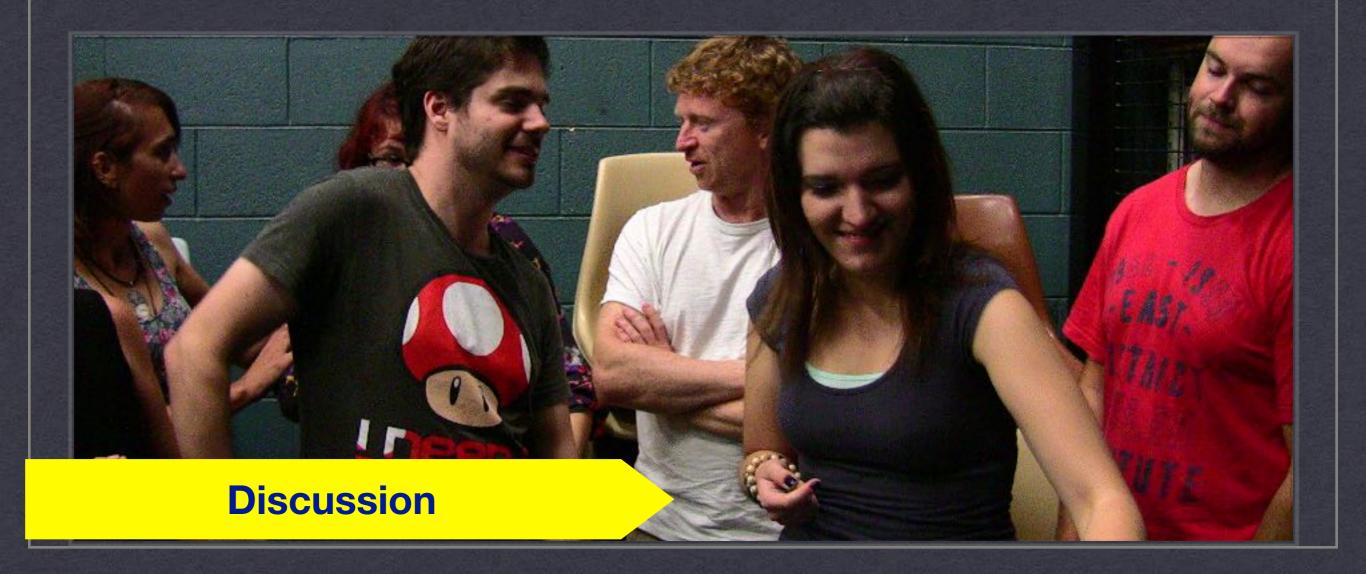
# EXPLORING SCIENCE THROUGH DRAMA

WORKSHOP
DRAMA AND SCIENCE: HOW
DRAMA CAN ENGAGE SCIENCE
STUDENTS IN THE HUMAN
DIMENSIONS OF SCIENCE
FROM TIDDALIK THE GIANT
FROG TO BRECHT'S GALILEO

ROBIN PASCOE
MURDOCH UNIVERSITY

SDEA Theatre Arts Conference 2015 Standing Still:Still Standing 26 June – 28 June 2015, Singapore

# WHAT IS SCIENCE?



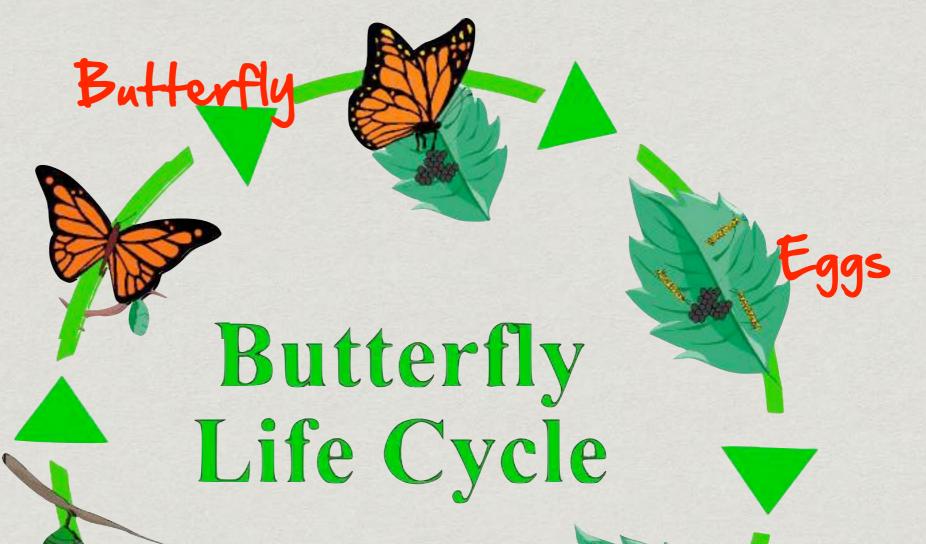
# Warming up

- \* Stretching
- \* Humming
  - \* Resonance scan
- \* Leading with different parts of body
- \* Circle
  - \* Passing claps
  - \* Passing movements
  - \* Passing sounds
  - \* The rain storm



What is the Science in these warm ups?

\* The life cycle of a butterfly



emerging from chrysalis

> Pupa Chrysalis

Caterpillar

- \* The life cycle of a butterfly
  - \* using your hands
  - \* working as a group

