PCPA's Outreach Tour is funded in part through grants from a number of gracious organizations. Thank you to our generous sponsors:

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A Note To the Teacher

This study guide has been written to give teachers information about PCPA’s production of *A Thousand Cranes* that can be taken into the classroom. Included are a synopsis, information about our production, pre- and post-performance exercises, and a few activity pages in keeping with our theme. The vocabulary lists are all terms found in *A Thousand Cranes* and may be used in conjunction with some of the suggested activities.

Our hope is that this study guide enables you and those in your classroom to prepare for our performance, and that you, as the audience, after learning more about the different elements of our production, can enjoy it even more.

We are very pleased to be producing this adaptation of *A Thousand Cranes*. This production focuses specifically on introducing students to a classic piece of children’s literature through dramatic performance. This is an excellent opportunity to introduce your students to classic stories and literature that have been adapted for the stage or for film.

Please remind all students that this is a live performance, and they, as the audience, are one of the most important parts of the production. Our actors want to give the best performance they can, and a polite and attentive audience is what makes that possible. We know that you and your students will have questions for our Outreach Tour, so as long as time allows, we like to have a question-and-answer session following the performance. Until then, for questions or to get more information, please call Leo Cortez the Director of Education and Outreach at 805-928-7731 x3156. Or email him at pcpaoutreach@pcpa.org

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.
Our actors will present a brief outline of theatre etiquette as part of their introduction; however, it would make a stronger impression on your students if you covered the same information prior to the performance.

Here are a few ideas that may help:

1. Sometimes we forget when we come into a theatre that we are one of the most important parts of the production. Without an audience there would be no performance. Your contribution of laughter, quiet attention and applause is part of the play.

2. When you watch movies or television, you are watching images on a screen, and what you say or do cannot affect them. In the theatre the actors are real and present in person, creating an experience with you at that very moment. They see and hear you and are sensitive to your response. They know how you feel about the play by how you watch and listen.

3. An invisible bond is formed between actors and a good audience, and it enables the actors to do their best for you. A good audience helps make a good performance.

Suggestions for Student Etiquette:

1. You share the performance with everyone in the audience. Your talking, movement or any other distracting activity, once the show has begun, not only disturbs the actors onstage but the audience around you as well.

2. Your comments and ideas about the play are important, but save them for after the play to discuss them. Or even better, write a letter to the performers.

3. Before entering the performance area, get a drink of water or visit the restroom if you need to.

4. Once you are seated, you should remain seated. When the play begins, because the actors are directed to move all about the room, it’s important for everybody’s safety that the walkways and stage areas remain clear of students.

PCPA is proud that your school has selected our Outreach Tour performance of *A Thousand Cranes* by Kathryn Schultz Miller to be featured as a part of your school year. We hope that our visit will be followed by many more. Thank you for hosting PCPA.
About the Playwright

Kathryn Schultz Miller has written plays for young audiences since 1976. She served for 20 year as co-founder and artistic director of ArtReach Touring Theatre, a professional touring theatre based in Cincinnati. Miller is the recipient of three playwriting fellowships and one fiction fellowship from the Ohio Arts Council, as well as a playwriting fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. Fourteen of her scripts have been produced nationwide. Her published plays include Island Son, Amelia Earhart, The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, A Thousand Cranes, Haunted Houses, You Don’t See Me and Blue Horses (Dramatic Publishing); Red Badge of Courage and The Shining Moment (Anchorage Press); Poe, Poe! (IE Clark Publishing); and Choosing Sides for Basketball (Baker’s Plays). A Thousand Cranes is included in Twenty Great Plays for Children, an anthology edited by Coleman A. Jennings, with foreword by Maurice Sendak, published by St. Martin’s Press. Miller is the winner of the 1985 Post-Corbett Award “for literary excellence in playwriting.”

About the Play

Based on the true story of 12 year old Sadako Sasaki, an excellent athlete who races daily with her friend Kenji to prepare for an important competition.

However, when Sadako falls ill, it is discovered that she has leukemia – an effect of the atomic bomb used on Hiroshima in the war 10 years before.

