**Dramatic Learning: An Introduction**

**Child 1:** To be or not to be, that is the question. Whether tis nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune or to take arm against a sea of trouble.

**Child 2:** My good king and queen, since brevity is the soul of wit, I will be brief. Your noble son, Lord Hamlet, is mad: mad call I it; for, define true madness.

**Child 1:** Get thee to a nunnery, believe none of us. Go thy ways to a nunnery.

**Child 3:** Good night, sweet prince, and may flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.

**Douglas Love:** Welcome to the exciting, fantastic, inspiring, and always surprising endeavor of using theater in the classroom. When I was in school, I really didn’t connect to the information if it was just presented to me in the textbook or even by filling out a worksheet. But if my imagination was engaged, I felt that I retained that information so much better. So over the years, working with teachers, and creating television series for kids, and writing books, I realized the theater has the power to open doors to core academics.

Many plays in the series have been written to work in concert with accompanying lesson plans and activities tied to stake benchmarks as a catalyst for engaging students in the adventure of learning, encouraging further research and exploration, long after the classroom experience.

**Dr. David Almeida:** There's a lot of data that shows that using reader’s theater in a classroom raises reading scores. There’s lots of anecdotal and there’s lots of empirical evidence that using materials that, number one, engage kids and reading; number two, allow for repeated readings; number three, allows for things like visual imagery and sight word recognition skill-building that raise reading scores. And when you do reader’s theater with kids, they want to read the play 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 times. So repeated readings build sight word vocabulary, it builds your ability to be fluent and smooth, it builds your ability to comprehend what you’re reading with the visual imagery that reader’s theater allows.