emerging from chrysalis

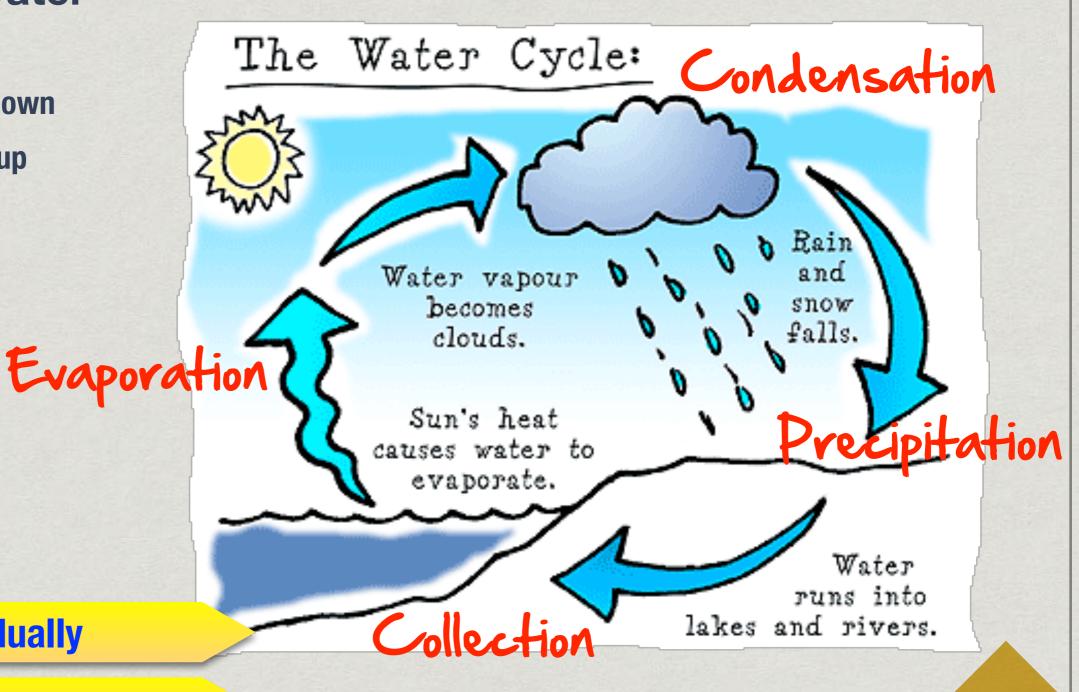
**Embodiment** 

**Individually** 

As a group of 4



- \* The water cycle
  - \* on your own
  - \* In a group



**Individually** 

**Whole group Movement** 

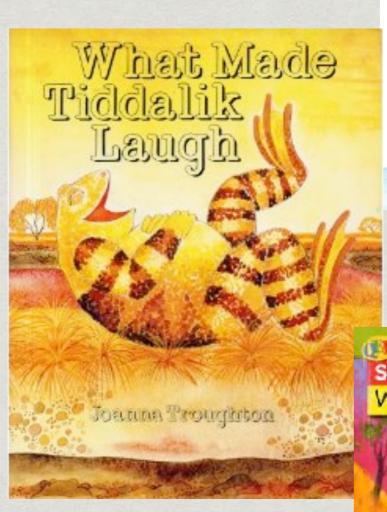
\* Opposites attract

opposite charges attract whole class activity

like charges repel

**Embodiment for conceptual understanding** 

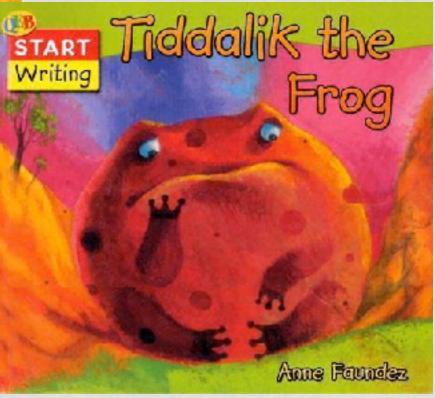
Moving from simple concept to more complex scientific explorations through story



#### Tiddalik The Flood Maker

A Sory from the Guna people

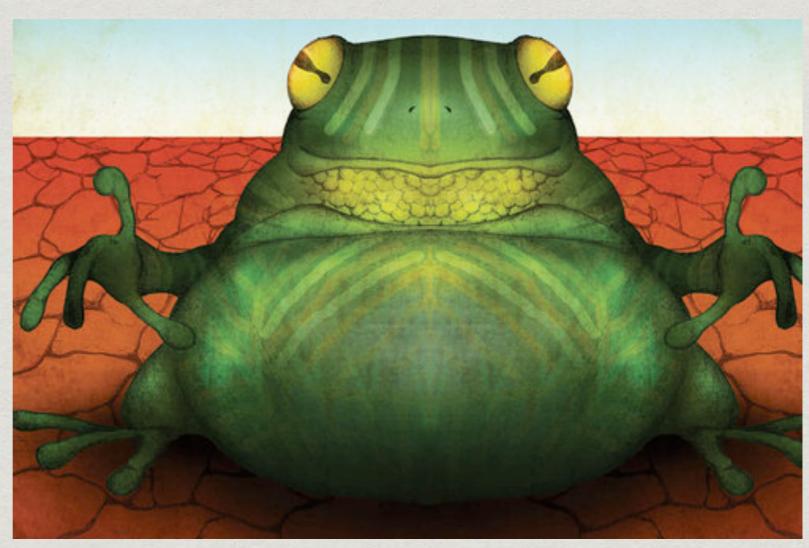




In the Aboriginal dreamtime there lived a giant frog. Some called him Tiddalik. Each day he hopped to the billabong to drink the water.

**Narration** 

**Questions** 



http://ilbijerri.com.au/static/files/assets/17fb0597/Tiddalik\_810x540\_show.jpg?1363223523

Who are aboriginal people?

What is the dream time?

Why tell stories about animals?

And Tiddalik would drink side by side with the other animals.

Shall we move to the water like a giant frog?

Let's make sounds like a frog

Let's imagine we are drinking the water

http://www2.alphabetstreet.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/Fullscreen-capture-12122011-92735-PM-1.jpg

**Narration** 

**Movement/enactment** 

But one day
Tiddalik
decided to
drink all the
water.
ALL the water.
And Tiddalik
was so full of
water that he

http://sphotos-a.xx.fbcdn.net/hphotos-prn1/p206x206/21292\_10152749838815338\_1807694788\_n.jpg

Should Tiddalik drink all the water?

What would happen to the other animals if Tiddalik drinks it all

How could we stop Tiddalik drinking all the water?

**Narration** 

went to sleep

Questioning

When the other animals came to drink, they found that there was no water for them.



Where has the water gone?

They saw that
Tiddalik was
asleep and
grown huge
with water

http://www.rainboweducational.com.au/86-192-large/what-made-tiddalik-laugh-a-dreamtime-story.jpg

**Meeting** 

Who are the animals?

When the other animals came to drink, they found that there was no water for them.



http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-mH5bTGBgVFQ/Tyi2uz3AuUI/AAAAAAAADn0/o9Vq7papw8l/s1600/DSCF2784.JPG

Where has the water gone?

Is it fair that Tiddalik has drunk all the water?

What should we do about Tiddalik?

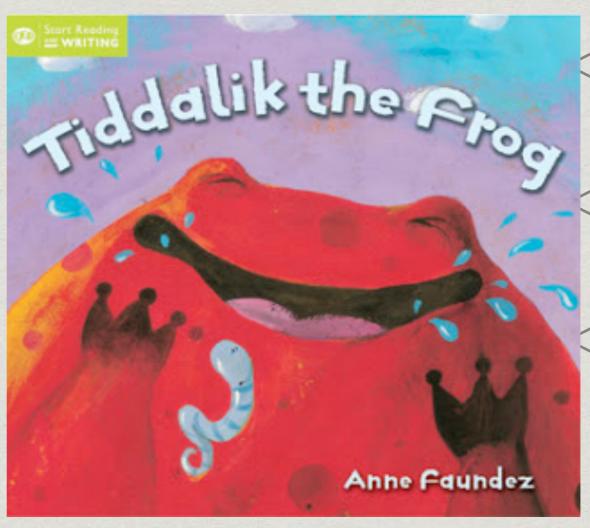
Tiddalik give us back out water

But Tiddalik was too full to reply

**Improvisation** 

"I know," said one of them.

"We shall tell jokes and make Tiddalik laugh."
The others asked why.
"If we make Tiddalik laugh then he cannot keep all that water and it will flow back into the billabong."



Tell a joke to make some one laugh

Why do jokes make us laugh?

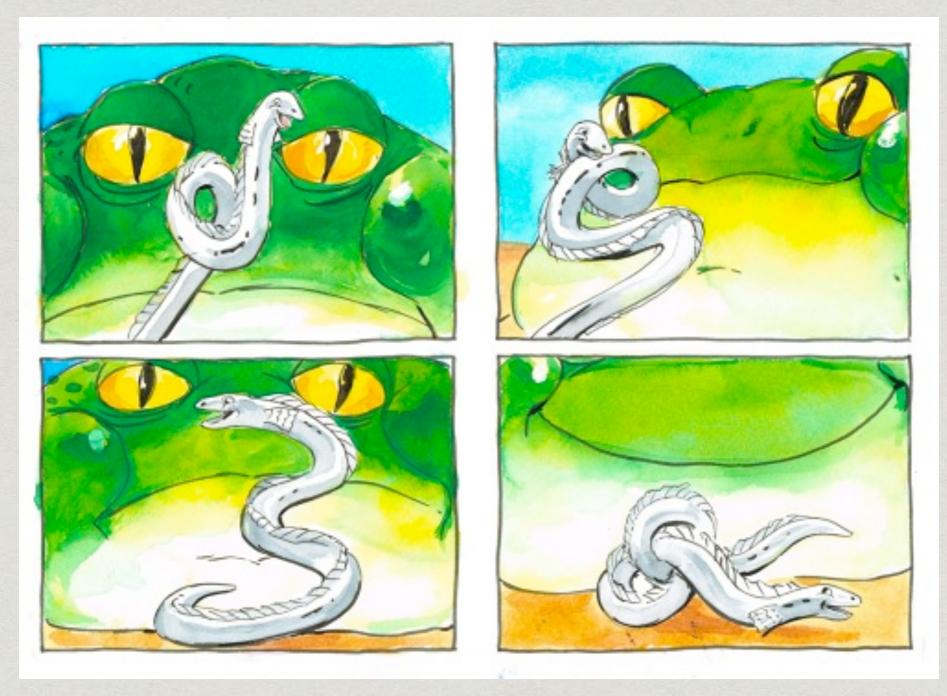
Should we play tricks on people?

