

The ADVENTURES of Peacock, Chicken, and the Pony they Rode Upon

Classroom Resource Pack



Get ready for a fun and imaginative journey! This pack is designed to help students think creatively, reflect on important themes, and have a laugh along the way!



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The STORY

In this intergalactic musical adventure, singing sages guide the audience through the cosmic and comedic journey of a chicken, a conflicted pony, and a misunderstood peacock, all in search of egglightenment.

Beginning with the dawn of the universe, we follow a mystical chicken that escapes an oppressive battery farm in search of the ultimate soup recipe. Along the way, the group encounters a conflicted pony whose head and tail can't agree on whether to follow duty or joy, and a peacock searching for self-acceptance.

The characters find themselves on a mysterious road, battling existential crises, discovering the beauty in chaos, and questioning life's most profound mysteries—why did the chicken cross the road, and which came first, the chicken or the egg? With dazzling projections, puppetry, and a touch of Vegas glamour, the story evolves into a whirlwind of transformations. The friends cross roads—literally and metaphorically—destroying old rules and creating new paths.

Through encounters with each other and the universe, the trio embarks on a quest to find their true identities and purpose. Along the way, they battle fears, self-doubt, and the overwhelming vastness of the cosmos, ultimately realising that they are stronger together. With humour, absurdity, and uplifting musical numbers, this journey of self-discovery culminates in a glittering, starry finale that leaves both the characters and audience pondering the beauty of the unknown.



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About Second Echo Ensemble [SEE]

Second Echo Ensemble [SEE] is a contemporary arts organisation based in lutruwita/Tasmania. Our mission is to create Radical Equity through exceptional performance. We develop, make and present work that challenges assumptions, shakes up stereotypes and gives voice to untold stories.

At the heart of the organisation are the diverse artists who make and perform the work. Some live with disabilities, and some do not. Our work is not simply about access or equality. We are about new ways of thinking and creating. We are committed to reimagining how art is made, who can make it and where it happens. We challenge the status quo and unconscious bias. We listen. We learn from each other through our artistic practice.

We create art that redefines expectations of possibility and challenges assumptions we hold about ourselves and others. In 2025 SEE celebrates its 20th year.

Second Echo Ensemble is proudly supported by Arts Tasmania, Creative Australia and the Department of Social Services.

About Midnight Feast

Established in 2016, Midnight Feast is a transformative performance company that redefines artistic inclusivity. We champion artists with high support needs, providing them a platform to showcase their talents and embark on fulfilling professional journeys.

At Midnight Feast, we believe in the power of collaboration. We foster a vibrant community where artists of all abilities work together. Through various online and in-person workshops as well as full-scale productions, we cultivate a nurturing environment where everyone's voice is heard and celebrated.

Our workshops serve as a springboard for artistic development. Here, artists hone their skills, explore creative expression, and collaborate with peers. This collaborative spirit extends to our stage and film productions, which are not only a testament to the talent and dedication of our artists but also powerful statements about the transformative potential of inclusivity in the arts.

Midnight Feast is more than just a performance company; it's a worldwide movement that defies stereotypes and celebrates the boundlessness of creativity. We empower artists and inspire and create new audiences by providing opportunities and fostering a supportive community.



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About the making of the ADVENTURE

The ADVENTURES of Peacock, Chicken & the Pony they Rode Upon is featured in Second Echo Ensemble's [SEE] 20th Anniversary Season celebrating creativity, uniqueness, and the power of self-acceptance.

Developed in collaboration with Midnight Feast Theatre Company, resident company at NIDA [NSW], this vibrant production's inception is led by one of the founding SEE artists, David Montgomery. The cast features local and interstate artists including Archie-nominated Digby Webster and local songstress Nicole Farrow. Original songs created by the cast with musicians Mia Palencia and Matthew Fargher, storytelling mentorship and dramaturgical support from Tom Holloway, puppets and costumes by Roz Wren, lighting design by Jason James and multimedia by Cary Littlewood and Alex Moss. The production invites children and families into a world of humour, adventure, and discovery.

