

Detention 2025

A Monkey Baa Theatre Company Production

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Adapted for the stage by Callan Purcell and Kobra Sayyadi

Original concept by Callan Purcell

This document outlines the relevant Australian Curriculum outcomes that can be achieved through viewing the production, engaging in workshops, and using the classroom learning materials for *Detention*.

Detention is relevant to subjects including English, Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS), History, Civics and Citizenship, and The Arts (Drama), with connections to cross-curricular priorities such as Intercultural Understanding and Australia's engagement with Asia, providing opportunities to explore themes of displacement, belonging, identity, and human rights.

V 9.0 AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM LINKS	
ENGLISH	
YEAR 5	LANGUAGE AC9E5LA01: Understanding that language is selected for social contexts and helps to signal social roles and relationships. This aligns with how the characters in <i>Detention</i> use language to reflect their backgrounds and social circumstances. AC9E5LA02: Understanding how to move beyond making bare assertions by considering differing ideas or opinions. This is key in exploring the differing perspectives of the characters on complex themes like displacement and belonging. AC9E5LA03: Describing how spoken, written, and multimodal texts use language features and are organised into characteristic stages and phases, as the play combines dialogue and visual storytelling to communicate its message.

LITERATURE

AC9E5LE01: Identifying aspects of literary texts that represent details or information about historical, social, and cultural contexts. This is highly relevant as *Detention* explores the historical and social contexts of refugees and marginalised communities, offering rich material for students to engage with.

AC9E5LE03: Recognising that the point of view in a literary text influences how readers interpret and respond to events and characters. The differing perspectives of Sima and Dan are crucial in shaping how the audience understands their experiences of displacement and marginalisation.

AC9E5LE02: Presenting an opinion on a literary text using specific terms about literary devices, text structures, and language features, while reflecting on the viewpoints of others. This aligns with post-performance discussions, where students can analyse the play's structure, devices, and themes while considering different interpretations.

LITERACY

AC9E5LY01: Describing the ways in which a text reflects the time and place in which it was created. This is directly relevant, as *Detention* reflects contemporary issues around refugees and the social landscape in Australia, which are critical to understanding the narrative.

AC9E5LY02: Using appropriate interaction skills, including paraphrasing and questioning to clarify meaning, make connections to one's own experience, and present and justify an opinion. This aligns with discussions and reflections on the characters' experiences in *Detention*, helping students draw connections to their own understanding of displacement and belonging.

AC9E5LY05: Using comprehension strategies such as visualising, predicting, connecting, summarising, monitoring, and questioning to build literal and inferred meaning to evaluate information and ideas. This helps students engage deeply with the complex themes of the play, allowing them to evaluate both the literal narrative and the inferred meaning behind the characters' actions and decisions.

YEAR 6	LANGUAGE AC9E6LA01: Understanding that language varies as levels of formality and social distance increase. This is relevant as the characters in Detention come from different social and cultural contexts, and their language reflects varying levels of formality and social distance throughout the play. AC9E6LA02: Understanding the uses of objective and subjective language, and identifying bias. This is crucial for students to analyse the perspectives and biases presented in the characters' viewpoints, especially around themes of displacement and marginalisation. AC9E6LA08: Identifying authors' use of vivid, emotive vocabulary such as metaphors, similes, personification, idioms, imagery, and hyperbole. The play uses strong emotional language and imagery to convey the intense experiences of the characters, which students can explore in depth. LITERATURE AC9E6LE01: Identifying responses to characters and events in literary texts, drawn from historical, social, or cultural contexts. Detention deals with the refugee experience and marginalisation, offering students a chance to respond to the historical and social contexts presented in the story. AC9E6LE02: Identifying similarities and differences in literary texts on similar topics, themes, or plots. This is relevant for comparing Detention to other literary or dramatic works dealing with themes of displacement, belonging, and cultural identity. AC9E6LE05: Creating and editing literary texts that adapt plot structure, characters, settings, and ideas from texts students have experienced. Students can experiment with creating their own narratives or scenes inspired by Detention, adapting its themes to their own creative work. LITERACY AC9E6LY02: Using interaction skills and awareness of formality when paraphrasing, questioning, clarifying, and interrogating ideas. This is crucial in discussions about the themes of Detention, such as displacement and belonging, where students develop arguments and share their opinions on the issues presented.
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	AC9E6LY03: Analysing how text structures and language features work together to meet the purpose of a text, and engage and influence audiences. The play uses specific language features and structures to convey its messages about refugees and marginalisation, which students can analyse. AC9E6LY05: Using comprehension strategies such as visualising, predicting, connecting, summarising, and questioning to build literal and inferred meaning. This aligns with how students will engage with both the explicit narrative and the underlying themes of Detention, enhancing their understanding of the play's context.
YEAR 7	LANGAUGE AC9E7LA01: Understanding how language expresses and creates personal and social identities. This is highly relevant, as Detention explores how the characters' language reflects their personal and social identities, particularly in relation to their refugee and marginalised backgrounds. AC9E7LA03: Identifying and describing how texts are structured differently depending on their purpose, and how language features vary in texts. The play uses different text structures and language features to convey its themes of displacement, belonging, and social justice. AC9E7LA02: Recognising language used to evaluate texts, including visual and multimodal texts, and understanding how evaluations can be substantiated by references to the text and other sources. This is relevant as students evaluate the production's narrative and visual elements, substantiating their opinions with references from the play. LITERATURE AC9E7LE01: Identifying and exploring ideas, points of view, characters, events, and issues in literary texts drawn from historical, social, and cultural contexts. Detention is deeply rooted in the refugee experience and marginalisation, making this content description critical for understanding its historical and social context. AC9E7LE03: Explaining the ways that literary devices and language features such as dialogue and images are used to create character and influence emotions. Detention uses dialogue and visual storytelling to evoke emotional responses and shape audience perspectives on its key themes.