http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-1QTmGSS6S3Q/Tagodk75lzl/AAAAAAAAAQ/3\_E08CAHAYA/s320/tiddalikthefrog.jpg

**Narration** 

**Joke telling** 





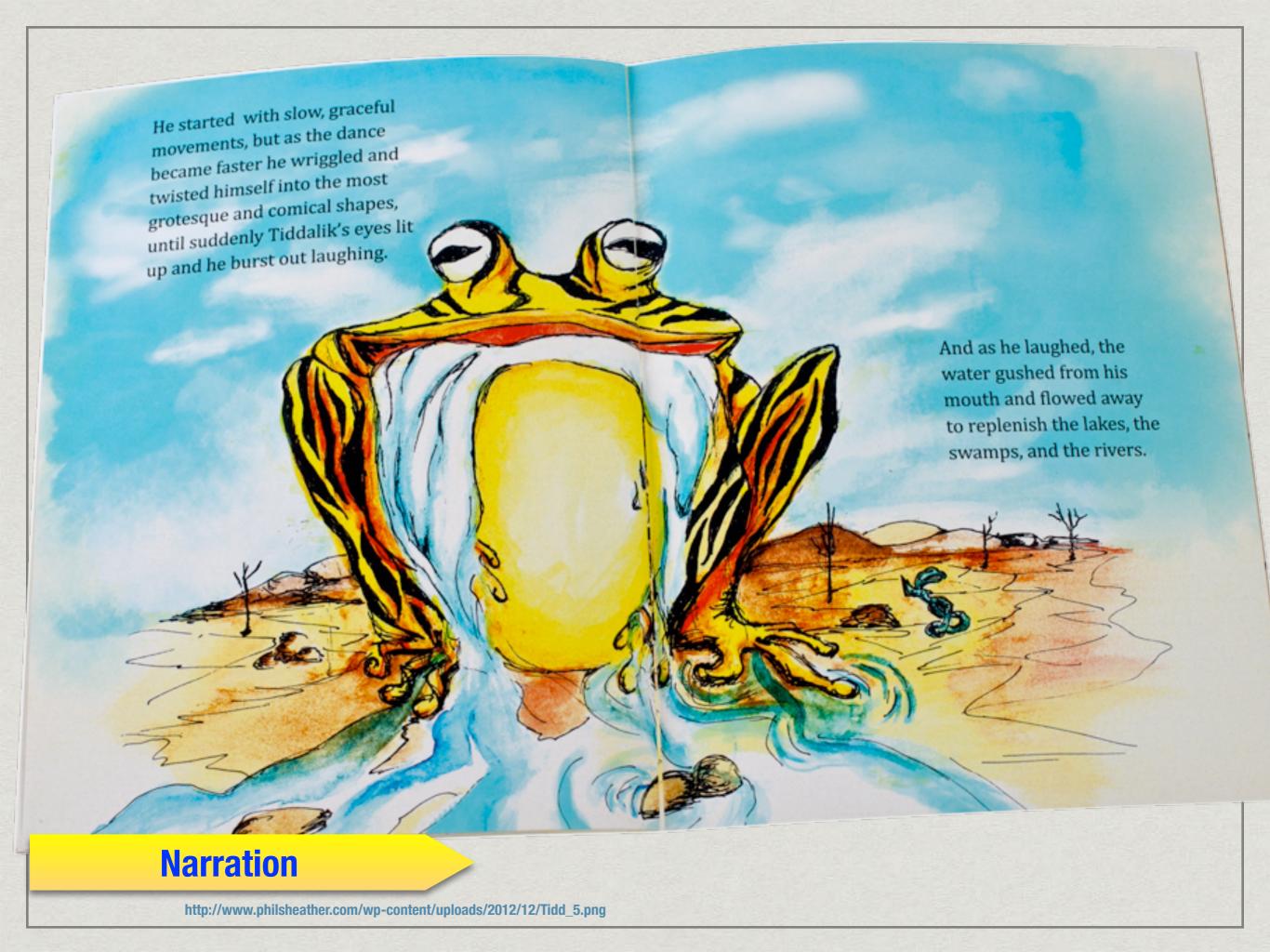
http://media.virbcdn.com/cdn\_images/resize\_500x500/c0/078a1f6800a86fd5-tiddalick5b.jpg