When in the hospital, Kenji reminds her of an ancient Japanese story; “If a sick person folds a thousand origami cranes, the gods will grant her wish and make her healthy again.” With boundless optimism, she takes on the task of folding hundreds of origami cranes.

In 1958 a statue in honor of Sadako was erected in Hiroshima Peace Park. 2013 marks the 55th anniversary of its unveiling.

Each year on August 6, the anniversary of the bombing, thousands of people bring paper cranes to adorn the statue. Sadako’s wish is engraved on the base of the statue: “This is our cry, this is our prayer, peace in the world.”
Cast of Characters

Sadako – a twelve year old Japanese girl who loves her family and running. She is a hardworking, intelligent, disciplined young woman.

Kenji – best friend and classmate to Sadako. He is very kind, thoughtful, and disciplined. He is an excellent athlete and practices running every day with Sadako.

Mother - Sadako’s mother who loves her very much and diligently works to teach her daughter the importance of ritual, family, and tradition.

Father – Sadako’s father who, like her mother, reminds Sadako of the importance of working hard. He is very proud of his daughter.

Grandmother Oba Chan - Sadako’s Grandmother who died 10 years ago from the bombing of Hiroshima

Costume Renderings By Serena Berkes
Sadako Sasaki was born on January 7, 1943 in Hiroshima, Japan. She was two years old when the atomic bomb was dropped on August 6, 1945, roughly two kilometers (1.25 miles) from her home. Sadako will forever be remembered as a symbol of innocent victims of war. This story is to remember her life and tenacity of spirit.

The play opens with meeting Sadako and her inviting the audience to hear her story. She loves to run and practices every day with her best friend and classmate, Kenji. They are preparing for a race next month and Sadako really wants to win. Kenji thinks that Sadako is fast enough to win the race. Sadako runs home to tell her parents, who are preparing for dinner and the upcoming Obon festivities. Obon is a Japanese Buddhist custom to honor the spirits of one’s ancestors. It is tradition to light a candle for each ancestor who has died. Sadako and her parents are remembering her Grandmother, Oba Chan, who died in the bombing of Hiroshima.

As Kenji and Sadako are out practicing for the upcoming race, Sadako becomes very dizzy and falls. She is rushed to the hospital. No one seems to know what is wrong with her. After a number of tests, the doctors conclude that Sadako has Leukemia, or the atom-bomb sickness. She has to stay in the hospital for a few weeks to get some tests done. This means Sadako will miss the race she has been practicing for.

While in the hospital, her parents and Kenji visit often. Kenji has come up with a plan to make Sadako well again. He reminds Sadako of the story of a Thousand Cranes:

“Don’t you remember that old story about the crane? It’s supposed to love for a thousand years. If a sick person folds one thousand paper cranes, the gods will grant her wish and make her healthy again.”

Sadako gets right to work making her thousand cranes. However, her leukemia is also progressing and getting worse. This makes her tired and it more difficult to fold the cranes.

One night while she is sleeping, the spirit of her grandmother, Oba Chan, comes to visit Sadako. Oba Chan takes Sadako on a journey through the spirit world showing her the spirits of others who died because of the Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima. Oba Chan tells Sadako that she must stay in the spirit world with them. Sadako is not ready, she hasn’t folded her thousand cranes. Oba Chan tells Sadako that the cranes will be completed.

Sadako died on October 25, 1955, ten years after the bomb fell. Her friends and classmates completed her thousand cranes for her. In 1958, they had a monument built to honor her memory in the Hiroshima Peace Park. Sadako’s wish is engraved on the base of the statue:

“This is our cry, This is our prayer, Peace in the World.”
The Legend of Origami Cranes

A Thousand origami cranes is a group of one thousand origami paper cranes held together by strings. An ancient Japanese legend promises that anyone who folds a thousand origami cranes will be granted a wish by a crane. Some stories believe you are granted eternal good luck, instead of just one wish, such as long life or recovery from illness or injury. This makes them popular gifts for special friends and family. The crane in Japan is one of the mystical or holy creatures (others include the dragon and the tortoise) and is said to live for a thousand years: That is why 1000 cranes are made, one for each year. In some stories it is believed that the 1000 cranes must be completed within one year and they must all be made by the person who is to make the wish at the end.

