



# *Beyond Belief*

## *Study Guide*

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# Geordie's 2Play Tour



**Geordie Theatre is Montreal's leading English-language professional theatre for audiences of all ages, entertaining and engaging the imaginations of children and their families since 1980!**

This study guide was created as a tool for teachers to help introduce young students to the world of theatre, as well as engage them more deeply with the themes and concepts developed in *Beyond Belief*. The guide contains a synopsis, character and setting information, a summary of the themes and concepts at play, as well as discussion questions and activities that can be implemented in the classroom before and after the performance.

While listed in a suggested order, we invite teachers to adapt activities based on the needs of their classroom and curriculum. The activities include presentations and handouts that are class-ready for easy distribution to students. Additionally, most activities can be adapted to an online-learning platform. Corresponding cross-curricular and subject-specific competencies from the Quebec Education Plan (QEP) are indicated for each lesson plan.

Over the course of eight months, our 2Play tour travels to schools throughout Eastern Canada, from the Bruce Peninsula to the Magdalen Islands. The touring company has three actors and a tour manager, and is supported by our administrative team at our Montreal office.

Geordie Theatre is located on the unceded Indigenous lands of the Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) nation of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. Tiotià:ke (known as Montréal) has existed as a meeting place of many First Nation peoples, including but not limited to the Abenaki, Anishinaabeg (Algonquin), and the Huron-Wendat. We extend our deepest respect to the elders of these communities and to all Indigenous peoples who carry the history of this island's land and waters – caring for it and calling it home. We are honoured and privileged to share stories on this land.

# About the Show

*Nine-year-old Rowan is on a mission: to prove that dragons are real—and maybe, just maybe, save their older sister Abbey in the process. When Rowan discovers a mysterious egg on the beach, a whirlwind of adventure begins, and an unlikely friendship forms with Margot, a shy but brilliant classmate who knows everything about birds, books, and being different. Together, they embark on a quest full of imagination, danger, and deep emotional discovery. But when the line between fantasy and reality begins to blur, Rowan must confront a truth even harder to believe than dragons: the people we love can sometimes need help we don't know how to give. Funny, heartfelt, and brimming with childlike wonder, *Beyond Belief* tackles big questions with humour and empathy. It's a story about friendship, mental health, and what it means to hold hope when things feel uncertain. With dazzling theatricality and warmth, this play invites young audiences to imagine boldly, speak honestly, and believe in the impossible.*

## Characters



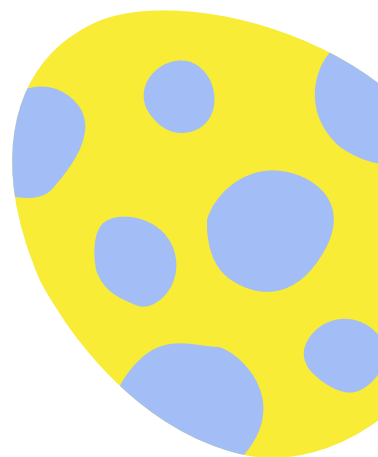
**Rowan**, our protagonist, a nine-year-old with a big imagination.  
**Played by Luigi Tiberio**



**Margot**, a shy kid who loves knowledge.  
**Played by Rae-Michelle Comodero**



Other Characters are played by **Vassilios Iliopoulos**:  
**Abbey**, Rowan's older sister; **Rowan's Mom and Dad**; **Grandma Gail**, Margot's Grandmother; **Mrs. Fitzsimmons**, B&B owner;  
**The Man with the Binoculars**, an "ornithologist";  
**The Expert**, a real ornithologist.



# About the Show

## Themes

- Friendship and Compassion
- Mental Health
- Curiosity and Adventure

## QEP Competencies

### Drama

- Perform and create dramatic work
- Appreciate dramatic work

### Visual Art

- Produce individual works in the visual arts

### English Language Arts

- Write self-expressive, narrative, and information-based texts
- Represent literacy in different media
- Use language to communicate and learn

### Science and Technology

- Explore the world of science and technology
- Communicate in the languages used in science and technology

### Physical Education

- Adopt a healthy, active lifestyle

## What does the science curriculum have to do with *Beyond Belief*?

Great question! Rowan and Margot are excellent scientists; they love to learn about the natural world and classify their findings. There is also a lot of scientific vocabulary used throughout the play (see **Words to Watch For**). We hope this is a unique opportunity for cross-curricular connection!