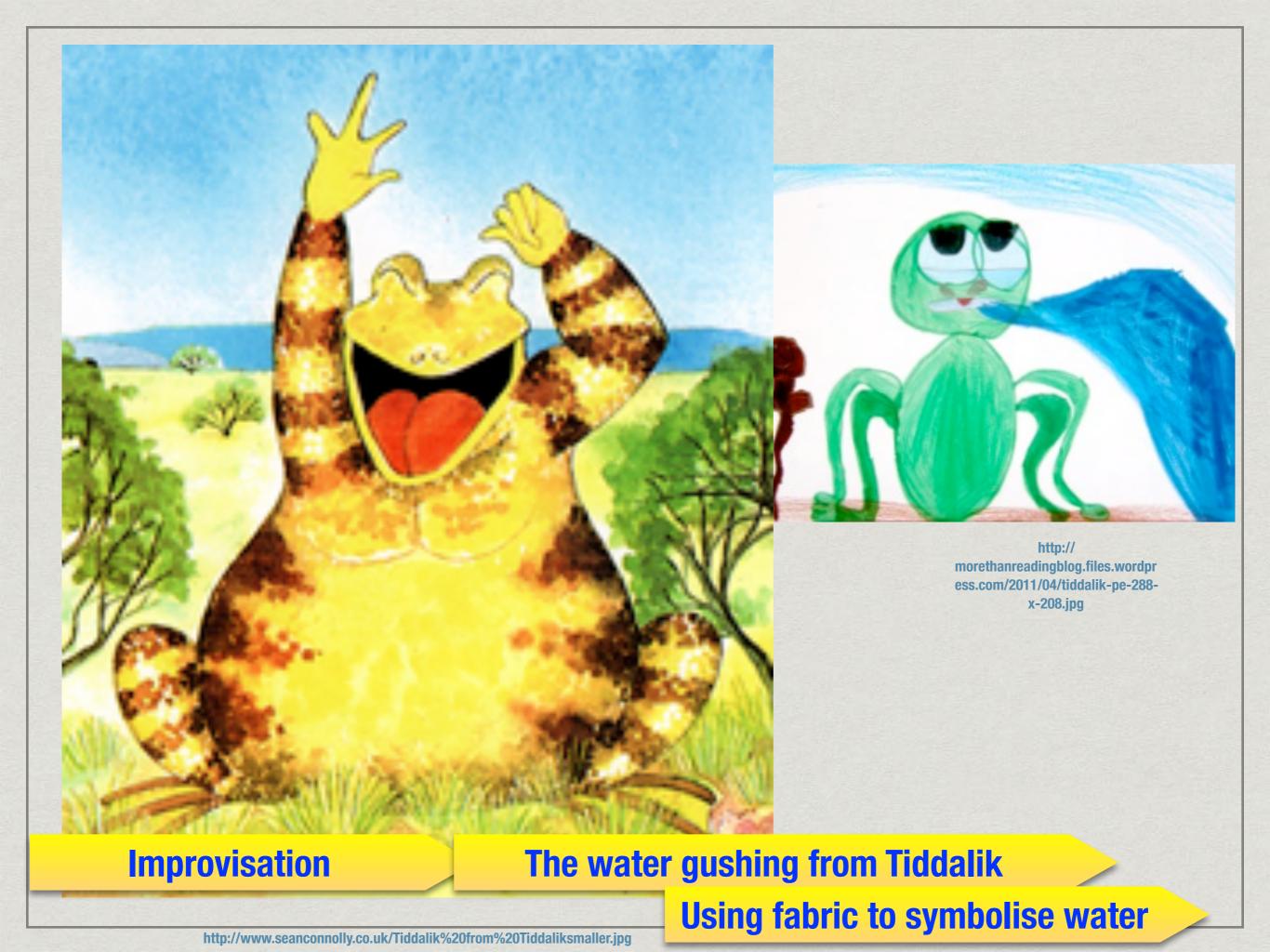
**Narration** 

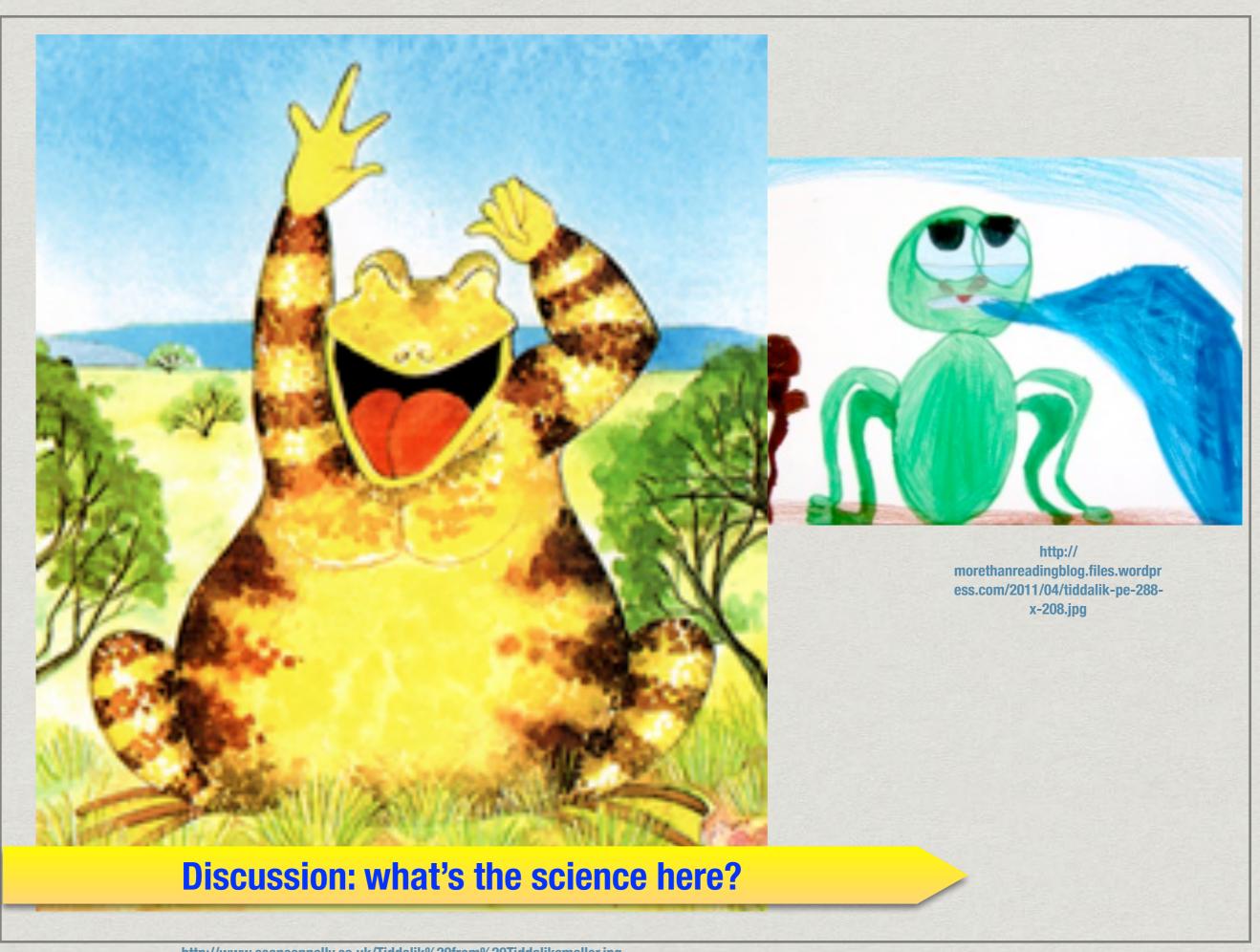


http://i1.ytimg.com/vi/tWvoTZxvEs8/maxresdefault.jpg

**Narration** 







## What's the science learning?

About water and its importance for life

About how if one person/ company takes all the resource, then others face consequences



http://judelyon.com/frog.jpg

There is a need to share scarce resources for sustainability of life

It is important to work together in a crisis.

Knowledge of science in ancient story and life

#### Science in the Australian Curriculum

Australian Curriculum: Science Scope and Sequence				
Thread		Year 1	Year 2	
Biological sciences		Living things live in different places where their needs are met		
Earth and space sciences		Observable changes occur in the sky and landscape	Earth's resources, including water, are used in a variety of ways	
Nature and development of science	Science involves exploring and observing the world using the senses	Science involves asking questions about, and describing changes in, objects and events		
Use and influence of science		People use science in their daily lives, including whenca ring for their environment and living things		
Questioning and predicting	Respond to questions about familiar objects and events	Respond to and pose questions, and make predictions		
Communicatin g	Share observations and ideas	Represent and communicate observations and ideas in a variety of ways such as oral and written language, drawing and role play		

#### Drama in the Australian Curriculum

Australian Curriculum: The Arts Scope and Sequence Drama				
Thread	The Arts: Foundation to Year 2	The Arts: Years 3 and 4		
Exploring ideas and improvising with ways to represent ideas	Explore role and dramatic action in dramatic play, improvisation and process drama	Explore ideas and narrative structures through roles and situations and use empathy in their own improvisations and devised drama		
Developing understanding of practices	Use voice, facial expression, movement and space to imagine and establish role and situation	Use voice, body, movement and language to sustain role and relationships and create dramatic action with a sense of time and place		
Sharing artworks through performance, presentation or display	Present drama that communicates ideas, including stories from their community, to an audience	Shape and perform dramatic action using narrative structures and tension in devised and scripted drama, including exploration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander drama		
Responding to and interpreting artworks	Respond to drama and consider where and why people make drama, starting with Australian drama, including drama of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples	Identify intended purposes and meaning of drama, starting with Australian drama, including drama of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, using the elements of drama to make comparisons		

# PART 2



# WHAT IS SCIENCE?

Scientists tell stories by creating theories that use current information to provide an explanation of a natural phenomenon.



#### SCIENCE IS...

- "knowledge attained through study or practice,"
- "knowledge covering general truths of the operation of general laws, esp. as obtained and tested through scientific method [and] concerned with the physical world."
- Science refers to a system of acquiring knowledge. using observation and experimentation to describe and explain natural phenomena.
- The term science also refers to the organised body of knowledge people have gained using that system.
- The word science often describes any systematic field of study or the knowledge gained from it.