Supported by partners including Theatre Royal, NIDA and the Sydney Opera House, this work has evolved through creative residencies across Hobart, Sydney, Blue Mountains, and regional Tasmania.

This project was developed with the support of Creative Australia, Arts Tasmania, Strong And Resilient Community funding through the Department of Social Services, Moonah Arts Centre and the Performing Lines Tasmania 2023 Artist Residency.



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Writing and Art Activities

Who Am I? Exploring Identity with Paul and the Peacock

Objective: Help students understand that identity can be a mix of how we see ourselves and how others see us. This activity introduces the idea of gender identity, and the concept of "he/she/they" in a gentle, creative way.

Materials Needed: Paper, crayons/markers, name tag stickers

Discuss Identity: Begin by introducing two characters from *The Adventures of Peacock, Chicken, and the Pony They Rode Upon*. First, there's Paul the Chicken, who has a name that's usually given to males, but Paul is also a chicken who might not feel exactly like a traditional "he" or "she"—maybe they're discovering what feels right for them! Then there's the Peacock, who grew up with chickens and at first thought they were one. Later, when they learned they were a peacock, they imagined they'd have a colourful tail—only to find out that only male peacocks grow those famous, fancy feathers.

Ask students, "Have you ever felt like you might be more than just one thing?"

Reflect on Pronouns: Introduce the concept of pronouns. Explain that "he," "she," and "they" are words that people use to describe themselves and that anyone can choose a pronoun that feels right for them.

Identity Creation: Give each student a name tag and ask them to write down their name and any pronouns they might like (or they can write "he," "she," "they," or other pronouns if they feel comfortable). Encourage them to draw themselves as they imagine themselves, adding anything they feel represents who they are (like Paul wanting to fly or the peahen dreaming of a peacock's tail). This could include favourite colours, hobbies, or even dream outfits.

Share and Discuss: Ask students to share their drawings, if they're comfortable, and describe why they chose what they did. This is a chance to explore that identity isn't always one thing—it can be about many things we love and feel connected to. Discuss how identity can change or grow over time, and that it's okay to explore who we are.

Wrap-Up Discussion: Encourage students to think about how they feel about the pronouns they chose and explain that sometimes people might change theirs as they grow and learn more about themselves.

Remind them that just like the characters in the play, they're all on their own adventure to figure out who they are.



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Understanding Disability and Identity

Intro Discussion: Start by explaining that everyone has their own relationship with the word "disability," and at Second Echo Ensemble, we like to check in with each person on how they prefer to identify because how we feel about words and labels can change over time. Let students know that this is about understanding and respecting each person's unique feelings and experiences.

My Identity and Labels: Ask students to imagine their own words or labels they feel connected to—words like "artist," "dreamer," "helper," or any term they choose. Give students time to write down or draw a picture of their identity and what it means to them. They can include symbols, colours, or words that they feel represent them.

Sharing & Reflecting: Invite students to share their identity drawings, explaining what each part means. After each student shares, encourage classmates to ask questions or offer positive feedback, learning that everyone has a personal way of seeing themselves and that these ways are valuable and unique.

Self-Acceptance & Friendship

Encourage students to share what makes them unique by listing three things they love about themselves. Then, discuss how these qualities help them be a good friend. Students can draw self-portraits or gather objects from around the classroom that show these special qualities.

Make Your Perfect Soup Recipe

Just like each character has unique traits, have students design their "perfect soup" recipe. Choose ingredients that represent their favourite flavours, or invent an imaginative combination like "stardust noodles" or "moon veggies" for a space theme. Write down their ingredients and share with the class.



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Art Activities

Build the Ultimate Adventure Backpack

What would students pack for an epic adventure? Have them draw their "ultimate adventure backpack" and list items inside. Each item can be useful, fun, or just plain imaginative.

