



Hampstead Stage Company  
*Pinocchio* -Educational Materials  
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## Community Art Honesty Project

### Summary:

- In this interactive workshop, students are given the opportunity to reflect on their own personal truths while also spreading some universal honesty and cheer to a public space near them.
- Workshop incorporates “Build a Better World” summer reading theme by empowering students to use artwork and positive messages to brighten a community space.
- Perfect for a rainy-day activity or story time.

**Ages:** 5+

**Time:** 45-60 minutes

### Materials:

- Stones/rocks with a smooth surface. Can be found outside or purchased at a craft store.
- Paints in various colors.
- Sharpie markers (for older students) or non-toxic paint pens and markers (for younger students)

### Introduction and Warm-Up (15 minutes):

#### Introduce *Pinocchio* (5 minutes):

#### Take a moment to check in with students:

- Has anyone read the story of *Pinocchio* or seen a play or movie version (including Hampstead Stage Company’s version)?
- *For those who are familiar with the story, what is special about Pinocchio?*
  - ➔ He is a puppet that can walk, talk, and think. He wants to become a real boy.
- *What happens to Pinocchio when he tells a lie?*
  - ➔ His nose grows! Pinocchio lies to Geppetto because he thinks this will avoid hurting his feelings, but in the end, Geppetto is more hurt that Pinocchio lied to him.
- *What is the lesson that Pinocchio learns from this?*
  - ➔ It is always best to tell the truth.
- *Today we are going to explore fun ways that we can tell the truth about ourselves as well as how we can use these truths to brighten the days of those around us.*



### **Warm-Up (10 minutes):**

#### **The Truth About Me**

The following is a fun warm-up game to energize students and help connect groups that may not be familiar with each other. The rules are as follows, feel free to adapt as needed for your group:

- To begin, group stands in a circle, though they do not need to remain in a circle for the entire game.
- One person steps into the middle of the circle and says, "The truth about me is: \_\_\_\_\_"
- They then can fill in whatever information they would like to share with the group. Depending on the group, some ground rules may be needed about what information is appropriate to share in that space. Students should also be assured that they should only share what they feel comfortable sharing and there is no pressure to share if they do not want to.
- If for instance, the first person shared, "The truth about me is I love to swim." Everyone who also loved to swim would then go and stand in a clump around that person.
- From here, a new person (anyone who would like to share), may step out and share a new item. As with before, anyone in the group who has this in common with that person, would then go and form a clump around them.
- And so on, until the game comes to a natural end (no one else wants to share anything) or time runs out.
- It will be helpful for the group leader to have at least 3-4 items that they can share, should the group fall quiet during the game.

#### **Creating Community Honesty Stones (20-30 minutes)**

- Allow some time for students to reflect on the warm-up game. Some discussion questions could include:
  - How did you feel when you realized you had something in common with other people in the group?
  - How does it feel to tell the truth?
- *We are going to take our "truth telling" one step further by creating Honesty Stones to decorate our community. These stones can either share universal truths (something that is true for everyone) or inspire an "honest action" -something that will brighten someone's day and make our community stronger. These stones can be painted any color you want, and can include words or phrases that are either a universal truth or an honest action. Some examples are:*
  - You are loved!
  - Smile!
  - Do good today!
  - Smell roses!



- You look great!
- Laugh
- Brainstorm with students other words or phrases that can be included on the stones. It may be helpful for workshop leader or student helper to write the words and phrases on the board or a poster paper so the group can see them.
- Once students have a good list of words and phrases, they may begin to paint the base layers of their stones. These can be as many different colors as students like.
- Once the base paint has dried, students should write their words or phrases on the stones (one word or phrase per stone).
- Students may create as many stones as time and resources permit.

**Sharing Stones with the Community (10-15 minutes)**

- Once stones have dried, brainstorm with students where these stones would be most useful. This could include along a path leading to the library or another community building, or they could be placed on front steps, in a garden or park, etc. If deciding to place stones in a location outside of your group's ownership, be sure to get permission before leaving them there. Students could put all their stones in one place and arrange them in a special pattern or smaller groups of students could take on putting their stones in different places.

**Reflection Questions (5)**

- How did it feel sharing your stones with your community?
- How else can we use art and positive words to improve our community?