The story begins when a fortunate young girl, Abilene, receives a china rabbit from her grandmother, Pellegrina. Abilene names this dapper and dignified china rabbit Edward Tulane, and thinks of him as her best friend. While on a voyage with Abilene and her family, Edward winds up at the bottom of the ocean. He lands face down in the muck, and stays there until a storm churns the ocean, and a Fisherman named Lawrence finds him and teaches him the constellations.

Edward lives with Lawrence and his wife Nellie for a time, but eventually ends up in a rancid garbage heap. Edward stays there until one day a hobo named Bull and his dog Lucy find him. Edward travels on boxcars with Bull and Lucy, listening closely to the stories he hears along the way, until he is flung off the train. A woman finds Edward and uses him as a scarecrow until a young boy named Bryce rescues Edward. Bryce gives Edward to his sick little sister Sarah Ruth, as he reckons Edward will make Sarah Ruth feel better. Eventually, Bryce makes his way to Memphis. One night Bryce eats at a diner, but does not have enough money to pay so the diner owner does a dreadful thing. Edward wakes up in a doll shop, and remains there for a long time until one day something marvelous and miraculous happens.
Who does Edward meet on Egypt Street?

Who pulls Edward out of the Ocean?

Who does Edward Travel with on the trains?

Who does Edward stay with outside of Memphis?

Who does Edward see at the end of the play?

What do you think happens next?

Illustrations by Bagram Ibatoulline

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- How does the story Pellegrina tells at the beginning of the play relate to Edward’s journey?
- Why is Pellegrina disappointed with Edward? Have you ever been disappointed about something? How did it make you feel?
- Why do you think Nellie and Lawrence treat Edward like a child? And why does Lolly, their daughter, throw Edward away? How would you feel if someone threw your favorite toy away?
- Why does Bryce give Edward to Lucas the doll mender? How do you think Bryce felt when he gave Edward away?
- After Lucas mends Edward, Edward doesn’t want to be purchased. Why do you think he feels that way? What changes his mind?
- After spending time with each character, how does Edward change? What does he learn? Who is someone in your life that changed you? How so?
- What do you think happens after the play ends?
- What is the difference between being beautiful on the outside and beautiful on the inside? How does this idea relate to Edward’s journey?
- Why do you think it’s important to love others and be loved?
- On his journey, Edward has many different adventures. Which adventure was your favorite? Why?
BRINGING ILLUSTRATIONS TO LIFE

The artist Bagram Ibatoulline created the original illustrations for *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*. With your class, think of the important moments in the story you might like to see illustrated or photographed. If you are reading the book as a class, you might think about what illustrations you might add to the book. Invite students to use their bodies to create frozen images or tableaus of the possible illustrations/images from the story. When looking at the frozen images, ask: What do you see bodies doing? Who do you think is in this image? What do you think is happening? What do you see that makes you say that? Photograph and print the frozen images. Make a class book of the illustrations.

CREATE YOUR OWN JOURNEY

Bring in your own toys or stuffed animals to class. Imagine a journey for your toys or stuffed animals. Where might they travel? Who might they meet? What adventures might they have? What might they learn? Design a map of their journey. Mark where they go and the people they meet along the way. Share this map with others. Encourage students to share the different characters their toy or stuffed animal meets. What do they sound like? How do they interact with your toy or stuffed animal?

ADAPT EDWARD TULANE

*The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* started out as a novel by Kate DiCamillo, and later was adapted into a play by Dwayne Hartford. Adaptation means that you take a story in one form (like a book) and change it to another form (like a play). As a class, read a chapter of the book, and compare this chapter to what you saw in the play. How was the play different from the book? How was it the same? Using your discoveries, think about how you might adapt the book of Edward Tulane into another form. How might you adapt the story of Edward Tulane into a short film or a poem? Pick a new form and create your own adaptation!

WRITE A JOURNAL

Abilene cares deeply about Edward. How do you think she felt after she lost Edward at sea? What do you think she did after she lost Edward? Imagine you are Abilene. Write a journal entry from her point of view about the day she lost Edward.

EDWARD INTERVIEW

Stage a “reunion talk show” for all of the characters in the story. Invite students to take on different character roles and answer questions about their life with Edward and what their lives were like after Edward left.

WEBSITES TO VISIT

For additional information, resources and lesson plans about Edward Tulane, visit the following websites:

www.edwardtulane.com
www.katedicamillo.com
www.bagramibatoulline.com
Throughout the story, different characters find Edward. When they find him, they often dress him in new clothing and rename him. If you found Edward, how would you dress him and what would his or her name be? Design your own outfit for Edward below:

**NEW NAME:**

On his journey, many different people tell Edward stories. They tell him these stories because they believe he will remember them.

If you met Edward, what story might you tell? What story about you would you want Edward to remember? Share your story with your classmates!

**TELL A STORY**

On his journey, many different people tell Edward stories. They tell him these stories because they believe he will remember them.

If you met Edward, what story might you tell? What story about you would you want Edward to remember? Share your story with your classmates!

**CC - W.2.8, SL.2.4**

**NS - 6,10**

**MISSION**

Inspired by the intelligence and emotional wisdom of young people, we create professional theater, foster inclusive community and nurture meaningful learning through the arts.

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