

THE HERO TWIN S

BLOOD RACE

STUDY GUIDE

By Ramón Esquivel
Produced by special arrangement with
DRAMATIC PUBLISHING, Woodstock, Illinois



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THE TEAM



The people who made this production possible.

CAST

Moth: Brianna Resendez

Cricket: Mason Ortiz

Jaguar: Pedro Leos

Iguana: Giselle Galindo

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager: Alyssa Snow

Technical Director: Pat Smith

Assistant Technical Director: Chris Boneta

Properties Manager: Lucian Hernandez

Audio Engineer: Zachary Walsh

Lighting Supervisor: Thaddeus Morris

Wardrobe Supervisor: Sarah Steele

American Sign Language Interpreter: Robert Cardoza

CREATIVE TEAM

Directed by: Ricky Araiza

Movement Director: Wesley de la Rosa

Scenic Designer: Lucian Hernandez

Costume Designer: Yesenia Tafur

Lighting Designer: Bill Rios

Sound Designer: Jo Villanueva

ABOUT THE HERO TWINS: BLOOD RACE

By Ramón Esquivel

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February 4 - March 5

SYNOPSIS

Who will win the blood Race, an ancient competition between two tribes that takes place in the underworld? The winner rules the capital city and all the people who labor for it. While the loser remains trapped forever in the underworld. Cricket has trained for his entire life with his twin sister, Moth, and he is favored to be the first of their tribe to win the Blood Race.

When Cricket fails, the high priestess, Iguana, challenges Moth to compete in the next race against King Jaguar. When Moth learns the truth of the Blood Race, She is faced with a choice that could turn the world upside down. An invented mythology inspired by classic Mayan Narratives, *The Hero Twins: Blood Race* is an action- filled adventure that is also an allegory about inequality, justice, and liberation.

WHO ARE THE HERO TWINS?

The Hero Twins: Blood Race is a brand new, original story inspired by the politics and culture of classic Mayan society. The orders of the ruling and working classes have forever been decided by a competitive race through the underworld.

To better understand how the hero twins are represented in Mayan culture, watch this video.



<https://youtu.be/jojLJNn87fU>



The Hero Twins are prominent figures throughout other indigenous peoples' cultures as well. Here are some examples:



NAVAJO

Yolkai Etsan and Asdzáą Nádleehé are Navajo goddesses, the latter of which gave birth to the Hero Twins Monster Slayer and Born-for-Water. In the Creation Myth of the Navajo the hero twins Monster Slayer and Born for Water acquire lightning bolt arrows from their father, the Sun, in order to rid the world of monsters that prey upon the people.



AZTEC

Quetzalcoatl and Tezcatlipoca are culture heroes and creator deities of the Aztecs and are said to be brothers. They are often seen in competition with each other, like when the two fought over who would become the sun. They are also seen as allies however, as both are considered protectors of Earth. They are also depicted as having another brother, Xolotl. He is even shown as helping Quetzalcoatl returning the bones of the humans to the land of the living to bring them back to life.

MEET OUR RACERS AND HIGH PRIESTESS



Brianna Resendez as Moth



Mason Ortiz as Cricket



Pedro Leos as Jaguar



Giselle Galindo as Iguana

WORDS TO KNOW FOR THE SHOW!

Calendar: A chart or series of pages showing days, weeks, and months of a particular year.

Jade: A precious stone, green in color, used in Mesoamerican art and sculptures.

Maize: An ancient form of corn, grown in South America.

Privileged: A special right, advantage or immunity granted or available only to a particular person or group.

Memory Stone: A stone with stories, told with still images carved into it.

Glyphs: A symbolic figure or relief drawing usually found from ancient civilizations; often used to tell pictographic stories.

Priest: A religious leader, usually seen as a mouthpiece of the gods.

Puja: The Moon

Aka u': The Sun

Primordial: Existing at or from the beginning.

Solar Eclipse: An eclipse in which the sun is obscured by the moon.

