds, Beaks and Feathers - A</b>	<p>Birds provide an excellent medium for engaging the school community in Citizen Science. Birds are a superb learning vehicle for exploring and understanding biodiversity, and the students' context</p>

<b>Citizen Science Project</b>	<p>within it. As a result of participating in this program schools have installed nest boxes and bird baths; implemented no mow zones to encourage native grasses; planted native plants; and reformed the school's waste management practices. The program is a whole school approach to sustainability and includes a K – 6 curriculum resource. For more information:</p> <p><a href="chrome-extension://efaidnbnmnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.waterbirdtracker.org.au/docs/BeaksFeetandFeathers.pdf">chrome-extension://efaidnbnmnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.waterbirdtracker.org.au/docs/BeaksFeetandFeathers.pdf</a></p>
<b>Restorative Justice</b>	<p>The Bowerbird is stealing blue things from Mrs Mavis Hooley's home. This is undoubtedly wrong, but his reasons are that he is doing it for love, which leads Mrs Hooley to forgive him. Should the reasons that someone undertakes an unethical action matter?</p> <p>In the show the Bowerbird is forced to confront Mrs Hooley who has been adversely impacted by his theft. This moment was influenced by the concepts of Restorative justice. Restorative justice is about more than traditional notions of justice; it is about repairing harm, restoring relationships and ultimately, it is about strengthening those social bonds that make a society strong. The notion is that healing can take place on both sides when perpetrators can connect to and understand the impact on their victims.</p> <p>Students will witness this moment in a theatrical form, and use it as a springboard for discussion. Is stealing wrong? What is motivating the Bowerbird to steal? Does this justify his actions?</p> <p>Monash University has developed a useful resource for using restorative justice in the classroom, which could be used as ongoing practices to extend the impact of the show. Here's some examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Use non-blaming restorative questions when discussing any behaviour or issue with students. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What happened and what were you thinking at the time?</li> <li>○ What have you thought about since?</li> <li>○ Who has been affected by what happened? How do you think they've been affected?</li> <li>○ What about this has been the hardest for you?</li> <li>○ What do you think needs to be done to make things as right as possible?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Here's the link: Monash University, How to use restorative justice in your classroom and school by Kristin Reimer</p> <p><a href="https://www.monash.edu/education/teachspace/articles/how-to-use-restorative-justice-in-your-classroom-and-school">https://www.monash.edu/education/teachspace/articles/how-to-use-restorative-justice-in-your-classroom-and-school</a></p>

## **VICTORIAN CURRICULUM LINKS:**

### **Learning Area: Drama (VCADRE017),**

**Content Description:** Explore ideas for characters and situations through dramatic play (Foundation Level, Explore and Express Ideas)

Elaborations:

- taking part in purposeful dramatic play experimenting with dramatic forms such as mime and puppetry;
- using own experiences and observations as a basis for creating imaginary worlds and characters using available objects as props, responding to questions such as what voice and movement have you noticed in others' performances that could be used in their drama

Example of links:

During the show:

- The students will view a performance which is an excellent example of contemporary Bunraku-style puppet theatre. They will observe a visible puppeteer onstage, playing a character and taking part in the action. The performer changes her voice and movements to perform different characters.

Pre-show activity:

- *Bunraku Puppet Theatre*

Post- show activities:

- *Puppetry of Paper workshop video*
- *Bowerbird Paper Puppet*

### **Learning area: Science (VCSSU058)**

**Content Description:** Different living things have different life cycles and depend on each other and the environment to survive (Levels 3 and 4, Science Understanding, Biological sciences)

During the show:

- Students will learn about one of our native bird species, the Australian Satin Bowerbird, and discover the habits that help this species to survive. This will also be elaborated on in the post-show discussion.

Post-Show Activities:

- *About Bowerbirds*
- *Colouring-in Comic Sheet*
- *Make a Bower*
- *Beaks, Feet and Feathers - A Citizen Science Project*

### **Capability: Critical and Creative Thinking**

**Content Description:**

- Identify, describe and use different kinds of question stems to gather information and ideas (Foundation to Level 2 - VCCCTQ001)
- Identify and use 'If, then...' and 'what if...' reasoning (Levels 3 and 4 - VCCCTR016)

- Examine how different kinds of questions can be used to identify and clarify information, ideas and possibilities (Levels 5 and 6 - VCCCTQ021)
- Investigate common reasoning errors including contradiction and inconsistency, and the influence of context (VCCCTR024)

During the Show:

- Harry McGee is a detective, but not a very good one! The students will observe the Detective's flawed investigation techniques that lead him to false conclusions. Students of all ages love watching him flounder, get confused, and to be one step ahead of the one whose meant to be solving the crime.

Pre-show activity:

- Detective activities

### **Capability: Ethical Capability**

Content Description: Explore the meaning of right and wrong, good and bad, as concepts concerned with the outcomes of acts

- Explore the type of acts often considered right and those often considered wrong and the reasons why they are considered so (Foundation to Level 2, VCECU001)
- Explore the contested meaning of concepts including fairness and harm and how they can seem to differ in different situations (Levels 3 and 4, VCECU004)
- Explore how apparently wrong actions can sometimes lead to good outcomes and the reverse |(Levels 3 and 4 VCECD007)

During the show:

- The Bowerbird is a thief, which is wrong, but he is motivated by love. Should the reasons that someone undertakes an unethical action matter?The resolution to this problem is explored using the vehicle of Restorative justice. Students will witness this moment in a theatrical form, and use it as a springboard for discussion.

Post show Activity:

- *Restorative Justice*

### **More Resources:**

#### **Picture Books about Bowerbirds:**

"Bowerbird Blues" by Aura Parker, published by SCHOLASTIC AUSTRALIA  
ISBN: 9781761205637

"Count with Bowerbird Bill" by Melanie Raymond, Jo Pritchard (Illustrator)  
Published by Museum Victoria ISBN: 9781921833410

"The Bowerbird" by Julia Donaldson (Author), Catherine Rayner (Illustrator),  
Published by Macmillan Children's Books ISBN-10 : 1529092248

### **Examples of Contemporary Puppetry:**

The Muppets by Jim Henson link: <https://www.youtube.com/@MuppetsStudio>

The Lion King Stage Show by Disney, directed by Julie Taymor  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PApM8iQndTM>

Beep and Mort, ABC KIds, directed by Jacob Williams  
<https://iview.abc.net.au/show/beep-and-mort>