# Words to Watch Out For

Use our word search on page 14 to help students learn some of the vocabulary used in the show!

## B&B

Short for Bed & Breakfast, a small seaside auberge/inn run by Mrs. Fitzsimmons.

## Superlative

"*Superlative* is **another word for best**, which means I am also the most superlative reader in my grade-four class." – Margot

## Mental Illness

"In November, a lady came to our grade four class to talk about *wellness*. She told us about mental illness, which is **different from when your body is sick because instead it's your brain not working properly**." – Rowan

## Psychiatrist

A doctor who evaluates, diagnoses, and treats mental illness.

## Science

### Echolocation

A method of communication using sound frequencies. This is used by animals such as whales and bats.

### Tidepools

Small pockets of seawater leftover when the tide goes out, which often have small creatures like starfish.

### Ornithologist

A person who studies or is an expert on birds.

# Words to Watch Out For

## **Archaeologist**

A person who studies the past through excavation and artifacts.

## **Field Research**

Collecting information at the source, instead of a science laboratory.

## **Incubated**

Keeping eggs warm in order for them to hatch.

## **Symbiosis**

“When **two very different creatures work with each other to survive**. They don’t always get along. Sometimes they fight. But in the end, they always come back together.” – Grandma Gail

## **Rowan and Abbey’s Dragons**

### **Northern Leatherback Dactylus**

Dactylus is a latin word for additional joint(s), like a finger or toe.

### **Spike-Tailed Gargantuan Wurm**

Wurm is a word from German folklore meaning serpent-like.

### **Scaly Throated Wyvern:**

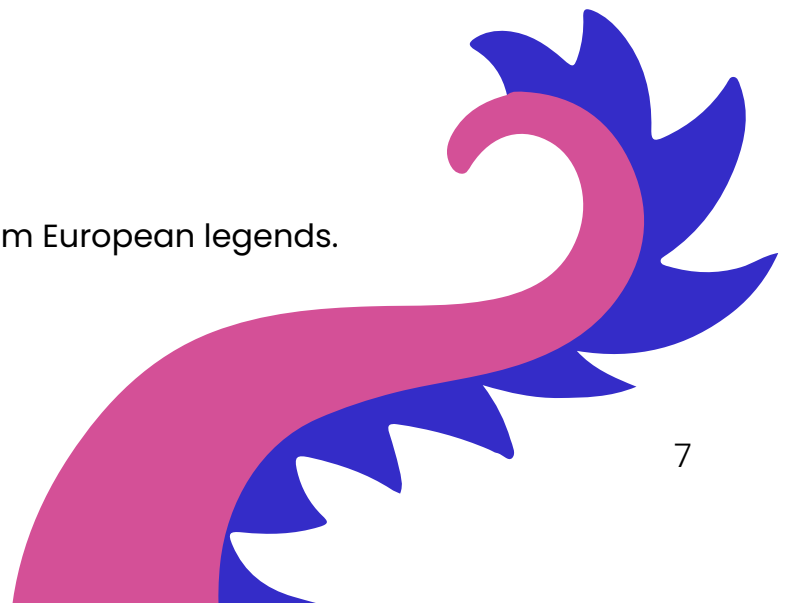
A wyvern has two legs and two wings.

### **Four Fanged Basilisk**

A basilisk is deadly and serpent-like, from European legends.