Design an Adventure Outfit

Imagine Pony on a journey through space. Have students design the perfect interstellar (or desert) outfit. What colours and accessories would they have? You can draw or make it.

Make Your Own Binoculars

Every adventure needs a great view. Using two empty toilet paper rolls, students can make their own pair of binoculars. Decorate the rolls with colourful paper, stickers, or markers, then tape or glue them together. A piece of string makes a strap, and they'll be all set to explore like Peacock, Chicken, and Pony.



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Movement Activities

Peacock Parade Dance-Off

Activity: Have students move around the room like a proud peacock, showing off their colourful “feathers” (imaginary or using scarves or fabric). Encourage them to make up their own peacock strut dance moves.

Music Tip: Play some upbeat music for students to strut and dance to, and have a mini dance-off where each student shows off their favourite move.

“Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road?” Song & Moves

Activity: Teach a fun, call-and-response song where students make up different reasons why the chicken crossed the road. After each response, they make a “chicken crossing” move, like flapping wings or hopping side-to-side.

Movement Idea: With each new answer, students can change the way they move across the room to match the answer, e.g., “to do the chicken dance” (dancing), “to go on an adventure” (jumping), etc.

Pony Gallop Adventure Relay

Activity: Create a relay where students “gallop” like ponies from one end of the room to the other. Each student has a “backpack” (pretend or small tote) and has to gather “supplies” (objects around the room) that they’d need for an adventure.

Song Tip: Play a fun adventure-themed song in the background, like the “Indiana Jones” theme, to get everyone in the mood for exploring.

Each activity can spark creativity, build physical coordination, and encourage storytelling—all while having fun! 🐔🐦🐎



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Maths Activities

Galactic Soup Fractions

Skills: Fractions, decimals, and geometry.

How It Works: To keep fueled up for their adventure, Peacock, Chicken, and Pony decide to make a big pot of "Galactic Soup"! Each student creates a recipe with various ingredients, representing each part as a fraction of the whole (e.g., $\frac{1}{4}$ carrots, $\frac{1}{8}$ onions, $\frac{1}{2}$ broth). Then, they can practise adding the fractions to make sure the soup ingredients equal a full pot!

Learning Benefits: This activity lets students practise fractions and addition in a fun, food-based context, inspired by the characters' journey.

Space Mileage Tracker

Skills: Addition, subtraction, and multiplication.

How It Works: Peacock, Chicken, and Pony are travelling from one star to another! Each "star" or location has a specific distance from the next. Create a list of different space "destinations" and their distances (e.g., 200 km to Saturn, 400 km to Mars). Students can calculate the total mileage travelled by adding or multiplying distances to see how far the trio has travelled altogether.

Learning Benefits: Reinforces basic operations and helps students practise adding and multiplying distances, creating connections between maths and storytelling.

Desert Scavenger Hunt Calculations

Skills: Measurement, geometry, and multiplication.

How It Works: The team is crossing a vast Australian desert and encounters different items to measure, just like in a scavenger hunt. Set up "clues" around the classroom with different objects representing things they might find in the desert, such as water bottles (for measuring volume) or rocks (for weight). Have students measure the objects or calculate areas for imaginary desert oasis stops!

Learning Benefits: This activity strengthens skills in measurement and multiplication, connecting maths to adventure settings from the play.



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Reading and Research Activities

Exploring Saturn's Rings and Moons

Objective: Students research Saturn's rings, moons, and unique features, diving into what makes the planet so fascinating for an intergalactic adventure!

Activity: Students can read about Saturn's different moons (like Titan and Enceladus) and how they're unique from each other. Create a "Galactic Guide" where they write a few sentences or draw each moon and label it with fun facts.

Resources: NASA's Solar System Exploration website or an age-appropriate book on planets.

Discovering the Australian Outback

Objective: Help students learn about the Australian desert, focusing on its wildlife, environment, and survival challenges—just like the challenges our characters face.

