

The making of My Life with the Wave

THE MATERIALS



Organza is used to mimic the movement of the wave.

THE PERFORMERS

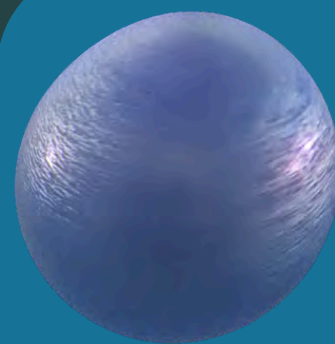


Here are the performers in rehearsal.



Costume designs for My Life with the Wave by Emma Williams

THE BALL



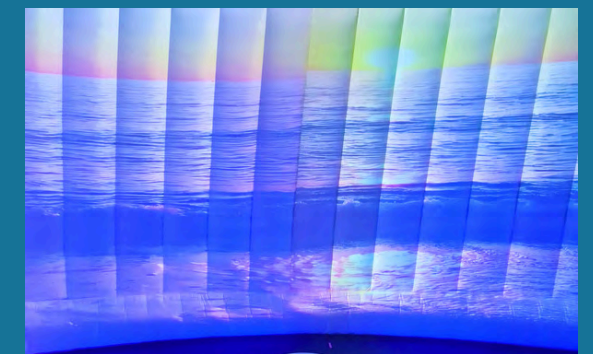
Wubble balls are used during the wave party.

THE SOUND

The original soundtrack to My Life with the Wave was composed by Angela Chan.

[Click here](#) for the children's story 'My Life with the Wave' (Credit: Writers - Catherine Cowan and Mark Beuhner, based on the story by Octavio Paz. Read by Kirsty Pennycook.

PROJECTION



Images are projected onto the dome creating scenery throughout the performance.



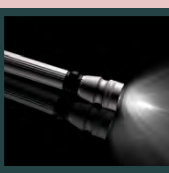
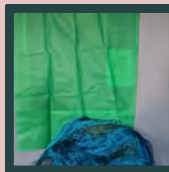
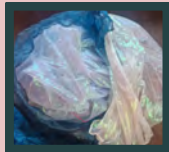
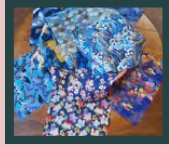
The Directors Notebook with Steve Byrne - Listen now

**Collaboration and co-creation
in Sensory Theatre**

**Story and theme building in
Theatre making**

RESOURCES

Internet access
Colouring pens, pencils
Scraps of materials
Large blue material
LED Torch
Sand
Basin
Dolly Pegs
Mannequin handout
Comic Strip Handout
Mindmap Handout
Green Screen
Elastic band
Mini Projector
Coloured Cellophane