### **Poison Tail**

### **Snowbellied Lung Dragon**



# Before the Show

## Activity: Have You Seen My...

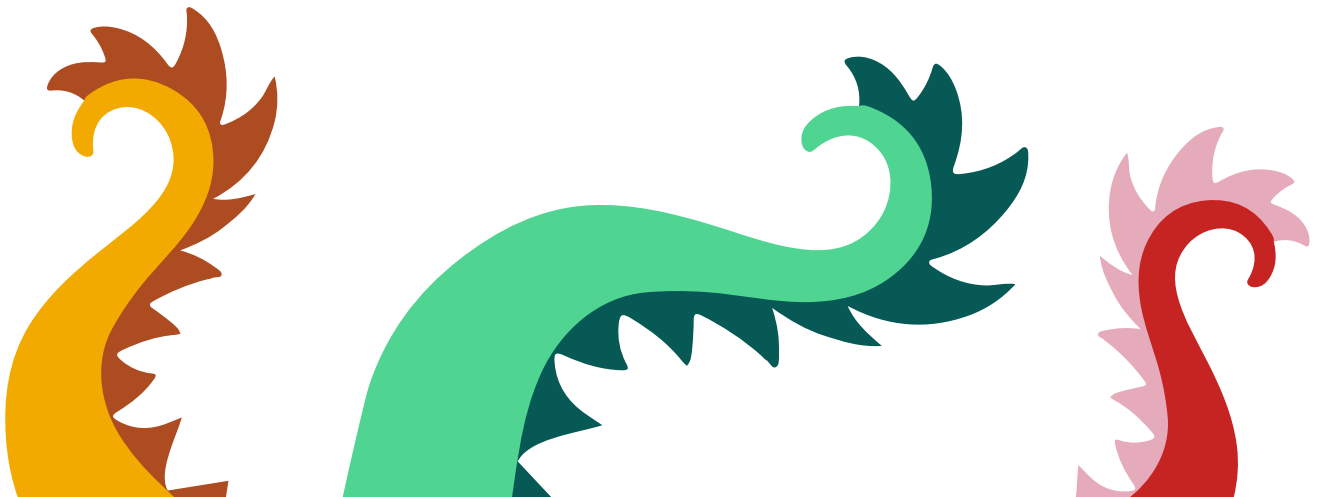
**Drama:** Perform and create dramatic work



In *Beyond Belief*, we will meet many more people than Rowan, their sister Abbey, and new friend Margot. This play is told with only three actors on stage! Vassilios will play many different people, from Margot's grandparent to the man with the binoculars. But how can we tell these characters apart from one another?

Take a story like ***I Want My Hat Back***: Bear meets many different animal characters. How can we change our body (slithering on the ground like a snake, or hopping like a rabbit), and voice to become each animal? Act it out together!

For older grades, or a highly creative classroom, have students create their own story where a character is looking for a special item. After choosing a setting (ex: a park), brainstorm different characters that could be in that location, making sure they are distinct from each other. Then, have the first character interact with everyone to try and find their special item. For a challenge, have students work in pairs or small groups so they have to play more than one character.





# Before the Show

## Activity: Dragon Eggs

**Art:** Produce individual works in the visual arts;

**Science:** Explore the world of science and technology,  
Communicate in the languages used in science and technology



Rowan finds a mysterious egg on the beach, which according to his book on dragons, belongs to a “Scaly Throated Wyvern.” Using the printable template on page 17, design your own special egg!

Using the collection of eggs that have been made, determine how the egg is taken care of and what kind of creature it grows into. What does it need to grow? Where does the creature live? How does it survive?

**Connecting to Art:** Design using a particular technique or style such as Batik, Sun Printing, or Mosaic.

**Connecting to Science:** Examine eggs of various animals, how they can be classified, and the hatching process.

Spoiler alert for teachers: We learn at the end of the play that Rowan has actually found a rare bird egg. You can use various bird eggs as visual inspiration for this activity!

**Connecting to Math:** Create a pattern that can be incorporated into your egg design.

# Before the Show

## Activity: Egg Hunt



Create a scavenger hunt for the group to find everyone's eggs, whether in your physical classroom space/school, or map of the different regions they can be found.

Clues can be used to work on...

### **Langue Secondaire/ELA**

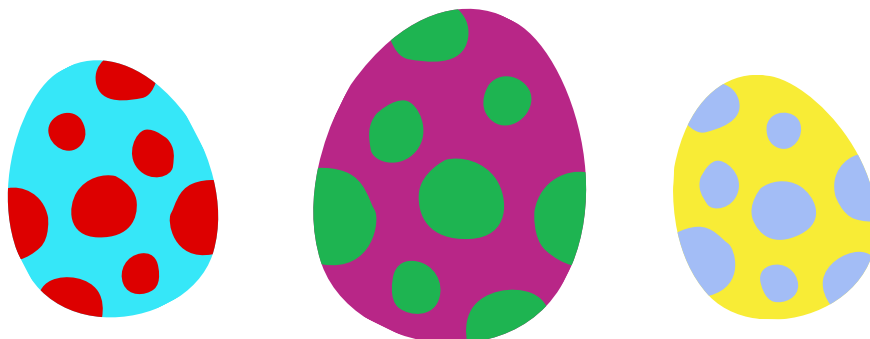
- Prepositions (example: My dragon egg is under my desk)
- Rhyme (example: My dragon egg, if you're able, can be found, under the table)
- Adjectives/Descriptive language (example: the egg is kept warm in a soft blanket)

