

Philip Pullman
The
Firework-Maker's
Daughter

KS2 Drama Lesson

Lesson Objectives

- To create a character inspired by The Firework-Maker's Daughter.
- To explore and describe the world of The Firework-Maker's Daughter.
- To use dramatic techniques to design and perform a firework display.



East of the Jungle and South of the Mountains...

Lila, Lalchand, Chulak and Hamlet live in a country quite different to England. For example, the people who live there have some interesting jobs.

Can you remember any of them?



East of the Jungle and South of the Mountains...

These are some of the jobs the characters in the story have:

Firework-Maker

Pirate

Elephant Groom

Paper Merchant

Chicken Farmer

Elephant Masseuse

Courtier

River Taxi Captain

Pick one of the jobs above. What do you think that person does?
Can you describe their job to the person next to you?

Create Your Own Character

Now that you've looked at some of the jobs available in Lila's hometown, you're going to have a go at creating a character who lives there.

First of all, choose a job for your character. It can be one from the previous slide, or you can make one up.

Close your eyes and imagine yourself doing that job. What kind of tasks might you do every day?



Create Your Own Character

Next, find a partner. Pretend you are you are your character, and you have both just sat next to each other in a cafe.

You're going to introduce yourself, then take it in turns to ask questions and get to know one another.

You won't know the answers to the questions yet - just make them up as you go along!

There are some example questions on the next slide, but you can also make up your own.

Character Meet & Greet

What's your name?

How old are you?

What's your job?

What is your home like?

What's your favourite food?

Who do you live with?

Do you have any pets?

Have you ever seen the New Year's Firework Display?

What did you think of it?



Getting Around Town

Now that you've created your character, it's time to get to know the town in which they live.

You're going to work with your partner. You will need a large piece of paper and some coloured pencils.

Work together to draw a map of the town.

On the next slide, you'll see a list of locations you may want to include, as well as an example.