A thousand paper cranes are traditionally given as a wedding gift by the father, who is wishing a thousand years of happiness and prosperity upon the couple. They can also be given to a new baby for long life and good luck. Hanging them in one's home is thought to be a powerfully lucky and benevolent charm.

Several temples, including some in Tokyo and Hiroshima, have eternal flames for world peace. At these temples, school groups or individuals often donate origami cranes to add to the prayer for peace. The cranes are left exposed to the elements, slowly dissolving and becoming tattered as the wish is released.

Materials

Sets of origami paper are sold widely in Japan, with senbazuru sets including 1000 (or more, in case of mistakes) sheets of paper, string, and beads to place at the end of each string to stop the cranes from slipping off. Commonly the cranes are assembled as 25 strings of 40 cranes each.
The size of the origami paper does not matter when assembling a thousand paper cranes, but smaller sheets consequently yield smaller and lighter strings of cranes. The most popular size for senbazuru is 75 by 75 millimetres (3.0 in × 3.0 in). Some people cut their own squares of paper from anything available, such as magazines, newspapers, notebooks, and printer paper.

When learning as a production team at PCPA, we used plain copy paper and folded it into a square and cut off the small excess strip. This was an inexpensive way to learn and practice. When we were more confident in our skills, we used colored copy paper and eventually origami paper.

Origami paper is usually of a solid color, though printed designs are available. Larger size origami paper, usually 6x6 inches, often has traditional Japanese or flower designs, reminiscent of kimono patterns.

Help Us Make A Thousand Cranes

We are asking that you and your students help us fulfill Sadako’s wish by completing the 354 cranes she could not before her death. Included are instructions on how to make the cranes and links to some helpful videos. (Videos can also be found on our website at www.pcpa.org, under the Outreach Tab) Before you begin folding, write down a wish that you have on the crane paper. All of the cranes that we collect throughout the tour will be sent to Japan in May as part of the celebration of Sadako’s life and legacy in the Peace Park.
Sadako’s message was one of peace. On the base of her memorial there is a plaque that reads: “This is our cry, this is our prayer, peace in the world.” During these turbulent times in our world, we share this wish. What is your wish for yourself? For our planet? Share it as you build your crane. We are all part of a global people, not just Americans, Californians, Santa Marians. We can build bridges, celebrate each other, and hold onto hope that there can be peace in our world.

How to Make an Origami Crane

Below are instructions on how to fold an origami crane. Remember there are also very helpful video links below and on our website. Once you have your square piece of paper to start folding, write down your wish. Know that it’s important to not fight the paper, don’t judge yourself, it’s about the process of creation and the product – a beautiful crane that carries your wish and helps to fulfill Sadako’s.

As part of our production, we would like two representatives to bring the cranes you have made to us on stage towards the end of the play. The cranes will then be utilized in the conclusion of our production and later sent to Japan. We are happy to incorporate any number of cranes that you can gift to us. They can be individual cranes brought to us in a bag or box, or they can be strung together as a senbazuru (see instructions below). A representative from PCPA will be in contact with your school to discuss the details of how exactly this will work before we visit you.

Thank you for helping us to fulfill the legacy of Sadako Sasaki. Together we can bring peace to our world.

Links

http://www.jccc.on.ca/origami-cranes/pdf/how_to_make_your_own_senbazuru.pdf
http://www.ehow.com/how_8558557_string-origami-cranes.html
http://youtu.be/Bu07GfnfOO4
http://youtu.be/AR7gqNO5Hno
HOW TO FOLD A PAPER CRANE

1. Fold a perfectly square piece of paper in half lengthwise along the dotted line.
2. Make a crease down the middle to mark the center, then diagonally fold down the right side of the paper toward the back.
3. Diagonally fold the left side toward the back.
4. Open the bottom by inserting your finger and fold left and right points together spreading the front and back crease.
5. Crease front left and right edges to the center, then back out and pull up bottom point to produce shape shown in next panel.
6. Turn over to the back and repeat for the back side.
7. Fold left and right edges along dotted line into center for both front and back sides.
8. Open the bottom by inserting your finger and fold left and right points together spreading the front and back crease.
9. Fold bottom front point upward along the dotted line.
10. Fold the same point forward and down along the dotted line.
11. Fold bottom point to the back along the dotted line to make a tail.
12. Open left and right sides and crease.
13. Fold down the wings and gently pull on head and tail to expand the body.
14. To complete your paper crane, blow gently into the bottom to help expand the body.