**HOW DO WE LEARN SCIENCE THROUGH DRAMA?** 

Science is an unfolding response to explorations of the natural world in which we live

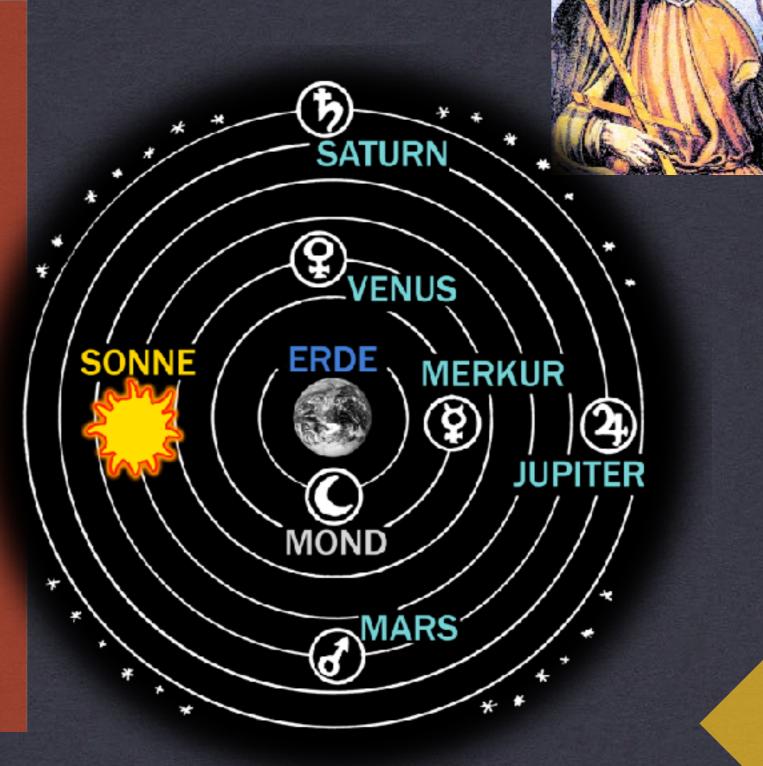
Science is a human story unfolding

As a human story it can be explored by drama

### GALILEO'S DILEMMA

The traditional way of understanding the world placed the earth at the centre of the universe around which all other planets and the sun orbited.

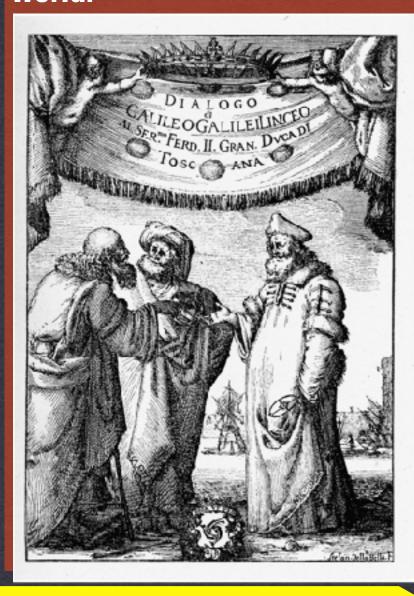




http://images.cdn.fotopedia.com/flickr-4115860027-hd.jpg

#### GALILEO'S DILEMMA

Galileo's discoveries through telescopes, observation and mathematics challenged the conventional view of the world.



#### DIALOGO

GALILEO GALILEI LINCEO

MATEMATICO SOPRAORDINARIO

DELLO STYDIO DI PISA.

E Filosofo, e Matematico primario del

SERENISSIMO

#### GR.DVCA DI TOSCANA.

Doue ne i congressi di quattro giornate si discorre sopra i due

MASSIMI SISTEMI DEL MONDO TOLEMAICO, E COPERNICANO;

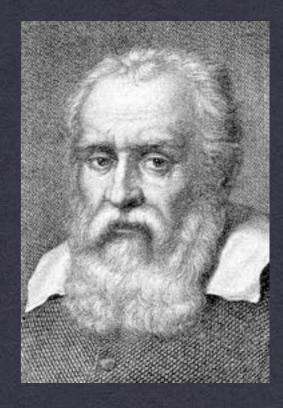
Troponendo indeterminatamente le ragioni Filosofiche, e Naturali. tanto per l'ona, quanto per l'altra parte.



VILEGI.

IN FIORENZA, Per Gio: Eatifta Landini MDCXXXII.

CON LICENZA DE SYPERIORI.



"I have made discoveries we can no longer withhold from the world."

Brecht's Galileo

#### BACKGROUND

In astronomy, the geocentric model (also known as geocentrism, or the Ptolemaic system) is a description of the cosmos where Earth is at the orbital centre of all celestial bodies. This model served as the predominant cosmological system in many ancient civilisations such as ancient **Greece including the** noteworthy systems of **Aristotle (see Aristotelian** physics) and Ptolemy. As such, they assumed that the Sun, Moon, stars, and naked eye planets circled Earth

It was not until the 16th century that a fully predictive mathematical model of a heliocentric system was presented, by the Renaissance mathematician, astronomer, and Catholic cleric Nicolaus Copernicus, leading to the Copernican Revolution.

Galileo's championing of heliocentrism was controversial within his lifetime, when most subscribed to geocentrism. He met with opposition from astronomers, who doubted heliocentrism.

Heliocentrism was investigated by the Roman Inquisition in 1615, which concluded that heliocentrism was false and contrary to scripture, placing works advocating the Copernican system on the index of banned books and forbidding Galileo from advocating heliocentrism.

Gailieo was tried by the Holy Office, then found "vehemently suspect of heresy", was forced to recant, and spent the rest of his life under house arrest.

**Discussion/background** 

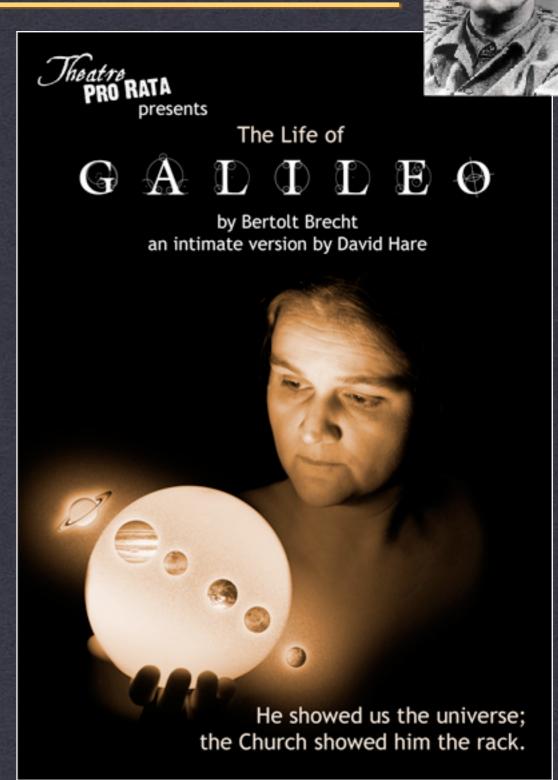
**Working in pairs** 

How dare you challenge the Divine Aristotle

Improvise an imagined a conversation between a scientist who believed in helocentrism and one who did not.

**Improvisation** 

Replay with voices in the head



http://theatreprorata.org/new/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/galileo-postcard.jpg

Working in groups of six
How dave you
challenge the
Charch

Galileo was brought before a Church court over his championing of the this new science

http://www.abbeytheatre.ie/images/sized/images/uploads/user/

Who is in the trial?

Theatre-500x400.jpg

How are trials run?

We will watch two trials

**Trial - 2 groups** 

**Thoughts in the Head** 

Whole class

"You have set yourself up against the authorities and they have already warned you once ... you show signs of sense and tell me that you know you must control yourself because it's dangerous.

Before the court Galileo was forced to withdraw his championing of heliocentrism.



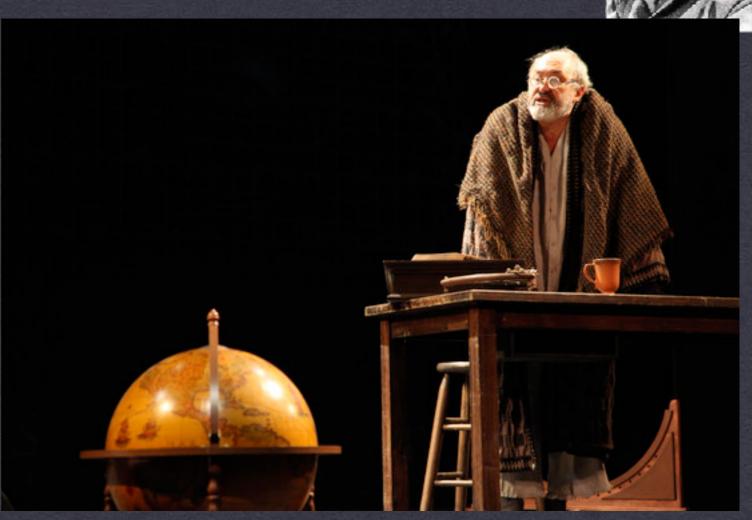
http://www.mnsu.edu/theatre/season/past/archive/g/images/Galileo%20web%203.jpg

Symbol (tearing the astronomical charts)

#### Individual

"You have set yourself up against the authorities and they have already warned you once ... you show signs of sense and tell me that you know you must control yourself because it's dangerous.