Underworld: A mythical abode of the dead, imagined as being under the earth.

s j o a p m s r i b e j v g i v d u d a
f o g s u r n v t x x o h c q n n e a j
v l l u n q i s h p y l g i w d l h z u
x t w a l g l v t q r m v z e i a m b p
q m c h r n o r i x j k c r h r c y p d
w b v b h u z a r l j z w a w o q f s u
m p w a y e i d c n e o o j d p e u r d
i p m y h s a n c e r g s n v a k b c y
o w m c y o p e c l u t e c w i y n k q
k n w m g g d l d b s i n d y f n n d z
m f e e q e s a x z w v g z d w d e k o
d z f m w w f c o i p r i m o r d i a l
u x z o t d o e m a i z e e f a c c n c
s o s r a s q c a r w h j j j x f a u b
w u n y o s e l z o g u a n d e h s a k
q z h u s i j i f m x k t c l e t f g s
n e a o l z k p r t r a r z b o y q h x
n k h m q o q s b p p o q h n l o s v l
a l g y o n b e x c s p m e r g c m m p
v i f j m j v a a g g j m w j b r x z i

Aka u'
Calendar
Glyphs
Jade
Maize
Memory Stone
Priest
Primordial
Privileged
Puja
Solar Eclipse
Underworld



Can you imagine what it must be like to grow up in a place where you are not allowed to learn?

Did you know there are still places in the world today with similar restrictions?

Check
it
Out >>>

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!



In this play, there are two people-tribes represented in the Middle World or Earth.

Privileged People and Freed People.

The Privileged tribe has ruled over the Freed people for as long as Moth and Cricket can remember. The Freed people are kept ignorant to keep them submissive. Meaning they are not allowed to read, write, or learn about numbers.

Check out this Modern Day Moth!

Both Moth and Malala prized knowledge over everything!



I tell my story not because it is unique, but because it is the story of many girls.

- Malala Yousafzai

Born in Mingora Pakistan and was not allowed to go to school because she was a girl.

Spoke out about girls' rights to education and continued learning.

Youngest winner of a Nobel Prize in 2014

Started Malala Fund: A charity dedicated to giving every girl an opportunity to achieve a future she chooses.



We save us!

- Moth

Not permitted to learn because she was from the Freed People tribe.

Refused to stop learning on her own.

First female runner to ever run the Blood Race

Would stop at nothing to help her freed people and make a difference as a leader

The main thing these two heroines have in common was their resilience to make the world a better place and the understanding that knowledge gives them power.

You have that same power too.

So what will you learn today, tomorrow, this year, and the years to come?

Pick something you have always wanted to learn.

What are you going to do THIS YEAR to make sure you learn about it?

Remember there are lots of different ways to learn.

Explore them for yourself and write it out!

To learn more about Malala's Story visit this link: <https://malala.org/malalas-story>

EXPLORING PRIVILEGE

Definition of Privilege: A special right, advantage or immunity granted or available only to a particular person or group.

Definition of Equity: The quality of being fair or impartial.

In our story, we get to see Jaguar and Moth run the Blood Race to win glory for their people and themselves. Both runners have the same goal to win! But the ways in which they get their looks very different. Take a look!



Must race through 3 caves



Gets one spirit guide helper



Must face a large gate before each cave



Has only a hammer and chisel



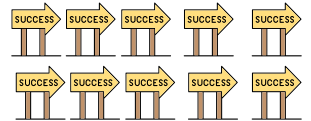
Starts later



Must race through 2 caves



Gets 10 spirit guide helpers



Faces no gates before each cave



Gets to bring unlimited supplies to help



Gets a head start



- Which character has more privilege?
- Why?

- Where do you see privilege in our world today?
- How might you stand up to help make the world a more fair and equitable place to live?



PAPER SNOWFLAKE ACTIVITY

To further explore the idea of Privilege, try this activity at home or in your classroom:

1. Hand out the ideal materials to make a paper snowflake.
 - Paper, safety scissors, and give detailed instructions to fold the paper in half twice. Cut out shapes along the folded edge of paper to reveal a beautiful snowflake once unfolded.
2. Then try the same activity again but this time...
 - Offer cardboard or stiffer paper, no scissors (only use fingers), and put a time limit of 1 minute on the clock to complete the snowflake again.

When you finish the second time, compare your snowflakes.

Do they look the same or different? What changed about them? Was one way easier than another?