Cranes for Peace

Sadako Sasaki was 2 when Hiroshima was bombed and later died of leukemia. She tried to fold 1000 cranes believing she would get well by doing so. People from around the world now send origami cranes to the Hiroshima Peace Park as a symbol and wish for peace.

It is Japanese legend that folding 1000 cranes (senbazuru) grants the folder a wish. Sadako’s story, told in several books, has become an inspiration for people worldwide.
How to make your own senbazuru

Materials:
- 1,000 folded paper cranes
- sewing needles
- fishing line (or other strong line)
- beads (small or large, 80 - 200)

Making a senbazuru (wreath of 1,000 paper cranes) is not so difficult! Once you have folded 1,000 cranes, you simply need to string them together in lines of 20, 25, 40 or even 50 with a needle and some fishing line. Let’s do it together step by step.

Step 1: Organize your cranes by colour, size and style. Your senbazuru will be most attractive if there is some pattern and order to the way you string them. You can do whole lines of one colour, or do groups of 5 cranes of the same colour in sequence, or alternate a limited number of colours (e.g. red, blue, yellow) to make a complete string. Whatever you choose, all the cranes on the same string should be the same size. There are also a few different ways to fold cranes, so make sure all the cranes on one string have been folded the same way. (Don’t string flapping cranes together with conventional cranes, for example.)

Step 2: You need to flatten your cranes so that they can be strung together.

Step 3: Cut a 2-metre length of fishing line and string either one large bead or 3 small beads onto it. Feed both ends of the line through the eye of the needle, so you are working with a double thickness of fishing line. (If you want to tie a knot at the bottom to gather the beads together, you may do this as well.)
**Step 4:**
You can now begin stringing your cranes. Insert the needle through the hole in the bottom, and bring it out through the apex (top) of the crane’s back.

**Step 5:**
The cranes should fit snugly together, as in the diagram. You may find it easiest to achieve this by pressing them between your knees as you add cranes. Try to keep the line tight (i.e. don’t allow slack to build up), or the cranes will not stay snugly together.

**Step 6:** When you have strung 20, 25, 40 or 50 cranes on your line, you need to finish it with a small bead at the top. Loop the thread through the bead once and then tie it off. (You can leave the length of thread at the top so that whoever receives the cranes can choose how to display them.)

**Step 7:** The most compact way to package the cranes is to lay two strings of flattened cranes on top of each other and bind them with GLAD Press’n Seal wrap (or some other very mildly adhesive material, so as not to damage the paper). These can then be bundled together and rolled up inside a clear plastic bag. The resulting bundle will be about 25 cm in diameter and less than 1 m long.

**Step 8:** You can add a tag with the name of your school on the front, and the address on the back. Print the tag (below) onto card paper, and punch a hole in the top. If you have a hole re-enforcer, please use one of these as well. *(Or, we can add a tag for you at the JCCC.) And you’re done!*

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**From:**

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-Thank you for supporting the JCCC Origami Crane Project!
At the start of World War II in 1939 the atomic bomb had not yet been invented. However, scientists discovered about that time that a powerful explosion might be possible by splitting an atom. This type of bomb could destroy large cities in a single blast and would change warfare forever.

The mushroom cloud above Nagasaki, Japan from the atomic bomb

**Albert Einstein**
Albert Einstein came up with many of the theories that helped scientists in making the atomic bomb. When he realized that such a bomb could be made, he was frightened about what might happen if Hitler and Germany learned how to make the bomb first. He wrote a letter to US President Franklin Roosevelt telling him about the atom bomb. As a result, Roosevelt set up the Manhattan Project.