POST-SHOW ENRICHMENT

DESIGN STRAND

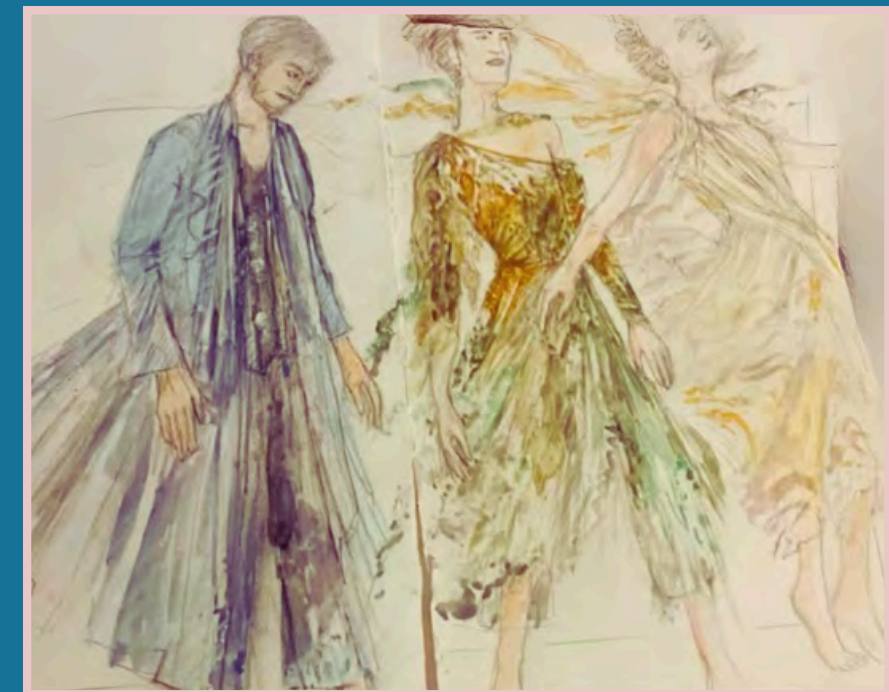
DESIGN YOUR ELEMENTAL FRIEND

In the show, which was inspired by a poem written Mexican poet and author Octavio Paz, a human makes friends with a wonderful but volatile wave that came from the sea. Although the human and the wave were different species, they found ways to connect.

Imagine you made an elemental friend. Through Mindmaps, the roleplay research or a combination of both, work to answer these questions:

- What are they and where have they come from?
- What kind of personality would they have?
- What sort of things would you two do together?
- What would they look like?

Once you have a good idea of who your Elemental Friend is, design their costumes for their different moods or characteristics using the Mannequin Handout.



WHO IS THE WAVE?

Reflect on the performers acting out the various moods and characteristics of The Wave in the show. Find a space in the room and, perhaps accompanied by some [audio of waves](#), explore how you would move your body as a wave. Would you be slow or fast? What part of the body would you be led by- arms, head, knees or feet? Try being led by different parts of your body. Try handling objects as a wave-would you be strong, confused, clumsy or playful?

Now try this exercise again as your Elemental Friend, playing some mood enhancing audio.

ROLEPLAY RESEARCH

WHO IS THE STORYTELLER?

Now in pairs or small groups taking turns to act out The Elemental Friend, mime a few scenarios in which chaos, laughter, sadness or peril might ensue as a result of our elemental character being away of their natural environment.

For inspiration, reflect on the scenarios played out in My Life with the Wave, such as a party, dining in a restaurant, travelling on a train.