### **Science**

- Describing habitats and the egg hatching process

### **Social Sciences**

- Using the conventions of a map



# After the Show

## Activity: Here There Be Dragons!

**Drama:** Perform and create dramatic work

**ELA:** Use language to communicate and learn



Recall the various dragons Rowan has mentioned in their dragon book. What makes them special? What qualities does a dragon have?

To build a dragon together, students can come into the performance space one by one and make a shape with their body. Have them freeze in their shape and declare what part of the dragon they are (“I am the horns on the dragon’s back!”). Students can join one by one until an entire dragon is created. Once the dragon is made, can it move? What kind of noise does it make?

Next, have someone in the group play the dragon expert, introducing and narrating the dragon’s behaviour as if they are a guide at the zoo or the narrator of one of Grandma Gail’s nature documentaries. Create a fun backstory for the dragon!



# After the Show

## Activity: Mental Health

**ELA:** Use language to communicate and learn,  
write self-expressive text

**Physical Education:** Adopt a healthy, active lifestyle



At the end of the play, we learn from Rowen's siblings that they haven't been feeling well and need to be away from home for a little while to receive more care and mental health support.

- **What does having a bad day feel like?**
- **What can we do when we're feeling sad?**
- **How can we help someone we love when they are feeling sad?**

It can be hard on our emotions when someone we love is going through a hard thing. As a class, **imagine Rowan is sending a care package to Abbey while she is in the hospital. What kind of things could Rowan put in it to help Abbey feel loved while she is away from home?** Draw a picture of the care package or a specific item you would include in it.

For older grades, brainstorm a letter Rowan could write to Abbey in the care package. What would be important to include in it? Then, write individually or as a class.