	AC9E7LE02: Forming an opinion about characters, settings, and events in texts, identifying areas of agreement and difference with others' opinions, and justifying a response. This aligns with how students can discuss and debate their perspectives on the characters' actions and the issues raised in the play. LITERACY AC9E7LY03: Analysing the ways in which language features shape meaning and vary according to audience and purpose. This is essential for understanding how Detention uses language to convey powerful messages about refugee experiences, tailored to its audience of young people. AC9E7LY05: Using comprehension strategies such as visualising, predicting, connecting, summarising, monitoring, questioning, and inferring to analyse and summarise information and ideas. These strategies are crucial for students to engage with the complex themes of Detention and to draw inferences from both the dialogue and visual elements of the production. AC9E7LY02: Using interaction skills when discussing and presenting ideas and information, including evaluations of the features of spoken texts. This supports post-performance discussions where students can evaluate the play's spoken and performed elements, discussing how they influence the narrative and audience.
YEAR 8	LANGAUGE AC9E8LA01: Recognising how language shapes relationships and roles. This aligns with how the characters in Detention use language to navigate their social relationships and roles, especially in the context of their differing backgrounds and experiences. AC9E8LA02: Understanding how layers of meaning can be created when evaluating by using literary devices such as simile and metaphor. Detention uses figurative language and literary devices to deepen the emotional and thematic resonance of the story, which students can evaluate. AC9E8LA03: Explaining how texts are structured depending on their purpose and how language features vary, recognising that some texts are hybrids. Detention combines elements of drama and social commentary, making it a hybrid text that students can analyse in terms of structure and genre. LITERATURE

AC9E8LE01: Explaining the ways that ideas and points of view may represent the values of individuals and groups in literary texts drawn from historical, social, and cultural contexts. Detention explores the values of refugees and marginalised individuals, offering students insight into how these characters' points of view reflect broader social and cultural issues.

AC9E8LE03: Explaining how language and/or images in texts position readers to respond and form viewpoints. This is crucial in Detention, as the use of language and visual storytelling deeply influences how the audience forms opinions about the characters and their situations.

AC9E8LE05: Analysing how language features such as sentence patterns create tone, and literary devices such as imagery create meaning and effect. Detention uses a variety of literary devices and language features to evoke emotional responses, making this an important area for analysis.

LITERACY

AC9E8LY01: Identifying how texts reflect contexts. Detention reflects the social and cultural context of refugee experiences and marginalisation in Australia, making this highly relevant for students to explore how the play mirrors real-world issues.

AC9E8LY03: Analysing and evaluating the ways that language features vary according to the purpose and audience of the text. This is essential for understanding how Detention uses language to convey its themes of displacement and belonging, tailored for a young audience.

AC9E8LY05: Using comprehension strategies such as visualising, predicting, connecting, summarising, monitoring, questioning, and inferring to interpret and evaluate ideas in texts. These strategies help students engage deeply with the complex themes and emotions presented in Detention.

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

YEAR 5	AC9HS5K03: The role of a significant individual or group, and those who migrated to Australia, in the development of events in an Australian colony. This is relevant to Detention because the play deals with migration and the impact of individuals fleeing their countries, such as the Hazara refugee character, on Australia's social fabric. AC9HS5S01: Developing questions to investigate people, events, developments, places, and systems. This aligns with students exploring the characters' refugee experiences and their impact on Australian society, helping develop inquiry skills around social issues. AC9HS5S07: Presenting descriptions and explanations, drawing ideas, findings, and viewpoints from sources, and using relevant terms and conventions. This aligns with discussions and presentations on the themes of Detention, as students articulate their understanding of the refugee experience and societal challenges.
YEAR 6	AC9HS6K03: The motivation of people migrating to Australia since Federation and throughout the 20th century, their stories, and effects on Australian society, including migrants from the Asia region. This directly aligns with Detention, which explores the refugee experience and its impact on Australian society. AC9HS6S01: Developing questions to investigate people, events, developments, places, and systems. This supports students in creating inquiry-based learning around the characters' motivations and the broader themes of migration and belonging presented in Detention. AC9HS6S07: Presenting descriptions and explanations, drawing ideas, findings, and viewpoints from sources, and using relevant terms and conventions. This is relevant to students discussing and explaining their responses to the play and its reflection of real-world migration challenges.
YEAR 7	HISTORY AC9HH7S05: Describing causes and effects, and explaining continuities and changes. This aligns with exploring the causes of refugee displacement and its effects on individuals like Sima, as well as the broader social changes and continuities reflected in Detention. AC9HH7S01: Developing historical questions about the past to inform historical inquiry. This content description supports students in generating questions around the themes of migration, displacement, and belonging, which are central to the play.