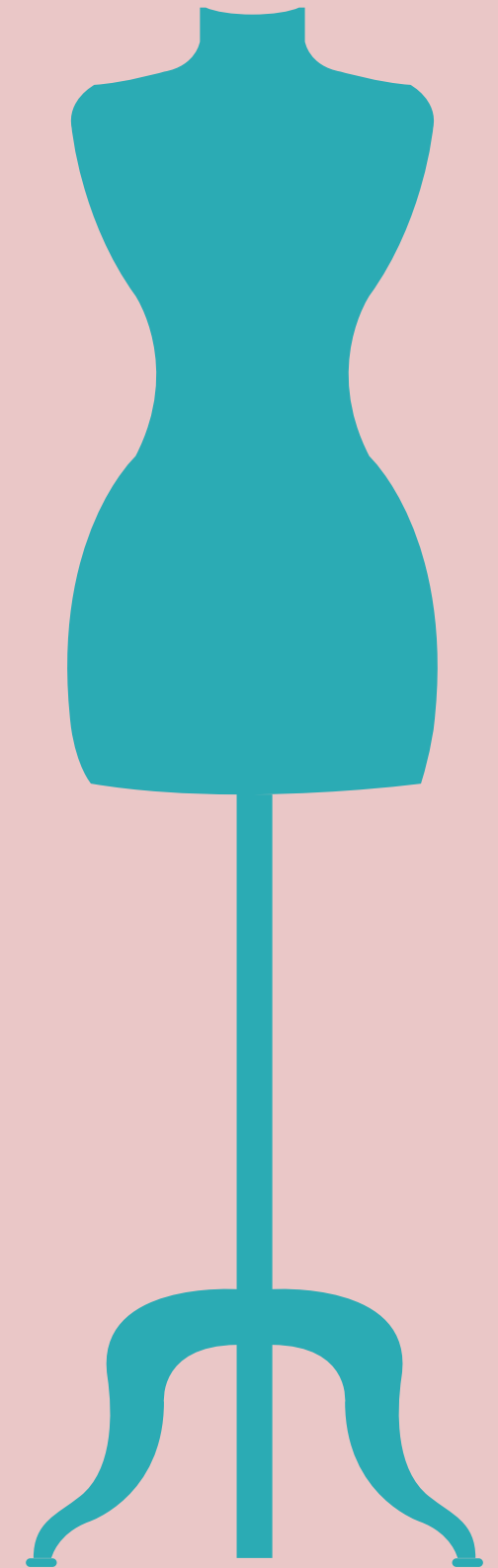
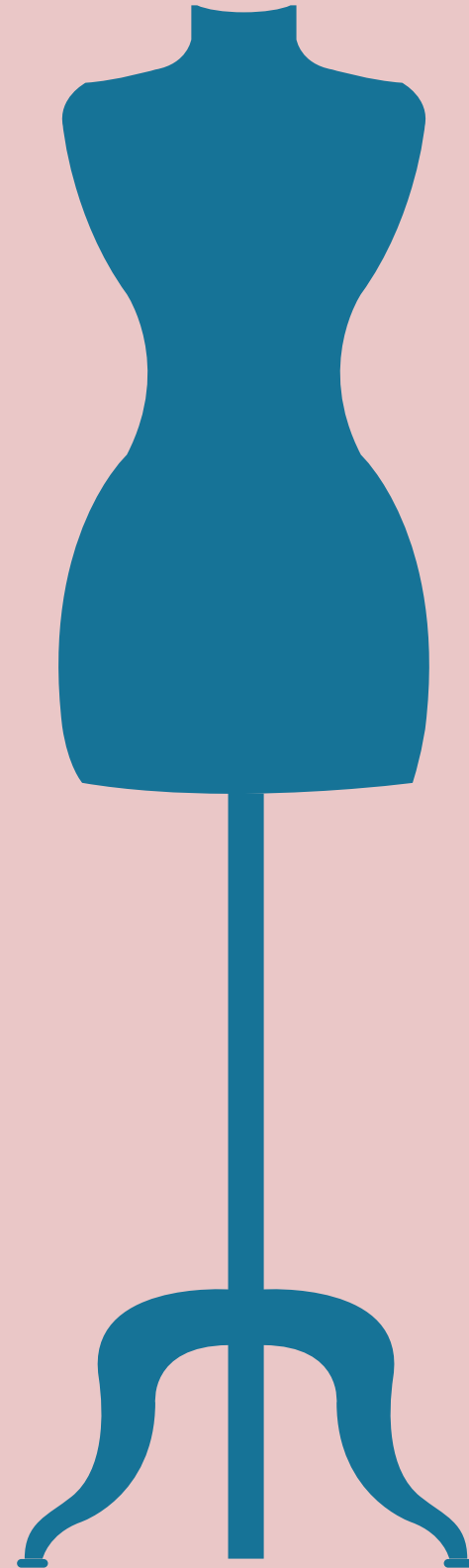
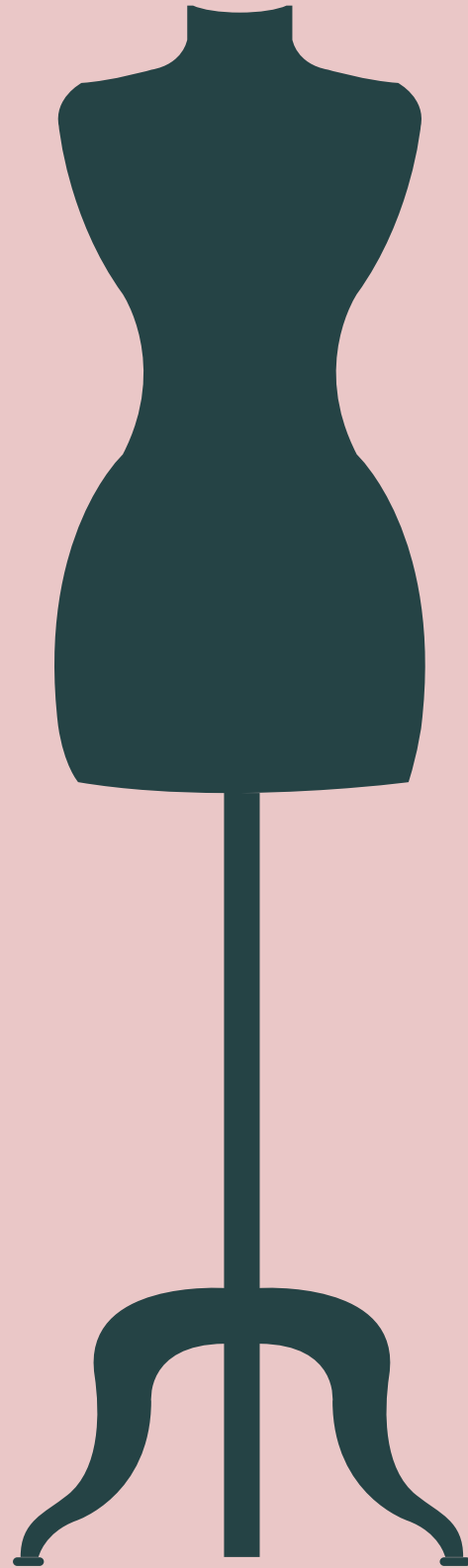
MANNEQUIN HANDOUT