# After the Show

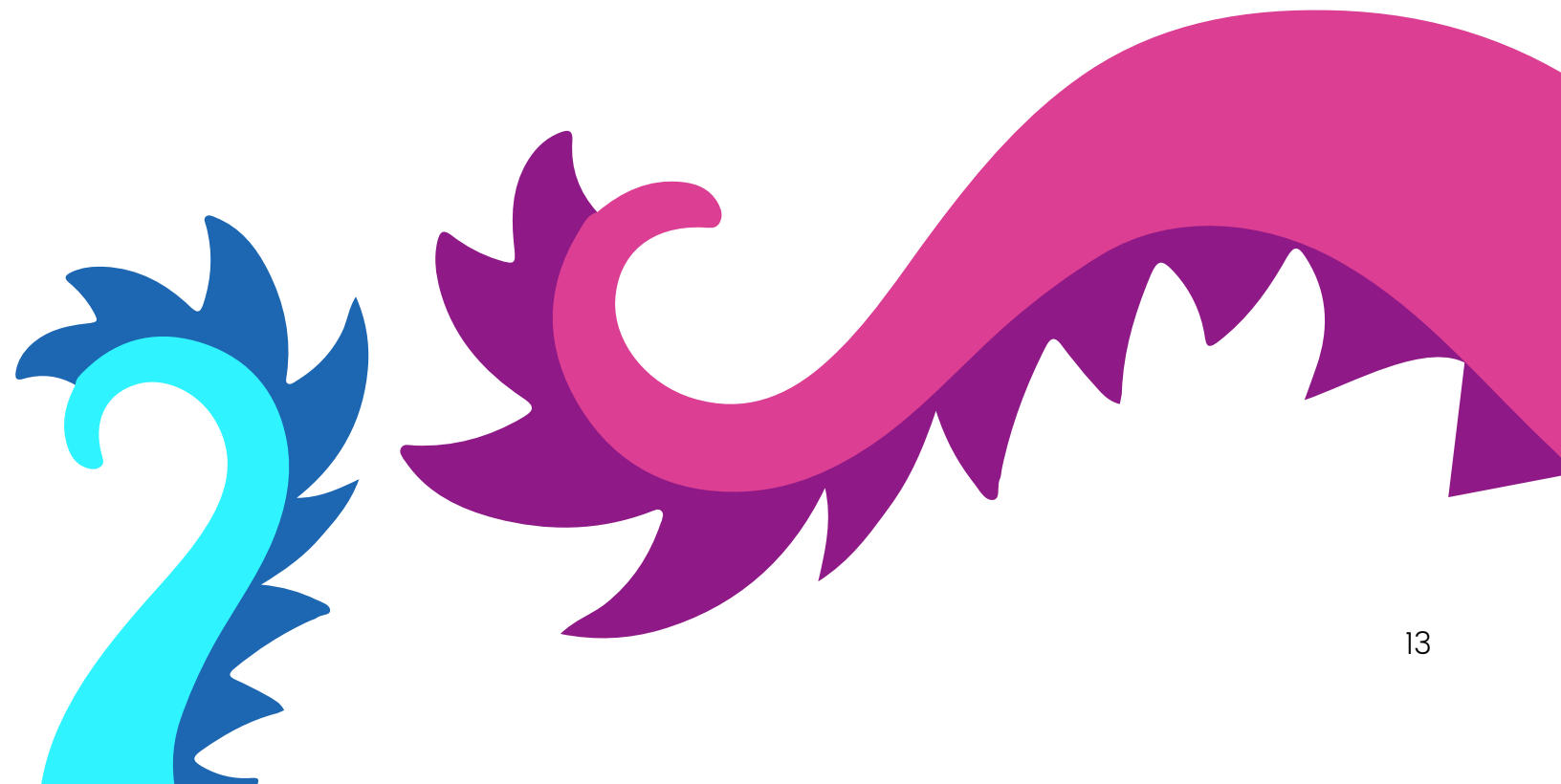
## Activity: Play Review

**Drama:** *Appreciate dramatic works*

**ELA:** *Write self-expressive, narrative, and information-based texts, represent literacy in different media, use language to communicate and learn*



Using the templates on pages 15 and 16, describe what you remember witnessing in the story. What did you see and hear? What would you tell someone about *Beyond Belief* if they had never heard about it before? The first page can be used to brainstorm different elements (set, costumes, sound, overall story), and the second can be for personal responses.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Beyond Belief

B	H	H	F	E	A	R	E	S	E	A	R	C	H	T	J	I	D
A	F	J	W	Y	V	E	R	N	M	Y	G	X	X	K	Y	N	G
S	S	O	J	E	C	H	O	L	O	C	A	T	I	O	N	C	D
I	Y	A	R	C	H	A	E	O	L	O	G	I	S	T	Z	U	R
L	M	P	D	N	R	B	D	D	J	A	J	B	J	L	H	B	A
I	B	E	N	S	U	P	E	R	L	A	T	I	V	E	V	A	G
S	I	H	U	M	U	Y	X	Z	A	N	Q	M	Y	A	T	T	O
K	O	A	N	F	W	Y	R	M	X	B	K	H	L	F	K	E	N
C	S	Y	F	E	H	Z	E	V	V	X	G	U	P	X	L	Y	W
K	I	K	P	U	J	A	V	K	Y	F	Z	U	B	G	J	Z	R
T	S	J	Z	O	R	N	I	T	H	O	L	O	G	I	S	T	T
W	K	T	I	D	E	P	O	O	L	S	M	O	C	Q	O	B	G