As an old man Galileo reflects on his choices.



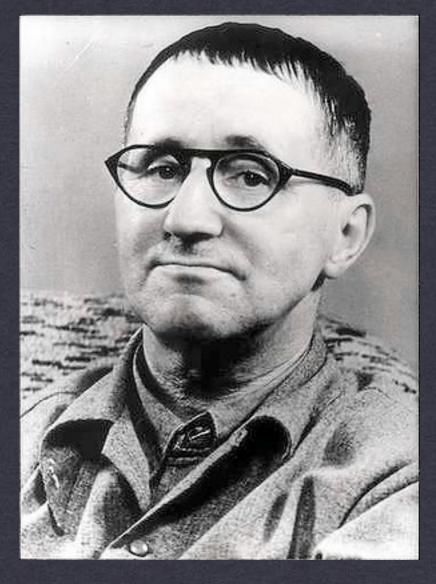
"Belief ... is one thing; facts, tangible facts, are another ... Gentlemen, I beseech you in all humanity to trust your eyes."

Brecht was writing a play. He argued from a point of view.

A play is not necessarily science.

**Discussion: what is objectivity?** 

Is science objective



READ MORE: <a href="http://www.smh.com.au/national/">http://www.smh.com.au/national/</a> EDUCATION/CONFLICT-OF-QUESTIONS-20130322-2GJNY.HT ML#IXZZ2Z83YDLYQ

#### **DILEMMA**

YOU ARE A TEAM OF SCIENTISTS WHO HAVE DISCOVERED A CURE FOR CANCER. IT IS WORLD BEATING SCIENCE. BUT AS A RESEARCHER YOU CHEATED AND CUT CORNERS



**Discussion: ethics and science** 

**Improvisations** 

Publish and manufacture the drug even though it is not proven

Tell the world the truth knowing that it might save someone

**Keep a dirty secret** 

Identify the Science

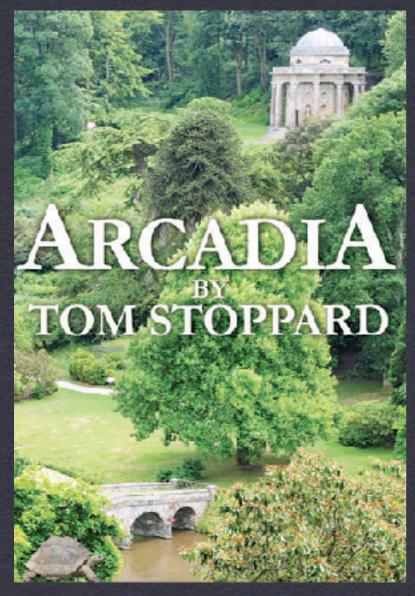
learning?



Identify the Drama learning?

### Other Plays focused on Science

**Arcadia by Tom Stoppard** 



https://www.sedos.co.uk/2011/images/ Arcadia-Front\_A6\_Final\_360\_000.jpg

Copenhagen by Michael Frayn



http://images.iop.org/objects/ccr/cern/39/4/16/theatre1\_5-99.jpg

http://www.curtainup.com/ scienceplays.html

#### The Structure of Scientific Revolutions

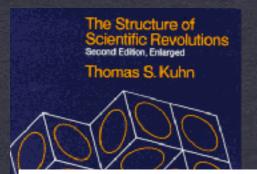
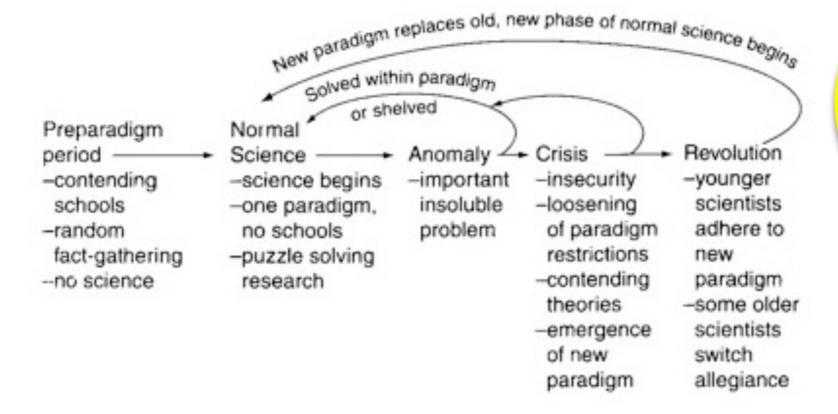


FIGURE 1-1

The revolutionary character of paradigm shifts and the cyclical nature of science (a schematization of Kuhn, 1970).

**Paradigms** 



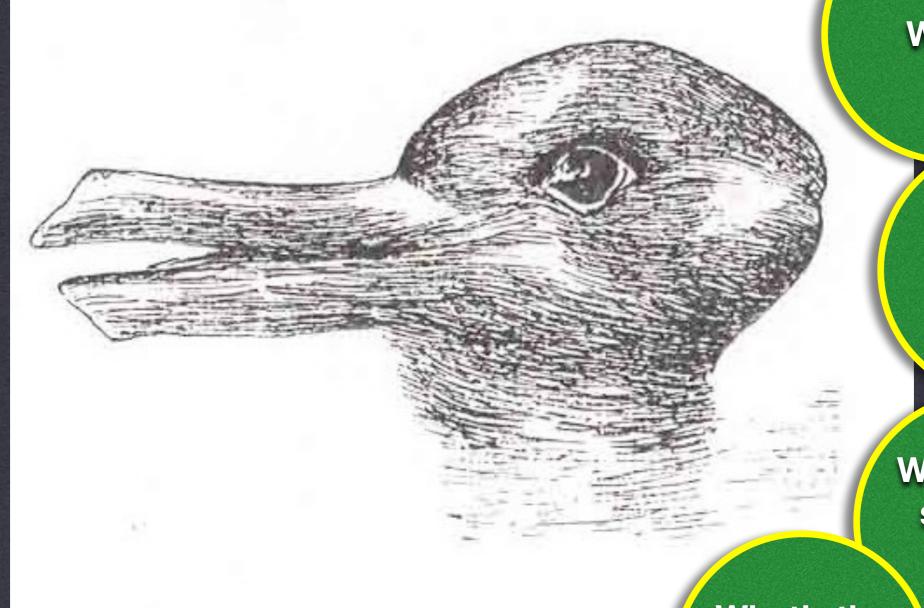
Paradigm shifts

What happens when our paradigms shift?

http://johnwhawthorne.files.wordpress.com/2014/01/kuhns-revolutions.jpg

Drama enables to see the nature of knowledge

#### What do you see?



Why?

Can you shift between images?

What's the science lesson here?

What's the drama lesson here?

#### Drama enables us to enact shifts in paradigms

Steady state Status quo

Anomaly

Equilibrium

Status quo is challenged

O'CO KAO III IS ARION

Drama is meaning making

Disorientation

Supportive environment

Science is meaning making

# YOUR IDEAS ON USING DRAMA IN SCIENCE



## REFLECTION ON WORKSHOP

- What drama strategies were used?
- •Could you use?
- •Why would you teach science in this way?