**Manhattan Project**
The Manhattan Project was the name for the research and development program for the atomic bomb. It started small, but as the bomb became more real, the United States added scientists and funding to be sure they were the first to have the bomb. Ironically, many of the scientists involved in making the bomb had defected from Germany. By the end of the project, funding had reached $2 billion and there were around 200,000 people working on the project.

**The First Atomic Bomb**
On July 16, 1945 the first atomic bomb was exploded in the New Mexico desert. The explosion was massive and the equivalent to 18,000 tons of TNT. Scientists figured that the temperature at the center of the explosion was three times hotter than at the
center of the sun.

Although the scientists were happy they had successfully made the bomb, they also were sad and fearful. This bomb would change the world and could cause mass destruction and death. When President Harry Truman heard of the bomb's success he wrote "We have discovered the most terrible bomb in the history of the world".

**Deciding to Drop the Bomb**

By the time the first atomic bomb had been made, Germany had already surrendered and World War II in Europe was over. Japan was defeated as well, but would not surrender. The US was contemplating an invasion of Japan. Army leaders figured that anywhere from 500,000 to 1 million US and Allied soldiers would die in an invasion. President Truman decided to drop the atomic bomb instead.

**Hiroshima**

On August 6, 1945 an atomic bomb named Little Boy was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan. The explosion was huge, the city was destroyed, and tens of thousands of people were killed. The bomb was dropped by a plane named the Enola Gay which was piloted by Colonel Paul Tibbetts. The bomb itself was over 10 feet long and weighed around 10,000 pounds. A small parachute was on the bomb in order to slow its drop and allow the plane time to fly away from the blast zone.
Nagasaki
Despite witnessing the terrible destruction of the bomb on Hiroshima, Emperor Hirohito and Japan still refused to surrender. Three days later, on August 9, 1945, another atomic bomb, nicknamed Fat Man, was dropped on Nagasaki, Japan. Again the devastation was horrible.

Surrender
Six days after the bombing of Nagasaki, Emperor Hirohito and Japan surrendered to US forces. The Emperor announced this on the radio. It was the first time most Japanese had heard his voice.

Interesting Facts

- The lead scientist on the Manhattan Project was J. Robert Oppenheimer. He is often called the "father of the atomic bomb".
- The first bomb dropped on Hiroshima was made from uranium. The bomb dropped on Nagasaki was made from plutonium, which was even more powerful than uranium.
- It is thought that at least 135,000 people died from the Hiroshima explosion and another 70,000 in Nagasaki. Many of these people were civilians including women and children.
- Hiroshima was chosen because it was a large port city with an army base. It also had not been damaged much by earlier bombings. This would show just how powerful the new weapon was.
After Sadako died, her classmates said to each other, "Let's do something for Sadako." That they, her friends, were able to do nothing for her left a painful feeling in their hearts.

Someone said, "Can we erect a gravestone for her? If it is nearby, we can visit it every day."

**Sadako's classmates take action.**
"What if we make a monument in Peace Memorial Park? Not just for Sadako, but for all the children who died from the atomic bomb."

"Do we have what it takes to do something like that?" The students were worried. "But I really want to do something for Sadako." "I want to get rid of atomic bombs." These were the emotions that moved the group to action.

**Children around Japan cooperate with the movement.**
Sadako’s former Bamboo classmates began a movement to raise funds for a monument. Their call elicited a huge response that they had not anticipated. More than 3000 schools around Japan sent money and letters saying, "Please use this to help build the monument." In January 1957, it was officially decided to build the Children's Peace Monument in Peace Memorial Park. The statue was completed on Children's Day (5 May) in 1958, two years after Sadako Sasaki’s death.

Though Sadako and the other children who had passed away would not return, the inscription carved into the stone in front of the monument at least carried the hope, "Let no more children fall victim to an atomic bombing."
Obon is one of the most important Japanese traditions. People believe that their ancestors' spirits come back to their homes to be reunited with their family during Obon and pray for the spirits. For this reason, Obon is an important family gathering time, and many people return to their hometowns.

Obon was originally celebrated around the 15th day of the seventh month in the lunar calendar. Obon periods are nowadays different in various regions of Japan. In most regions, Obon is celebrated around August 15, and it typically begins 13th and ends 16th of August. In some areas in Tokyo, Obon is celebrated around July 15, and it is still celebrated on the 15th day of the seventh month in the lunar calendar in many areas in Okinawa.