	AC9HH7S08: Creating descriptions, explanations, and historical arguments using historical knowledge, concepts, and terms that reference evidence from sources. This is relevant as students can create responses to Detention, drawing on historical and social contexts to build arguments about the refugee experience. CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP AC9HC7K04: How Australia’s secular democracy and pluralist, multi-faith society draws upon diverse cultural origins, including Christian and Western heritage, and migrant communities. This is directly relevant as Detention explores the challenges faced by migrants and refugees within Australia’s multicultural society. AC9HC7K05: How values based on freedom, respect, fairness, and equality of opportunity can support social cohesion and democracy within Australian society. This links to the themes of Detention by addressing issues of fairness, equality, and social cohesion in the context of refugee experiences. AC9HC7S03: Analysing information, data, and ideas about political, legal, or civic issues to identify and explain differences in perspectives and potential challenges. This aligns with discussing the differing perspectives on refugees and migration that are presented in Detention.
YEAR 8	HISTORY AC9HH8S01: Developing historical questions about the past to inform historical inquiry. This is important for encouraging students to investigate the historical and social contexts of refugee movements and migration, which is central to Detention. AC9HH8S08: Creating descriptions, explanations, and historical arguments, using historical knowledge, concepts, and terms that reference evidence from sources. This aligns with students developing arguments or explanations about the themes of Detention related to migration and social justice. AC9HH8S05: Describing causes and effects, and explaining continuities and changes. Students can explore the causes of refugee displacement, its effects on individuals and societies, and how these themes reflect broader societal changes. CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP

	AC9HC8K05: How culture and religion may influence individuals' and groups' perceptions and expressions of citizenship and their actions as citizens. This is relevant to Detention, as the play explores how the cultural background and refugee status of the characters affect their sense of belonging and citizenship in Australia. AC9HC8K06: Different experiences of, perspectives on, and debates about Australia's national identity and citizenship, including the perspectives of different migrant groups. Detention addresses the experience of migrants and their place in Australian society, reflecting on national identity and citizenship. AC9HC8S03: Analysing information, data, and ideas about political, legal, or civic issues to identify and explain differences in perspectives and potential challenges. This ties into the themes of the play, as students can analyse differing perspectives on migration and citizenship presented through the characters.
THE ARTS	
YEAR 5 / 6	DRAMA AC9ADR6E01: Exploring ways that the elements of drama are combined to communicate ideas, perspectives, and/or meaning in drama across cultures, times, places, and/or other contexts. This directly aligns with how Detention uses the elements of drama to communicate themes of migration, displacement, and belonging across cultural contexts. AC9ADR6D01: Exploring ways to combine the elements of drama to communicate ideas, perspectives, and/or meaning in improvisations, devised drama, and/or scripted drama. Students can experiment with combining these elements while exploring Detention's themes, either through improvisation or scripted scenes. AC9ADR6C01: Developing characters and situations, and shaping and sustaining dramatic action to communicate ideas, perspectives, and/or meaning in improvised, devised, and/or scripted forms. This is relevant as students engage with Detention by developing their own characters and situations that reflect the themes of the play, whether through improvisation or scripted performances.
YEAR 7 / 8	DRAMA AC9ADR8E01: Investigating ways the elements of drama and/or conventions are used to communicate ideas, perspectives, and/or meaning in drama created and/or performed across cultures, times, places, and/or other

contexts. This is highly relevant as Detention uses dramatic conventions to communicate perspectives on migration and displacement, and explores these ideas across cultural and social contexts.

AC9ADR8D02: Reflecting on their own and others' drama to inform choices when manipulating elements of drama and/or conventions to shape dramatic action. Students can reflect on the performances in Detention, considering how the elements of drama were used to communicate the characters' emotional journeys and themes of belonging.

AC9ADR8C01: Improvising and devising drama and/or interpreting scripted drama, manipulating elements of drama and applying conventions relevant to the style/form. This is relevant as students can interpret scenes from Detention or devise their own drama pieces inspired by the play's themes, using the elements of drama to shape their work.