To inspire ideas, think back to watching My Life with the Wave.

-Did each performer represent a different kind of wave?

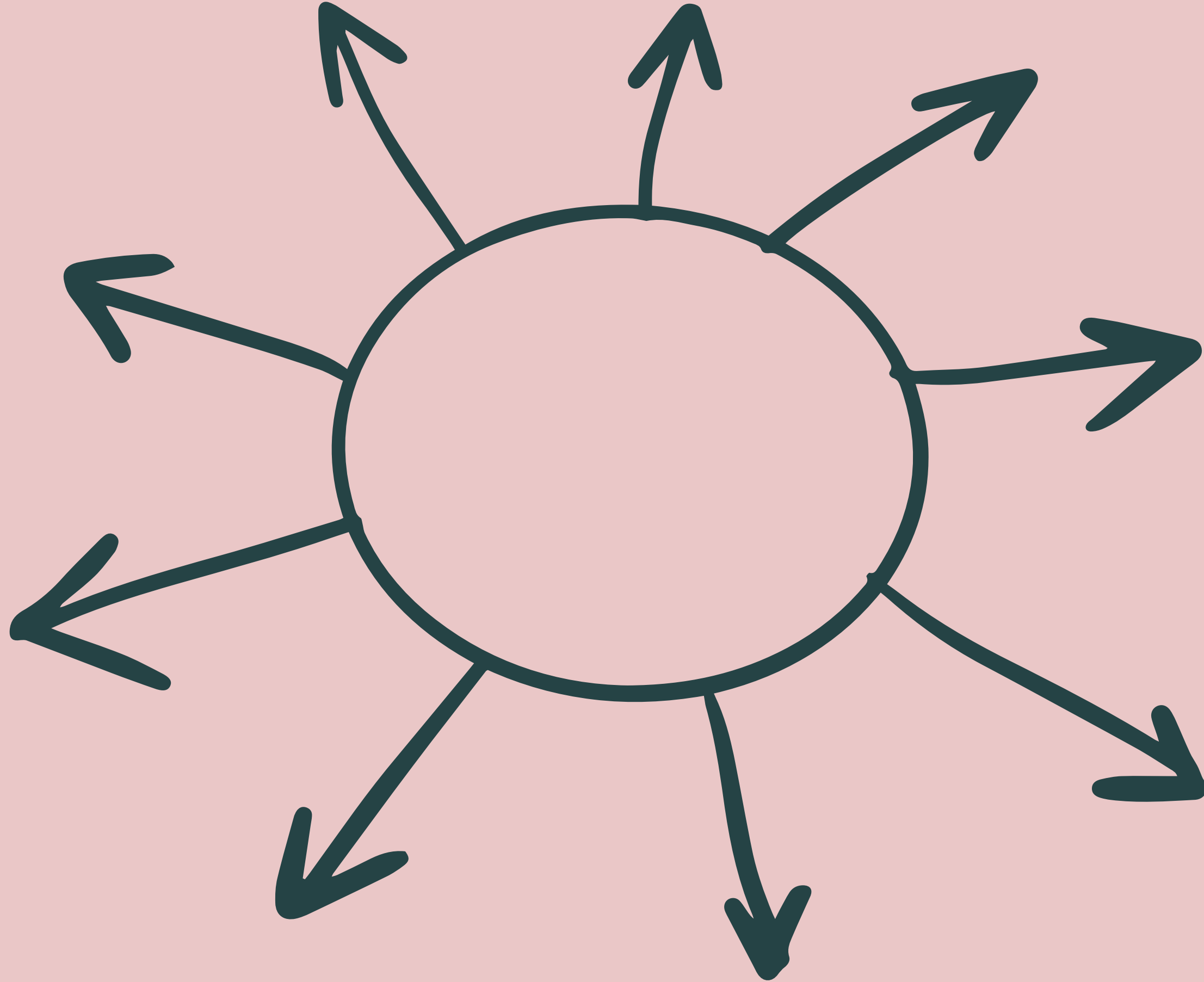
-How would you describe a wave? What are the different kinds of waves?