Japanese people clean their houses and place a variety of food offerings such as vegetables and fruits to the spirits of ancestors in front of a butsudan (Buddhist altar). Chochin lanterns and arrangements of flower are usually placed by the butsudan.

On the first day of Obon, chochin lanterns are lit inside houses, and people go to their family's grave to call their ancestors' spirits back home. It's called mukae-bon. In some regions, fires called mukae-bi are lit at the entrances of houses to guide the spirits. On the last day, people bring the ancestor's spirits back to the grave, hanging chochin painted with the family crest to guide the spirits. It's called okuri-bon. In some regions, fires called okuri-bi are lit at entrances of houses to send the ancestors' spirits. During Obon, the smell of senko incense fills Japanese houses and cemeteries.

Toro nagashi (floating lanterns) is a tradition often observed during Obon. People send off their ancestors' spirits with the lanterns, lit by a candle inside and floated down a river to the ocean. Also, bon odori (folk dance) is widely practiced on Obon nights. Styles of dance vary from area to area, but usually Japanese taiko drums keep the rhythms. People go to their neighborhood bon odori held at parks, gardens, shrines, or temples, wearing yukata (summer kimono) and dance around a yagura stage. Anyone can participate in bon odori, so join the circle and imitate what others are doing.

Obon is not a Japanese national holiday, but many people take vacations during this time. Mid-August is the peak travel season in summer.
Significance of Bon Odori
(Taken from BON ODORI MUSIC)

The idea of Bon Odori is to just dance, without fretting over how one looks or showing off one’s ability. It is to come and dance just as you are with no conniving, no calculating, no image protecting or flaunting.

According to Jodoshinshu (a sect of Buddhism), Truth and Reality are ours for the receiving. We need do nothing but hear and receive the Truth. But to simply hear and receive is as difficult as it is to just dance. We would much rather practice until we have “got it” before we dance in front of others – in much the same way that we rehearse “really living” and only end up watching life go by. One the other extreme. When we have mastered the dance, we strut and press to impress others – much in the same way that we do in life – reliving rather than living anew.

To “just do” anything is extremely difficult, for it involves setting aside one’s ego for a moment. Bon Odori is an exercise in “just dancing,” in “just hearing and accepting,” in being a river forever flowing and changing instead of the riverbank forever watching.

As part of the annual Obon Festival, the Bon Odori and other traditional dances are performed. All the dances are performed in a counter clockwise circular pattern, with taiku drums being at the center of the circle. The dances are taught and reviewed annually and at each celebration, guests are encouraged to participate in the dancing:

“It’s not important that you know the dance, but that you dance.”

During the rehearsal process, the actors learned a few of the traditional Obon Dances. They are including the Bon Odori dance as a storytelling element into the play. The dance instructor that taught the actors shared an instruction sheet that was created in 1930 as a helpful tool in remembering the dances (below). Do you think you could learn the dance with these instructions?
**BON ODORI UTA**

**1930s**

- Face counter-clockwise (ccw), wait 4 counts.

- Dance begins with the singing. Cross over with R foot to inner circle and spread out hands (*hiraito*).

- Face ccw again, and clap (*choo*).

1 - 2 - 3 - 4

1 - 2 - 3 - 4

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- Facing slightly into the circle, fingertips touching in front of chest.

- Stop R, hands arc and open straight across (shoulder level) to the inner circle.

- Step towards the outside with the R foot, fingertips touching in front of chest.

- Step L, hands arc and open straight across (shoulder level) to the outside of circle.

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1 - 2 - 3 - 4

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1 - 2 - 3 - 4

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- Facing ccw, step back with L foot, while hands sweep down to left side.

- Step back with R foot, while hands sweep down to right side.

- Walk R-L-together, with arms outstretched in front and fingertips touching, hands making a figure 8 motion.

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1 - 2 - 3 - 4
Cancer is a scary word. Almost everyone knows someone who got very sick or died from cancer. Most of the time, cancer affects older people. Not many kids get cancer, but when they do, very often it can be treated and cured.