"Belief ... is one thing; facts, tangible facts, are another ... Gentlemen, I beseech you in all humanity to trust your eyes."

Brecht

What is the Science in the warm ups? How did they prefigure the workshop?

THESE NOTES HAVE BEEN PREPARED BY ROBIN PASCOE FOR THE SINGAPORE DRAMA EDUCATORS CONFERENCE IN SINGAPORE, JUNE 2015.





R.PASCOE@MURDOCH.EDU.AU

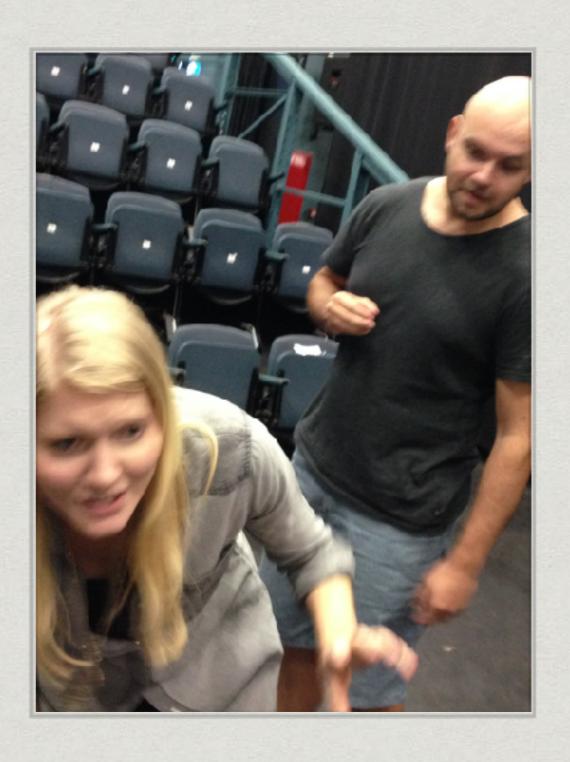
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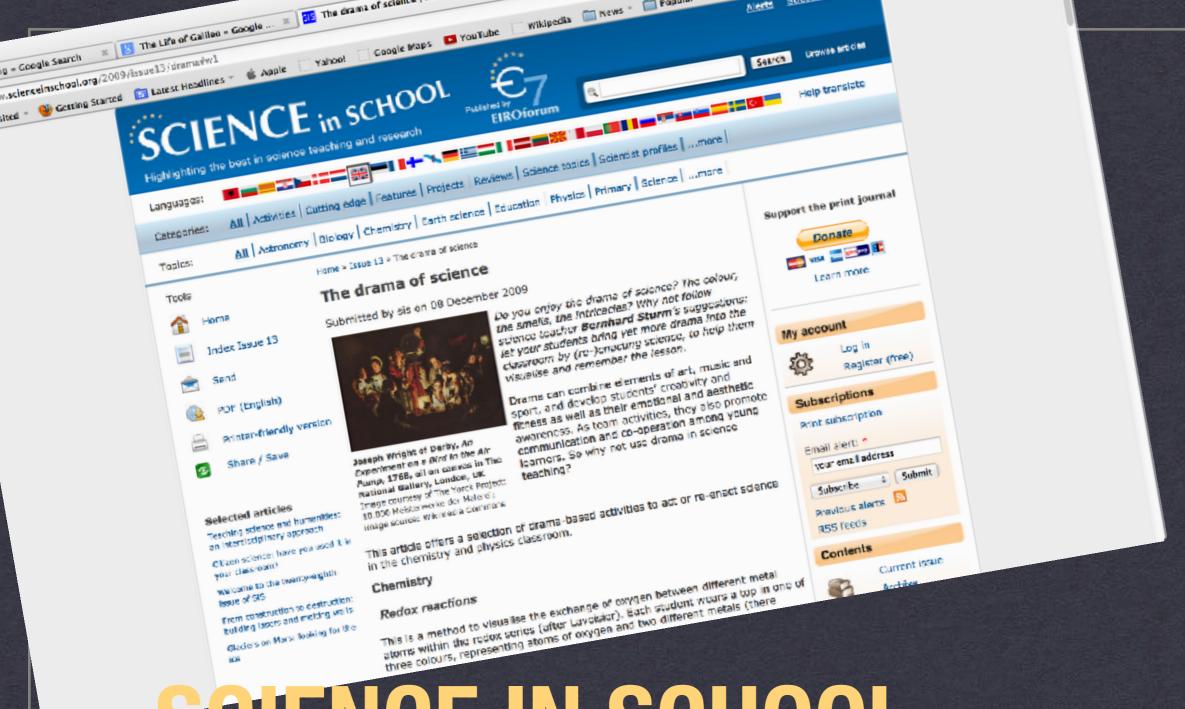
#### Additional Workshop



# The Drama of Science



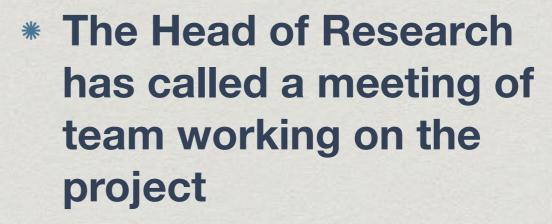
Joseph Wright of
Derby, An Experiment on
a Bird in the Air Pump,
1768, oil on canvas in The
National Gallery, London, UK



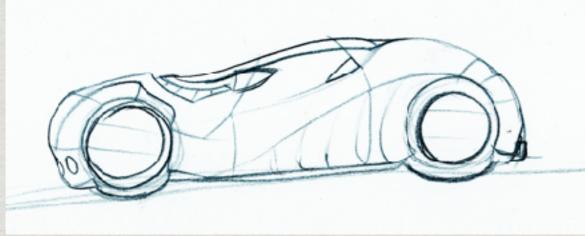
#### SCIENCE IN SCHOOL

HTTP://WWW.SCIENCEINSCHOOL.ORG/2009/ISSUE13/ DRAMA

Project
You are working on a team
developing a new hybrid
electrical car



- \* The project is behind schedule
- \* The research funds are drying up
- Team members have been arguing – are not working together well



http://fc02.deviantart.net/fs70/i/2010/024/1/6/Futuristic\_Car\_Design\_by\_hao\_li.png

Who are you in the team

What are the relationships?

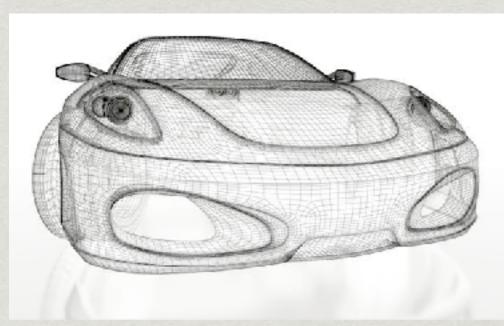
What's the problem?

**Team meeting** 

Mantle of the expert

The dilemma
You receive news from the testing field

\* In tests the new batteries your team has developed keep bursting into flames



http://www.slate.com/content/dam/slate/articles/health\_and\_science/ new\_scientist/2012/08/120824\_NS\_conceptCar.jpg.CROP.rectangle3large.jpg

Some of you argue that the project must be stopped

Some believe the project must go ahead

Why?

Some are unsure what to do

**Improvisation** 

**Decision line** 

**Stop** 

Maybe

Go

In another part of the company...