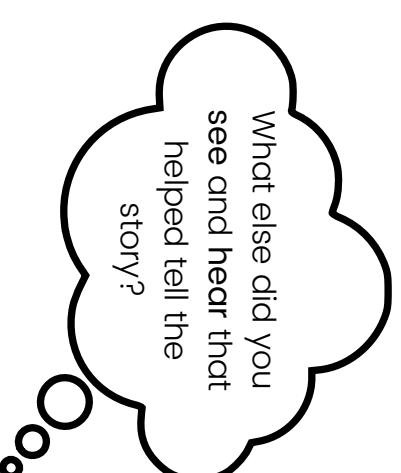
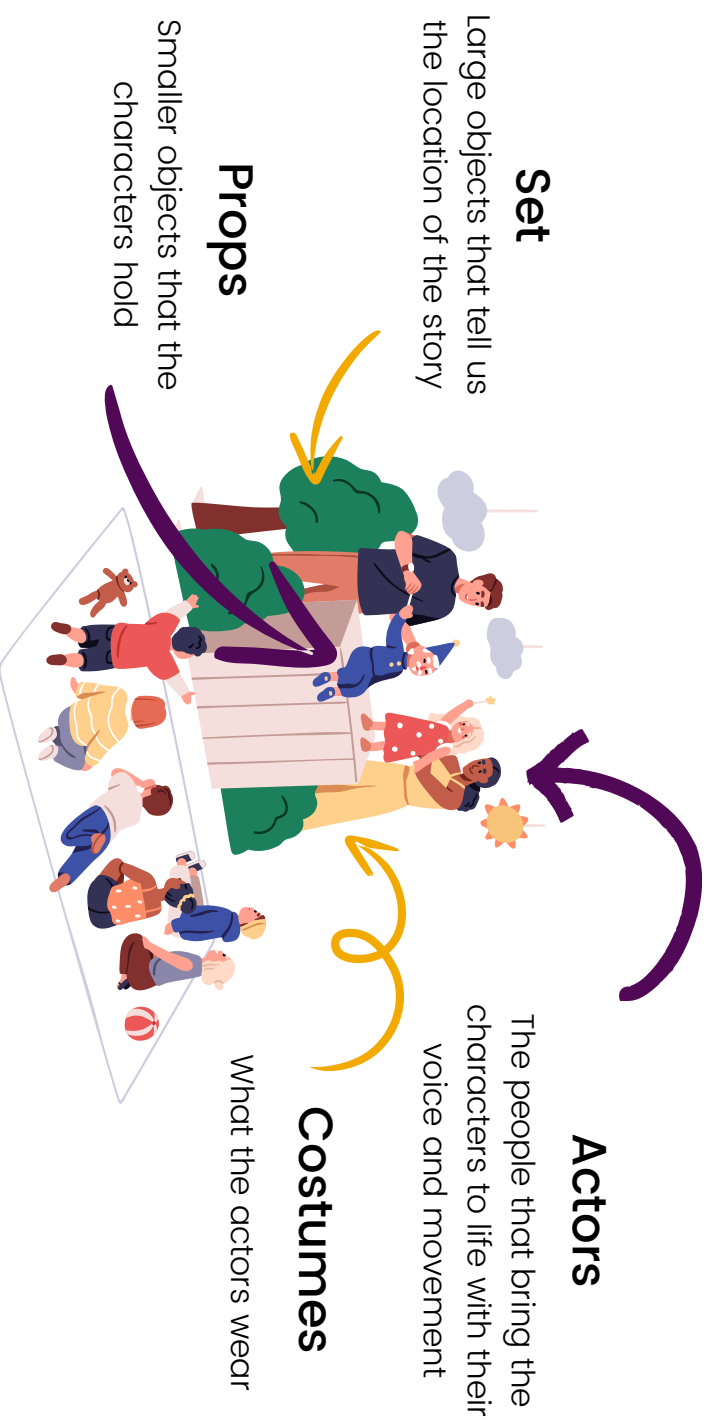
Find the following words in the puzzle.  
Words are hidden →, ↓, and ↘.

ORNITHOLOGIST  
ARCHAEOLOGIST  
ECHOLOCATION  
SUPERLATIVE  
TIDEPOLS

SYMBIOSIS  
INCUBATE  
RESEARCH  
BASILISK  
WYVERN

DRAGON  
WYRM

# What makes a play?



\_\_\_\_\_ 's theatre review



**Title of the Play:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Plot and Character**

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**My Review**

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**Draw**

A large, empty rounded rectangle with a black outline, intended for a drawing.