Cancer is the abnormal growth of cells that causes illness in the body. Cells are the tiny units that make up all living things. Humans are made of over 10 trillion of them! You can't see cells with your eyes alone, but you can under a high-powered microscope.

Cancer happens when cells start growing abnormally and dividing out of control. A group or mass of growing cells is called a tumor. A tumor in any part of the body is called benign (say: bih-nine) if it's not cancer, or malignant (say: meh-lig-nent) if it is cancer.

Kids don't get cancer very often. And many of those who do get it can be treated and cured. Common cancer treatments include chemotherapy, which means getting anti-cancer drugs through an IV, and radiation, which means powerful energy waves (like X-rays) are used to kill cancer cells. Surgery also might be done to remove tumors. And in some cases, such as leukemia, a bone marrow or stem cell transplant might be done to help a kid be healthy again.

Here are a few types of cancer that kids can get:

**Leukemia**

Leukemia (say: loo-kee-mee-uh) is the most common type of cancer kids get, but it is still very rare. Leukemia involves the blood and blood-forming organs, such as the bone marrow. Bone marrow is the innermost part of some bones where blood cells are first made. A kid with leukemia produces lots of abnormal white blood cells in the bone marrow.

Usually, white blood cells fight infection, but the white blood cells in a person with leukemia don't work the way they're supposed to. Instead of protecting the person, these abnormal white blood cells multiply out of control. They fill up the bone marrow and make it hard for enough normal, infection-fighting white blood cells to form.

Other blood cells — such as red blood cells (which carry oxygen in the blood to the body's tissues) and platelets (which allow blood to clot) — also get crowded out by the white blood cells of leukemia. These cancer cells may move to other parts of the body, including the bloodstream, liver, spleen, and lymph nodes. In those areas, cancer cells can continue to multiply and build up
**Brain Cancer**

A brain tumor is a group or clump of abnormally growing cells that can be found in or on the brain. They're rare in kids. Of the more than 73 million kids and teens in the United States, about 3,100 are diagnosed with brain tumors every year.

Brain tumors can either start in the brain or spread there from another part of the body — some cancers that start in other parts of the body may have cells that travel to the brain and start growing there.

**Lymphoma**

Lymphoma (say: lim-foe-mah) is a general term for a group of cancers that start in the body’s lymphatic (say: lim-fah-tik) system. The lymphatic system is made of hundreds of bean-size lymph nodes — also sometimes called glands — that work to fight off germs or other foreign invaders in the body. Lymph nodes are found throughout the body.

When we get colds or the flu, we can sometimes feel our lymph nodes along the front of the neck or under the jaw. That’s because when the body is fighting off these germs, the lymph nodes grow larger. The spleen, an organ in your stomach that filters blood, and the thymus (say: thigh-mes), a gland in the upper chest, also are parts of the lymphatic system.

Lymphoma happens when a lymphocyte (say: lim-foe-site), a type of white blood cell, begins to multiply and crowd out healthy cells. The cancerous lymphocytes create tumors (masses or lumps of cancer cells) that enlarge the lymph nodes.

**Getting Better**

As doctors and researchers learn more about cancer, they're discovering better medicines and more successful ways of fighting it. The goal of cancer treatment is to kill or remove all the cancerous cells so healthy cells can take over again. When this happens, kids start feeling better and the people who care about them are relieved and happy.
1. Ancestors, family, and tradition are all important qualities for the Sasaki family. What are some of the traditions that you have in your family?

2. Sadako’s family performs a variety of rituals: taking off shoes before entering the house, preparing sushi, bowing to others to show respect, and the celebration of Obon. What rituals does your family perform? What are some rituals that are carried out in your classroom?

3. Sadako loves to run and practices very hard. It is very important to Sadako to practice and have discipline. What is something that you love to do that requires hard work and discipline?

4. The play takes place in Japan in 1955, 10 years after the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. What were the events that led up to the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki? Do you think the United States did the right thing by dropping the bomb? How many atomic bombs have been dropped since the end of WWII?

