



*Lesson: Connecting to the Literature*

**STANDARDS: STANDARDS: New York: Strand # 3: Making Connections**

Students will:

- Reflect on and discuss theater's connection to their own lives through examining the themes and lessons of the play.
- Examine issues of the individual's relationship to self and community.
- Through attendance at and/or participation in theater performances, students recognize how associated art forms enhance theater production. These art forms include:
  - written and spoken text
  - music and song
  - visual arts

## Literacy: Understanding the Context of the Characters

**Motivation:** View "Importance of Words" in "Inside Hector's Head." Why did Elizondo enjoy playing Cyrano? Students will journal about characters they would like to play. What qualities would these characters have? Why?

**Group Activity:** Discuss characters that students have played or would like to play. What challenges did students face? What advantages did they feel they had? Have students specifically choose one character they think would be easy for them to play and one character they feel would be challenging for them to play. Also, have students think of examples of actors playing characters which seem unusual given other characters these actors have played in the past. What challenges did these actors face?

**Independent Activity:** Have students write monologues from the point of view of the two characters they picked. Give students the opportunity of performing these monologues and critiquing each other's work.