When everyone is given the proper materials, instructions, and time to succeed it becomes much easier to achieve the goals set before us.

UNDERSTANDING FRICTION

The scenic designers for *The Hero Twins* spent a lot of time considering how the actors would use momentum and friction to run, jump, and climb on the set. Friction is the action of one surface or objects rubbing up against another. How do you think friction might affect Moth's movement through the ice cavern? Try out the experiments below to find out.



WILL IT SLIDE?

Materials: Ice cube and a glass or ceramic plate

Moth states that *"ice has little friction, so if I had a good momentum, the ice wouldn't change direction as I slid across it."*

Place the ice cube on the plate and give it one push across. The goal is to get the ice cube to go in a straight line with just one push.

Is it possible?
(circle one)

YES

NO

Pick up the plate and rotate it around, moving the ice without touching it. How easy or hard is it to move the ice?

Why do you think so?



SLIPPERY WHEN WET?

Often times if something is slippery, it means that there is less friction between the item and the surface it's placed on.

Test these items below and circle the ones that are slippery:



ICE



RUBBING HANDS TOGETHER



WASHING YOUR HANDS



SOCKS SLIDING ON A HARD FLOOR



SHOES SLIDING ON A HARD FLOOR

Which of these two experiments do you think has more friction involved, and why?

CELESTIAL BODIES

A Blood Moon happens when four total lunar eclipses happen within the span of two years. The fourth one is the blood moon. In *The Hero Twins*, every time a blood moon appears, a runner is chosen from the two tribes and made to run the blood race.

See who shall rule and who shall be stuck in the underworld forever.

Let's learn more about celestial bodies!

SOLAR ECLIPSE: when the moon passes exactly in front of the sun and casts a shadow on Earth.



LUNAR ECLIPSE: when Earth passes between the sun and moon, and the moon is hidden in Earth's shadow.



ACTIVITY: MAKE YOUR OWN ECLIPSE

Materials: Flashlight, Orange, Bouncy ball 1/4 the size of the orange.

- 1** Put the orange and ball on a table, in a line, about 8 inches apart.
- 2** Put the orange and ball on a table, in a line, about 8 inches apart. Stand about 2 feet away from the table. Hold the flashlight at the same level as the clay and the orange, then shine the light from behind the clay ball.
- 3** Check out the shadow on the orange.

What celestial bodies do each of these objects represent?

FLASHLIGHT

ORANGE

BALL

BLOOD MOON

When four total lunar eclipses happen within the span of two years, the fourth one is a blood moon.

In *The Hero Twins*, every time a blood moon happens, the Blood Race happens. A runner is chosen from two tribes and made to run a race through three caverns

LET'S TALK "TALKBACKS"



Q+A or brief discussion immediately following the performance.

At the end of the show please remain seated as the cast will lead the audience through a talk back. Talk backs provide a further shared experience about the themes woven throughout the show.

BEFORE THE SHOW

Here are the themes being addressed and some questions the cast may ask at the end of the show.

Themes in *The Hero Twins: Blood Race*

- Hero's Journey
- Knowledge is freedom
- Gender Stereotypes
- Working together/collaboration
- Standing up to adversity
- Recognizing your strengths

Some questions you may hear are...

- Moth and Cricket are from a place where learning words and numbers were forbidden, but they learned them anyway. **Why do you think that is?**
- During the Blood Race, we learn that Moth has to face much more adversity than Jaguar. **How did that make you feel?**
- At the end of the play, we see Moth choose to stay on earth and lead the people instead of living the easy life in Aspira. **What would you do if you had that same choice?**



As you watch the show try to remember what stands out to you. You may have a question about how we did something or why we did something. We will give you the opportunity to ask some of those questions.

At Magik Theatre we seek to not only provide amazing theatrical experiences but also to educate about the artistic medium of theatre to our audiences. We look forward to seeing you at the theatre!

WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED!

Magik Theatre's mission is to use the power of theatre to create Magikal storytelling for children that Activates imagination, Grows young minds, and Inspires creativity and a love of learning that is the Key to a more literate future for our community.

QUESTIONS?

How to book a field trip or tour

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9 am - 5 pm

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