



**MTC STUDY GUIDE**

# La Cabeza de Tomás

**In Tomás' Head**

## Play Synopsis

*La Cabeza de Tomás* is an original bilingual play designed for early elementary school-age children, celebrating the power of imagination through the story of Tomás, a boy whose vivid tales captivate his classmates and teacher. Presented in both English and Spanish, the play creates an engaging experience that promotes bilingual learning. Children will have the unique opportunity to sit on stage with the performers, making this a participatory and immersive experience. Carlota, who serves as the stage manager, also plays the role of the teacher in Tomás's adventures, making Tomás and Carlota the central characters of the story.

## Themes and Learning Objectives

*La Cabeza de Tomás* enriches young children's understanding of **storytelling** by celebrating **imagination** and **creativity**, showing how everyday moments can become magical adventures. The play introduces basic vocabulary in both **English** and **Spanish**, fostering an early appreciation for different **languages** and **cultures**. It encourages **confidence** and **self-expression**, inviting children to share their own ideas and interact with the performers, helping them feel valued. Additionally, it nurtures early **critical thinking** skills, teaching children to explore different **perspectives** and begin to question the truth in stories.



## About the Playwright

Vyana Preti is a Venezuelan-born educator, theater director, writer, and community organizer known for her original plays for young audiences. With a B.A. in Philosophy from Universidad Central de Venezuela, she has made significant contributions to theater, including her work with the award-winning company Palo de Agua and managing the reopening of the "Teatro de Petare César Rengifo." Vyana founded a Theater School for children and teenagers in Petare, one of Latin America's largest favelas. As the writer and artistic director of several children's plays, including the trilogy "Ratón y Vampiro," she continues to inspire creativity and imagination. Currently, she is excited to develop the Miami New Drama Educational Program, sharing her passion for theater with new audiences.

## ACTIVITY ONE:

### Vocabulary Introduction

Teach key vocabulary words in both English and Spanish related to the play, such as:

- Imagination (imaginación)
- Adventure (aventura)
- Truth (verdad)
- Classroom (aula)
- Paleontólogo (Paleontologist)
- Dinosaurio (Dinosaur)
- Submarino (Submarine)
- Ogro (Ogre)
- Ballena (Whale)

## ACTIVITY TWO:

### Storytelling Circle

Have students sit in a circle and take turns sharing a short story about a fun or imaginative weekend experience. Encourage them to be as creative as possible!

## ACTIVITY THREE:

### Character Exploration:

Discuss the main characters of the play (Tomás, the teacher, and classmates). Have students think about what makes each character special and how they contribute to the story.

## Discussion Questions:

- What was your favorite part of Tomás' story? Why?
- How did the teacher's perspective change throughout the play?
- Can you think of a time when you used your imagination to create a story or adventure?
- How do Carlota and Tomás "play" different characters throughout the show?



## Additional Resources:

Recommend books that celebrate imagination and creativity, such as *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak or *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle (available in bilingual editions).

**KEYWORD** **Multi-Role Play:** is when one actor plays more than one character in the same show, often changing costumes, voices, or actions to pretend to be different people.

## Miami International Children's Theatre Festival

**Miami Theater Center (MTC)** is thrilled to partner with **Conecta Miami Arts** for the inaugural Miami International Children's Theatre Festival this November, featuring five outstanding theater companies from Argentina, Mexico, Spain, and right here in Miami! The festival will be held at two venues, MTC and **Sandrell Rivers Theater**, both organizations that champion theater for young audiences. For more information, visit [conectamiamiarts.org](http://conectamiamiarts.org).