-What colours or textures represent your wave?



MINDMAP

Write the question in the centre of the Mindmap and come up with as many thoughts as you can to answer it. Write the answers at the end of the arrows.



POST-SHOW ENRICHMENT

PROJECTION/FILMIC STRAND



Waves being projected onto the Dome in My Life with the Wave

DOCUMENTING THE WAVES

Download some footage or images of [waves and the sea](#). You can edit a few videos into a montage or change the speed using [Vimeo](#). Save this video as an MP4 'Wave Background'

With a Green Screen affixed to the wall, record yourself or someone else acting as The Wave, using the performances in the show as inspiration. Save this video as an MP4 'The Wave'.

Upload the videos to a [Green Screen Video Editor](#) then adding 'The Wave' as media into the editing page, click EFFECTS on the sidebar followed by CHROMA KEY to remove the green screen.

Use the menu at the top to apply 'Wave Background' video. In the sidebar, select MOVE BACKWARD to put the 'Wave Background' behind 'The Wave' video.

Export new media to download as MP4.

SENSORY STRAND



SAND STORY PLAY

Fill a basin with sand. To the sand add some material and dolly pegs.

Immersing your hands in the sand, re-enact the Story of My Life with the Wave using the pegs as characters within the story and the material as the Wave.

What new scenarios can you create with these characters?



SHADOW PLAY

Using the basin, sand, pegs and materials again from Sand Story Play, apply different tones to the scenarios using different colour cellophane secured onto a torch with an elastic band.

By shining the torch with the coloured lights onto the scene, how does it change the mood? Does it now feel happy, sad, menacing or playful?



SOUNDSCAPES

In a group, build a soundscape of the sea waves and the surrounding environment.

What can we hear? How loud and thunderous or soft and lapping are the waves today?

Are there seagulls, children playing and laughing, is there the sound of boats? Someone in the group can act as the conductor, building up crescendos and diminuendos, building up the tempo or making sounds slower

PLAYING WITH THE WAVE

Using a large piece of blue material, as a group or in pairs recreate The Wave, taking turns to manipulate the material and immersing others in the wave's movements. You can enrich this experience with music or audio of the sea.

POST-SHOW ENRICHMENT

BEHIND THE SCENES STRAND

CREATING FROM STIMULUS



Director Steve Byrne was inspired to create My Life with the Wave when reading a poem by Mexican poet and author Octavio Paz, written in 1951. The poem, in which a beautiful wave creates havoc in a human's life, appears to be a metaphor for complicated friendships, but because of the style of the poem what takes place could mean many different things to different readers. It's sad to some, comic to others, part of life for many or an unnecessary mess to many more. Steve was excited by how the incidents with the wave could be interpreted differently by each audience.

A wave makes a very interesting and beautiful character to create a story around. Looking through other [poems about nature](#), what other elements have potential as exciting characters in a story with a human friend?

CREATE YOUR OWN STORY

Using the Comic Strip template, sketch out the story of your element so you know roughly how you want your piece to be structured.

You may wish to keep your story as a graphic tale and spend more time illustrating, adding colour and dialogue or you may want the comic strip to be used as the draft to a fully written story or poem.

WRITERS QUESTIONS

Often when writers begin a new creative project they start by asking some important questions about the characters and what might happen. These questions are good ones to begin with:

WHERE? What country or place is the location set? It could be Liverpool or a living room. It could be in one place or travel to many places.

WHEN? When is the story set? In the past, present or future?

WHY? Why has this incident, the situation which has brought the characters together, happened? Why are you telling this story? Is it to make people laugh or help people to understand something about these characters?

WHAT? What is the natural element? What is the problem in the story that needs to be solved?

WHO? Who is the storyteller? Who are the other characters in the story. Does the natural element have a nemesis? Who is your story for? Young people, older people or everyone?

COMIC STRIP HANDOUT

Give your story a title.



Number the boxes.
Sketch out the scenes in the
story
adding dialogue and
captioning.

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