

**Crosswalk of Common Core Instructional Shifts: ELA/Literacy**  
Connecting English Language Arts and Merry-Go-Round Youth Theatre's  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade Preparatory Workshop and Performance of *Emilia and the Heart of the Amazon*

Shifts According to EngageNY  
[www.engageny.org](http://www.engageny.org)

Shifts According to  
Student Achievement Partners  
[www.achievethecore.org](http://www.achievethecore.org)

**1: Balancing Informational & Literary Texts:** Students access information about the rainforest, natural resources, and conservation through a common text: the play script. Teachers make connections to ELA Module 2A and use informational texts from that module to reinforce content from the play and workshop.

**1: Building knowledge through content-rich nonfiction and informational texts**

**4: Text-based Answers:** Students use the common text (the play script) to reinforce their classroom experiences with ELA Module 2A. Students use the play script and texts associated with Module 2A to explore the play's themes and build knowledge of the Amazon rainforest, Ticuna culture, threats to the rainforest, and conservation efforts to combat these threats.

**2: Reading and writing grounded in evidence from text**

**5: Writing from Sources:** Students respond to writing prompts from ELA Module 2A, using evidence from the performance and workshop to inform written arguments about the Amazon Rainforest.

**3: Staircase of Complexity:** Students complete the Grade 5 "step" of growth on the sequential dramatics "staircase," linking application of audience etiquette and imagination from previous years' productions. Students develop empathy and tolerance by building knowledge of the Ticuna culture through the eyes of the character Adao. Actors provide scaffolding and supports to check for understanding during the in-class workshop prior to the performance.

**3: Regular practice with complex text and its academic vocabulary**

**6: Academic Vocabulary:** Students build pivotal vocabulary during the workshop and performance, including "rainforest," "natural resources," and "conservation," as well as Portuguese vocabulary words. These terms are closely linked to key vocabulary used to access texts in ELA Module 2A.