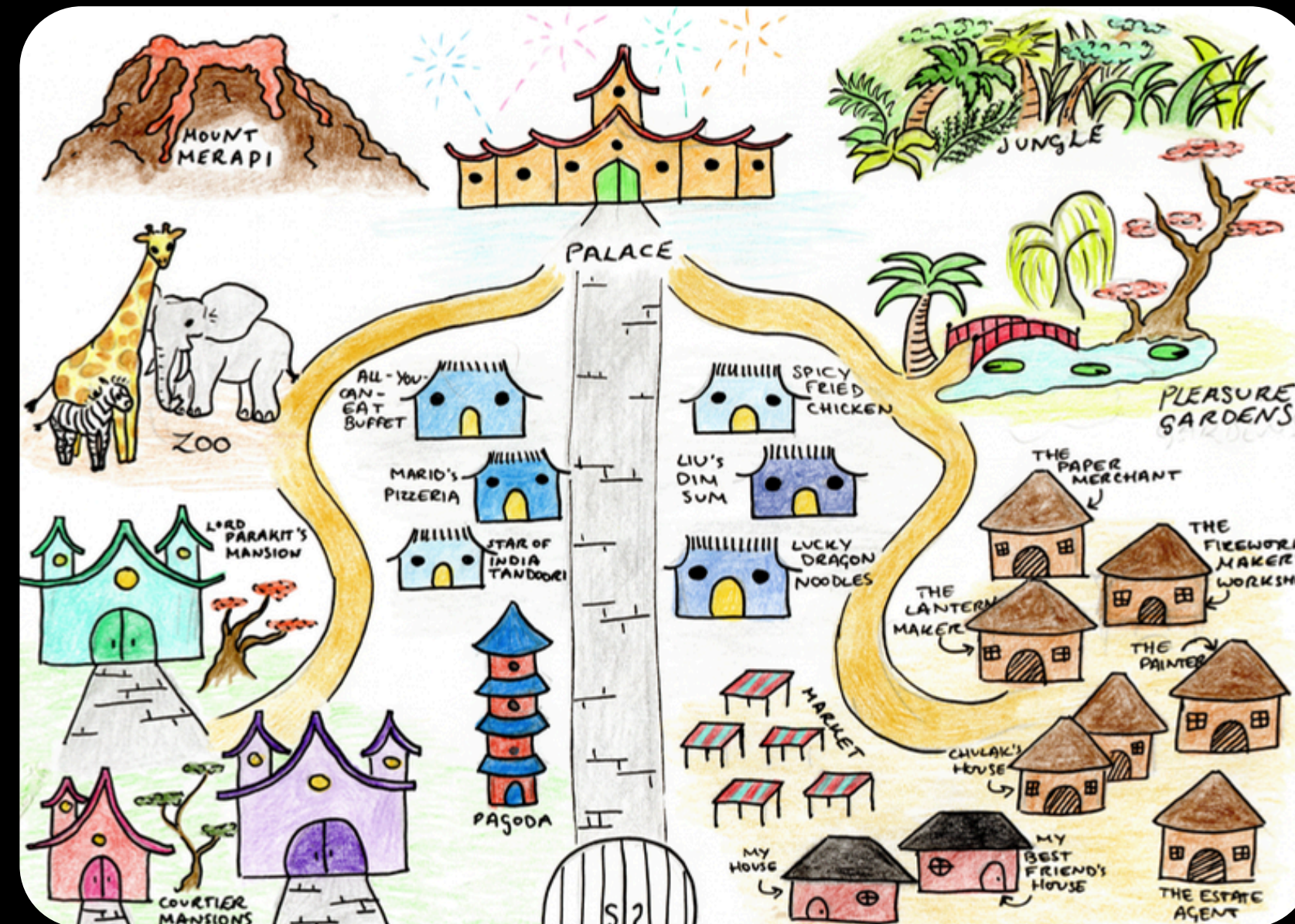
Getting Around Town

Your character's home

The Firework
Workshop

The Paper
Merchant

The Emperor's
Palace



The Zoo

Lord Parakit's
Mansion

The Pleasure
Gardens

Star of India
Tandoori House

Sights, Sounds and Smells

Now add the following to your map:

- 5 things you can see
- 4 things you can feel
- 3 things you can hear
- 2 things you can smell
- 1 thing you can taste



Blindfold Tour

In your pairs, you're going to take it in turns to lead one another on a tour from your home, round the town, to the Emperor's Palace.

Imagine the room you are in is the town. Take some time to work out where the locations on your map would be - for example the Zoo might be a table, the Pleasure Gardens could be the carpet, and the Star of India Tandoori House might be a cupboard.

One of you will close your eyes or wear a blindfold, and the other will lead them around the 'town', describing the sights and sounds. You'll then swap roles. See the next slide for some tips!

Blindfold Tour

Leader

- Use your map to help you describe the town.
- Describe things you can see, feel, hear, smell and taste!
- Be careful of other tour guides and objects - don't let your partner bump into anything!
- Move slowly and take your time.

Follower

- Imagine you are on your way to watch the fireworks!
- Try to picture everything your guide describes.
- Move slowly and keep your eyes closed.



The Firework Display

You've made a character and explored the town
- now we're ready to make some fireworks!

Join another two pairs to make a group of 6.

Together, you're going to use your bodies and
voices to create a 30-second firework display!

On the next slide, you'll find the names of some
of the fireworks from the story to inspire you.



The Firework Display

Leaping Monkeys

Crackle Dragons



Tumbling Demons

Golden Sneezes

Java Lights

Make sure you rehearse your firework display so it is ready to perform to the rest of your class.

The Firework Display

It's time for the show!

Take a moment to remember your character. Try sitting or standing like them. Remember your walk through the town, and all the sights, sounds and smells.

As townsfolk, gather together to make an audience.

One at a time, each group will perform their firework display.

Watch the displays as if you are your character, living in Lila's world!



Performance Time!

Perform your display to the rest of your class.
In character, can you describe what you enjoyed about each display, and how they made you feel?

Extension

We hope you had an amazing time watching the fireworks!

Why don't you share your experience by writing a letter to a friend, describing your experience of watching the Firework Displays. There are some sentence starters on the next slide to help you out.

You can also share your letter with the Polka team by emailing it to:

schools@polkatheatre.com



Extension

Dear...

You'll never guess where I went...

Something exciting happened today...

On the walk there I saw...

On my journey I could hear...

I could smell...

I could see...

I tasted...

When I arrived at the palace...

It made me laugh when...

I was amazed when I saw...

I felt a bit nervous when...

At the end of the display...

Next year, I hope...



We hope these activities have helped to bring a little bit of Polka Magic back to your classroom!

For more information on Polka Schools programmes, including workshops, teaching resources and funded opportunities, head to:

polkatheatre.com/schools

Or contact Lizzie, Polka's Schools Manager:

lizzie@polkatheatre.com