

What is imagination?

What is an image in the mind?

What is the relationship between imagination and image?

What is the relationship between imagination and image and the sensible (or sensed) world?

What is the nature of the relationship between me and my imagination?

Can I talk to it?

Can it talk to me?

Can I teach it anything?

Can it teach me anything?

Can I deliberately and consciously “make” images?

Can I deliberately and consciously “erase” images?

Are images always pictures? Do they ever include words and/or other sensory perceptions?

Is it possible to train, or educate, the imagination in order to make it more responsive, more dependable, and more focused?

We will be exploring these questions as we examine ways of reading and coming to know theatrical texts, and how we use what we know and learn to inform the mysterious process called design. Theatrical design usually begins with a text, and designing is, in large part, a function of imagination. The connections between the two, however, are elusive.

## *A Bucket of Knowing*

Images are related to knowledge in several ways.

1. Images can underscore facts and experiences, making them seem more real and more true.
2. Images sometimes pop up out of the blue and solve knotty problems.
3. Images can be metaphors for things we already know, acting as different, or alternate, ways of knowing.