A meeting of advertising executives



http://bluetoothcar.typepad.com/main/WindowsLiveWriter/
AcuraconceptcarsAcuraFutureVehicles\_78DA/image%7B0%7D%5B3%5D.png

\* Your task is to dream up new slogans and advertising campaigns for this new car





Jingle Sounds

nds Words

**Images** 

http://fc08.deviantart.net/fs70/i/2012/090/3/0/futuristic\_car\_by\_digital\_kebap-d4uhn17.jpg

**Improvisation** 

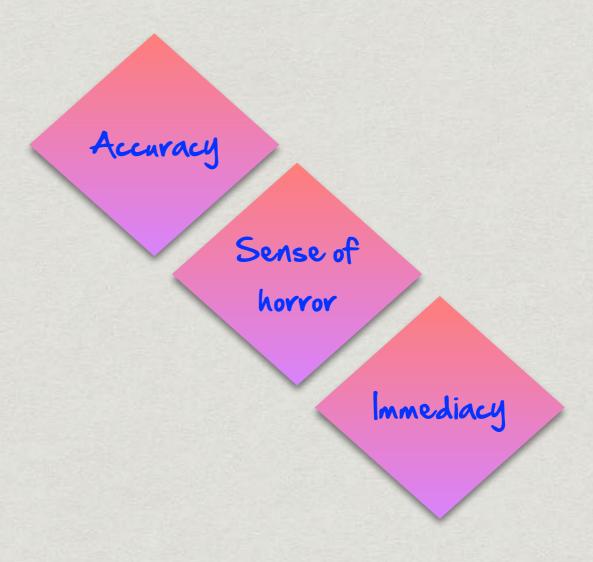
**Advertisement** 

While out testing the car on the freeway an accident the burning batteries in car explode, bus of children killed



**News report** 

\* You are a television news reporter reporting with eyewitnesses from the scene



**Doubt and conscience** 



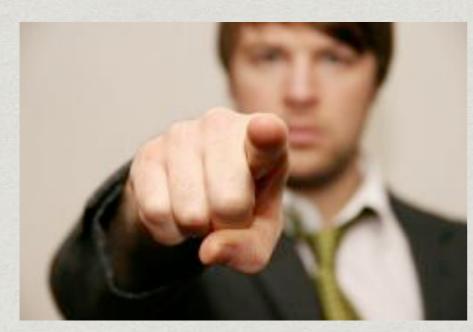
http://myfreedomfoundation.com/imgLib/20130612\_Whistleblower.jpg

\* You are a member of the research team who has been troubled that the project team did not listen to your concerns



The news has broken that there is a whistleblower

\* The head of the research team calls a meeting



http://www.insure.com/imagesvr\_ce/7082/accusing-man.jpg

Accusing all in the team

**Angry** 

**Vindictive** 

Trying
to find out
who betrayed
the project

**Team meeting** 

**Teacher in Role** 

One member of the team has admitted

\* Out of role, the participants ask questions

Why? ???

are the consequences?

Have you lost your job?

Trying to understand what has driven this whistleblower to speak

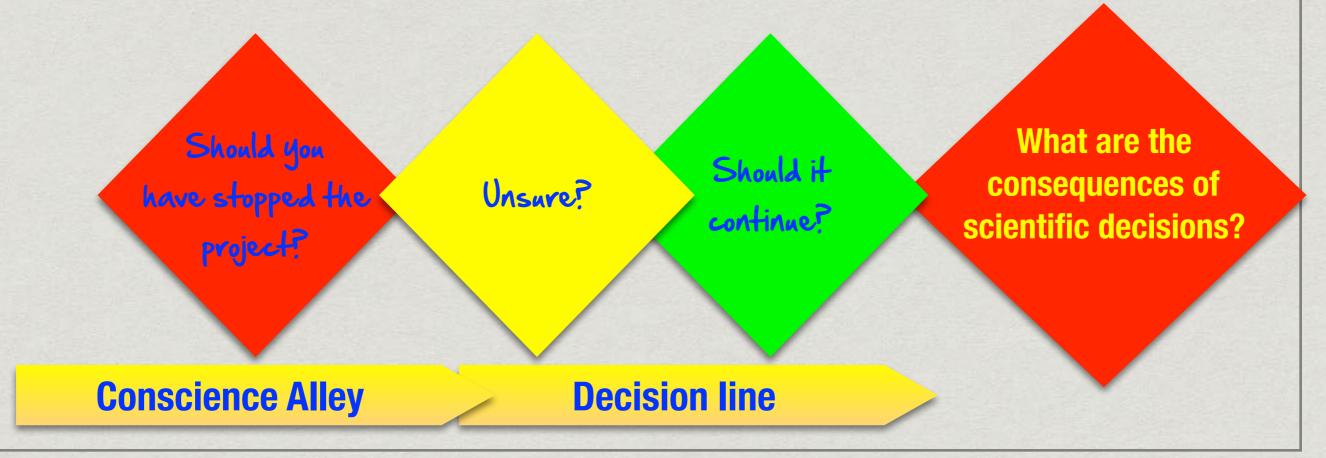


http://newsroom.unl.edu/releases/downloadables/newsblog/whistleblower.jpg

**Hot seating** 

All the members of the research team after the Head of Research has admitted his mistakes

\* As the Manager of the Research team walks between the lines of the researchers we hear what they think of him/her



## Why might this matter?

All science faces ethical questions and choices

Sometimes
those choices have
life and death
consequences

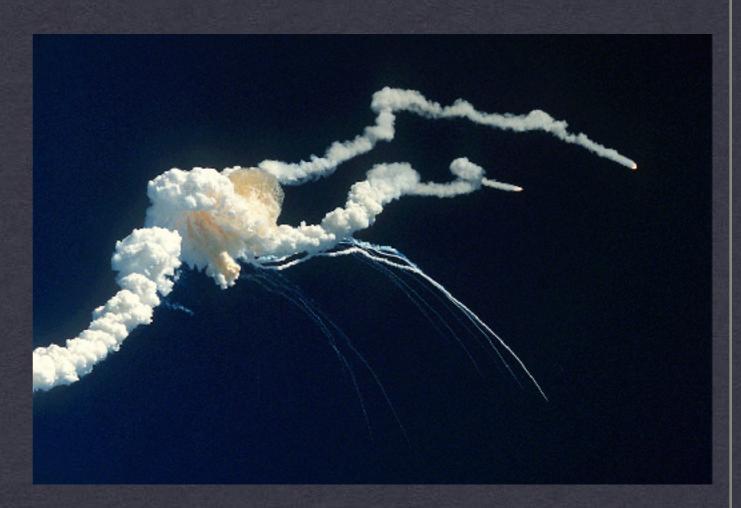


HTTP://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/
SPACE SHUTTLE CHALLENGER DISASTER



#### THE CHALLENGE OF SCIENCE

- The Space Shuttle Challenger disaster occurred on January 28, 1986
- Disintegration of the vehicle began after an 0-ring seal in its right solid rocket booster (SRB) failed at liftoff
- NASA managers had known contractor Morton Thiokol's design of the SRBs contained a potentially catastrophic flaw in the O-rings since 1977, but failed to address it properly.
- They also disregarded warnings (an example of "go fever") from engineers about the dangers of launching posed by the low temperatures of that morning and had failed in adequately reporting these technical concerns to their superiors
- The Challenger accident has frequently been used as a case study in the study of subjects such as engineering safety, the ethics of whistle-blowing, communications, group decision-making, and the dangers of groupthink.



**Discussion: Ethics and responsibility** 

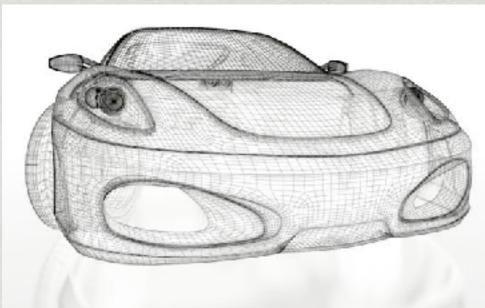
We will replay this scene as forum theatre

The dilemma You receive news from the testing field

In tests the new batteries your team has developed keep bursting into flames

Some

ahead



http://www.slate.com/content/dam/slate/articles/health and science/ new\_scientist/2012/08/120824\_NS\_conceptCar.jpg.CROP.rectangle3large.jpg

be stopped believe the project must go

Some of

you argue that

the project must

Some are unsure what to do



**Maybe** 

Go

**Forum Theatre**