



SALT & PEPPER

By José Cruz González

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THE RIPPLE EFFECT

A secret and a sacrifice — and the ripples they make.

In *Salt & Pepper*, the Old Man has a big secret. To hide it, he makes up stories about Hannah's life, which grow with every telling. The Old Man later tells Salt, "I made them up so you would be proud of her. So you wouldn't be ashamed ... I'm sorry I lied to you and Andy. Once you tell a lie, it only gets bigger and bigger until it buries you."

Andy's sacrifice to join the military also creates a ripple through his family.

See the ripple effects of their actions.



Think:

How can one person's actions — or secrets — change the lives of others?

Does forgiveness mean forgetting, understanding, trusting, or apologizing? Or something else?

The Power to Change the Story

How might the story have been different if the Old Man had told Salt his secret sooner?

PASS IT ON

Stories pass through generations. So does reading.
But reading and stories can go both ways?

*What story has been
passed on to you?*

It could be a book, family story, recipe, song, joke,
tradition, or piece of advice.



Who gave it to you?



What does it mean to you?



Who might you pass it on to?

ASK SOMEONE OLDER

Find someone from another generation and ask them:

What book changed you?

What is something you hope
our generation remembers?

Or your own question: _____

What was your
childhood like?

What is something you wish you knew
when you were my age?

Don't just listen to their answer.
Ask a follow-up question!

Dream Big

4 Steps to Achieving
Your Goals:

1. Know what
your goal is.



2. Figure out how
far you are from
your goal.



3. Identify the
steps that will
get you there.



4. When you get
there, give more
of your best
than people
expect of you.



PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER: *A Conversation with the Playwright*

At the heart of *Salt & Pepper* is something quite simple: putting letters together to make meaning.

For playwright José Cruz González, storytelling is a superpower! It can bring people together and touch them; no matter what the story is, people can connect to it.

González was inspired to write *Salt & Pepper* in part by his own experiences growing up in a family and community of farm workers. He wanted to tell a story that invited audiences to see the world through someone else's eyes.

Throughout the play, letters, words, and stories become ways for people to reach one another — even when they are separated by distance, time, or circumstance.

González sees this as one of the most important things stories can do: help us understand people whose lives may be different from our own.

Our own stories are still being written. González's path took unexpected turns through history, theatre, directing, education, and playwriting.

"The path that you take, you don't know what doors are going to open for you."

— José Cruz González

So, what happens when we put the pieces together?

A letter becomes words.

Words become a story.

A story becomes understanding.

And understanding can bring people closer.

Theatre invites us to put the pieces together — and that's part of what makes it so powerful.

"Don't rush, but do good work. People remember good work."

— José Cruz González

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