5. What does the crane symbolize in Japanese culture? Why is it so important to Sadako?

6. Sadako remains hopeful throughout the play, even towards the end of her life. What does it mean to be hopeful? When have you demonstrated hopefulness, even in the midst of a discouraging, or even hopeless situation? Why is it important to be hopeful?

7. Sadako inspired people across the world to strive for peace. At the base of the statue of Sadako reads, “This is our cry. This is our prayer. Peace in the world.” What does peace mean to you? What are some ways you can help to bring peace to our world?

8. Sadako is diagnosed with Leukemia. What is Leukemia? How is it treated? Why is it referred to in the play as “radiation sickness.”

9. Kenji reminds Sadako of the legend of the thousand cranes. If you were to become ill and to build a thousand cranes, what would your wish be?

10. Many people were affected by the bombing of Hiroshima. Grandmother shows Sadako other spirits who tell about how they were affected. What other events in history caused by humans, have affected numerous lives? Why did these events happen? How have you been affected by any such event?
Haiku is a type of Japanese poetry. Haiku are short poems that usually describe nature and a fleeting moment in time; they often contain a reference to a season of the year (called kigo).

Haiku often have a total of 17 syllables and usually have three lines:

1. The first line has five syllables,
2. The second line has seven syllables,
3. The third line has five syllables.

Haiku, a poem,
Five, seven, five syllables.
Life frozen in words.

Line one sets the stage,
Line two tells more about it.
Line three is the heart.

In ancient Japan,
Matsuo Basho wrote Haiku.
Timeless verse still lives.

The first two lines of a Haiku are brief observations about the subject of the poem. Then, in the final line, the perspective or voice of the poem shifts, and a comment about the essence of the topic is offered, a point is made, and the heart is touched.

Haiku was developed in Japan over 400 years ago. It was popularized by the poet Matsuo Basho (1644-1694) in the 1600s. Haiku is now popular worldwide.

Have your students write their own Haiku below:
A Thousand Cranes – Scenic Design

Preliminary Visual Research – By Jade Webb
Drop Research Images
Shrine Research Images
Paint Elevations
Correct Pronunciation of Japanese Names

**Sadako Sasaki**
Sah-dah-ko Sah-sah-kee
(the “d” is almost like a “th”)

**Kenji**
Ken-gee

**Obaa Chan**
Oh-Baah Chahn

**Obon**
Oh-Bohn

**Hiroshima**
He-ro-she-mah
(the “r” is slightly trilled)

**Sake**
Sah-kay

**Araki**
A-rah-kee
(the “r” is slightly trilled)

**Daisuke**
Dice-kay

**Watanabe**
Wah-tah-nah-bay

**Yaizu River**
Yaheezoo
Cast & Production Team

It takes a lot of hard working and talented artists to put together our tour. We would like to acknowledge and thank them for all of their hard work.

Cast

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lucas Blair</td>
<td>Kenji, Doctor, Spirit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casey Canino</td>
<td>Sadako</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Henry</td>
<td>Father, Doctor, Spirit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrea Hilbrant</td>
<td>Mother, Doctor, Grandmother</td>
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</table>

Production Team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Katie Mack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Director</td>
<td>Chris Forrer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage Manager</td>
<td>Liv Scott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenic Designer</td>
<td>Jade Webb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costume Designer</td>
<td>Serena Berkes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Properties Lead</td>
<td>Connie Preciado, Keely Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sound Design</td>
<td>Elyse Fink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paints</td>
<td>Abby Hogan, Bessie Lebeda,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jackie Roberts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Suggested Reading

Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes  By Eleanor Coerr

One Thousand Paper Cranes: The Story of Sadako and the Children’s Peace Statue  By Takayuki Ishii

Children of the Paper Crane: The Story of Sadako Sasaki and Her Struggle with the A-Bomb Disease  By Masamoto Nasu

Hiroshima: The Story of the First Atom Bomb  By Clive Lawton

 Thousand Cranes Origami Kit  By House of Rice

Helpful Websites

http://www.japan-guide.com
http://www.mustlovejapan.com
http://www.monkey.org/~aidan/origami/crane/crane4.html
http://www.jccc.on.ca/en/
http://kidshealth.org/