**Design**

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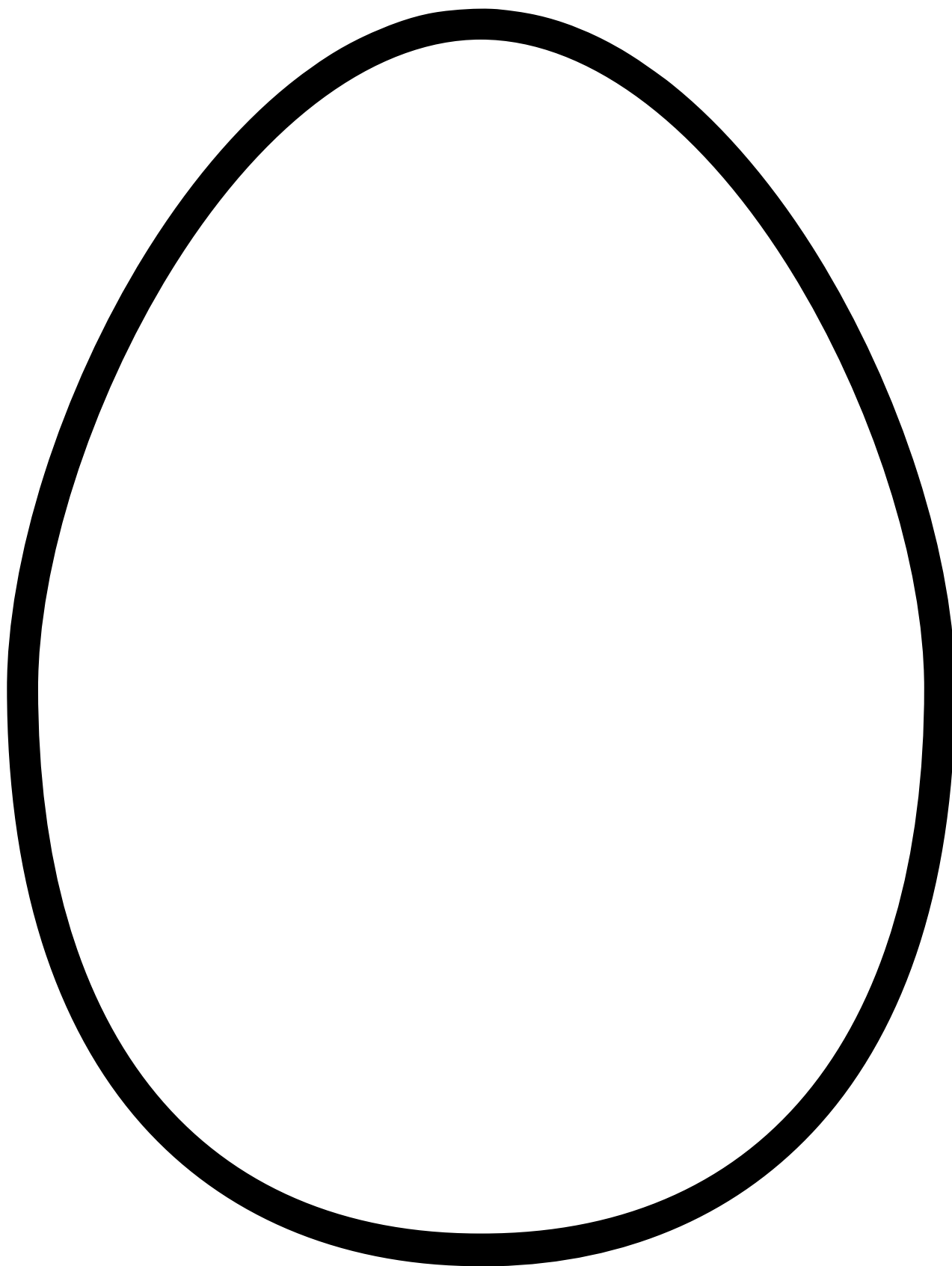
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One question I'd ask the actors or director is...

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# Egg Template



# Share with Geordie!

**Thanks for seeing the show!**  
**We'd love to hear your thoughts.**

## **Write a Review**

We value your feedback! Taking student reviews beyond the classroom helps us continue to ensure the shows we create are resonating with the youth of today.

## **Teacher Testimonials**

As a non-profit, we rely on arts and culture funding to ensure touring is accessible and sustainable. Help us continue Geordie's powerful youth impact by sharing why you bring the 2Play tour to your school!

## **Connect online**

Follow us on social media to hear the latest news about Geordie! If you're sharing photos and videos of the performance, be sure to tag @geordietheatre on Facebook and Instagram.



### **Mailing Address**

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