

## The Search for Delicious: What is Delicious?

by Maria McConville

People can get worked up and even angry over, what seems like, the silliest things. In Natalie Babbitt's *The Search for Delicious*, the kingdom is on the brink of civil war over deciding the definition of the word Delicious. Seems pretty silly to me, but conflict over the simplest things happens every day. With these activities, students will sharpen their debate and compromise skills...something we might all need to review!



## THE SEARCH FOR DELICIOUS

a play with music by  
MARK FRATTAROLI

adapted from the book by  
NATALIE BABBITT

### **MATERIALS**

CHART PAPER, MARKERS, A SENSE OF HUMOR

### **ACTIVITY 1: LET'S MAKE A LIST!**

What are silly things people fight over? Now is the time for everyone in the cast to offer ideas and throw them up on Chart paper. What are the topics that your community argues over? Fights you see on local news? Arguments that happen at the dinner table? List them up on the chart paper. These arguments or discussions should be over topics that, at first glance, seem pretty simple.

Examples: Back seat driver telling the driver what to do.

Family members battling over the temperature in the room and what temperature to keep the heat at.

Where a fence should go on a piece of property.

Which ice cream flavor is the best.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- \*Why do you think people are so passionate about these topics?
- \*Do you think they are worth arguing over?
- \*What are you willing to do to win your argument?

## **ACTIVITY 2: Young, Smart People...Solving Problems**

First break up the cast up into 3-4 groups. Assign a topic that was listed on the chart paper to each group. Each group then has to come up with a solution or compromise for the argument. Remember, we all agreed these are silly things to fight over, so have fun coming up with solutions. Create a short presentation sharing your solution with the rest of the cast.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- \*Was it difficult to arrive at a solution?
- \*How does it feel to compromise?

## **ACTIVITY 3: Present Your Plan**

Each group will take a turn presenting their solution or compromise to the topic they were assigned. They can share improvisations of the argument and of the solution. Groups can give examples of how to apply their recommendations. Students can even devise a presentation that is similar to a commercial format.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- \*How might you apply this to your life?
- \*Did any of these presentations change your mind?
- \*Could this have worked with the characters in *The Search For Delicious*?

Have fun! If you would like to share your take on this lesson with us, e-mail [Maria@yourstagepartners.com](mailto:Maria@yourstagepartners.com)

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**Maria McConville** has been a NYC Public School teaching artist since 2005. In the past she has worked with the Theatre Development Fund, LeAP! Onstage, and Periwinkle Theater for Youth, and as a Shakespeare and Playwriting teaching artist with Theatre For A New Audience. Her students have performed and adapted the work of Shakespeare, written their own plays, devised ensemble performance pieces, sang and danced in musical productions, and performed their peers work on a Broadway stage. Growing up in New York, Maria attended LaGuardia High School of Performing Arts for Drama, and recently adjudicated the auditions for incoming students. In addition to being Stage Partners' Education Director, Maria is also a playwright; her published plays include “#Censored” and “#Viral” (Stage Partners) and “To Date or Not to Date” (Playscripts).

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