Activity: Students read about animals that live in the Australian Outback (like kangaroos, dingoes, and emus) and research how these animals survive in such a dry landscape. They can make a "Survival Guide" listing one fact for each animal and draw what they'd bring to survive in the Outback.

Resources: National Geographic Kids, or a book on Australian ecosystems

Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road? Joke Writing

Objective: Improve literacy, creativity, and comprehension through joke writing connected to the show's chicken character.

Activity: Start with classic "Why did the chicken cross the road?" jokes. Then, students brainstorm their own funny or creative answers, connecting the chicken's journey to the show. Encourage them to make jokes about other characters (like the Peacock or Pony) and their travel adventures. See the end of this pack for some silly chicken joke ideas. 🐔🐔

Resources: Students can find examples online or brainstorm together for inspiration.



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Science Activities

In *The Adventures of Peacock, Chicken, and the Pony They Rode Upon*, the characters find themselves swept up in an amazing whirlpool of soup and, later, a swirling desert sandstorm! Just like them, we're going to explore how whirlpools form and the science behind swirling water. So get ready for an experiment that lets you create your own mini whirlpool, just like in the story!

Whirlpool in a Bottle

Objective: Learn how whirlpools are created by observing water movement, creating a mini-whirlpool, and understanding the science behind this natural phenomenon.

Materials Needed:

- 2 clear plastic bottles (1-litre size works well)
- Duct tape or a bottle connector (found at science stores or online)
- Water
- Food colouring (optional)
- Glitter or small plastic beads (optional for added visual effect)

Instructions:

Prepare the Bottles: Fill one of the plastic bottles about 3/4 full with water. Add a few drops of food colouring to make the water easier to see. Add a small pinch of glitter or beads to enhance the whirlpool effect.

Connect the Bottles: Place the empty bottle on top of the water-filled bottle, neck to neck. Securely tape the two bottles together with duct tape (or use a bottle connector if available).

Create the Whirlpool: Holding the bottles firmly, quickly flip them over so the water-filled bottle is on top. Swirl the top bottle in a circular motion a few times and observe as the water begins to spin, forming a whirlpool as it moves into the lower bottle.

Observe and Discuss:

Watch how the water spirals downward and creates a vortex, similar to how a whirlpool forms in rivers, oceans, or even a draining bathtub.

Explain how the swirling motion creates a low-pressure centre, pulling the water into a spiral. This effect can be seen in nature, where currents in water flow at different speeds and directions.



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Questions for Reflection:

- What did you notice about the speed of the water when creating the whirlpool?
- How did adding glitter or beads help you see the movement of water?
- Where might you see whirlpools in nature, and how do they form in real life?

Fun Facts

Starry Nights: If you look up on a clear, dark night in Australia, you can see the dense band of stars in the Milky Way with the naked eye, especially in remote areas like the outback or the coast.

Billions of Stars: The Milky Way has up to 400 billion stars, but our Sun is just one of them. It takes the Sun about 225 million years to orbit the Milky Way once.

Saturn: Saturn is surrounded by 83 moons and stunning rings made of ice and rock. Imagine what adventures await there!

Australian Desert: Though one of the driest places, it's home to unique plants and animals that have adapted to extreme heat. What if Peacock, Chicken, and Pony met one on their journey

These amazing places are filled with adventure and discovery, just like the journey of Peacock, Chicken, and Pony! 🐔🐓🐎



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Silly Chicken Jokes

Why did the **chicken** cross the road? Try coming up with your own jokes! Here are some to start:

Why did the **chicken** cross the playground? To get to the other slide!

Why did the **chicken** join the band? Because it had the drum sticks!

Let students create their own, then share for a good laugh.

Let this pack inspire creativity, laughter, and meaningful discussions about being true to oneself, valuing friendships, and looking out for the planet. Here's to a fantastic adventure with Peacock, Chicken, and Pony!



EVERY STORY COUNTS



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