

IDEAS FOR PREPARATION AND CURRICULUM LINKS

Here are some ideas for activities you might like to explore with your class before the performance. They can be adapted according to the age and interests of the children, and are intended as starting points for discussion and creativity.

1. Aesop: Who was he?

What can you find out about Aesop and his life?

Where and when did he live? What do we know about him, and why have his stories survived for so many centuries?

Explore some of Aesop's best-known fables. Can you name any of them? What happens in the stories, and what can we learn from them?

2. Creative Work and Curriculum Links

English • Art • Drama • Music

Choose one of Aesop's Fables and read it together.

What happens in the story? Who are the characters? What do you think the moral of the story means?

Now why not create your own fable?

You could:

- Write your own short fable with a beginning, middle and end.
- Draw or paint the characters or create a new scene from the story.
- Act out the fable for your class.
- Create music or sounds to accompany the story. What might the different characters sound like? How could music create a particular mood or atmosphere?

And remember — your fable doesn't have to be about animals! What other characters could you use?

3. Meet the Composers

Music • History • Listening

The performance features music by a number of great composers, including Mozart, Beethoven, Bizet, Dvořák and Tchaikovsky.

What can you find out about them?

- When and where were they born?
- What was life like when they were growing up?
- Can you name any of their works?
- What instruments did they write for?
- Can you find and listen to one of their pieces?
- How would you describe the music? Is it fast or slow, loud or quiet, playful, dramatic, mysterious or peaceful?
- How are the composers' musical styles different?

Listen to a short piece of music and imagine which fable, character or scene it might accompany. What does the music make you imagine?