

The Toad Prince

Teacher's Guide



Based on a Chinese folk tale and accompanied by original Chinese music.

The production of this play was made possible in part by Artist Fellowship grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission

Feel free to make as many copies as needed.

**A Production of PUPPET ARTS THEATRE
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ABOUT THIS PRODUCTION

“The Toad Prince” was originally adapted for the puppet stage in 1978 by Tears of Joy Puppet Theatre in Portland, Oregon. It was based on the book “The Black Heart of Indri” by Dorothy Hoge. Mrs. Hoge based her story on Chinese tales published in England in the 1890's. The stunning hand-rod puppets were designed for Puppet Arts Theatre by Erica Flannes and built by Peter Zapletal, founder of the Puppet Arts Theatre. The costumes and sets were constructed by Jarmila Zapletal. The music is authentic Chinese music, some played on unique Chinese instruments.

CHARACTERS IN THE PLAY

Indri: the Toad Prince who desires to have the face of a man instead of a toad

Water Sprite: Indri's mother who cares very much for her son

Nam Li: the village mayor who needs Indri's "water of life" to save his son

Yua Nana: the daughter of Nam Li

Not Soon: the servant of Nam Li

Mandarin: the wise ruler of the province

OBJECTIVES:

Language Arts Objectives:

1. The student identifies and describes the actions, traits, emotions, and feelings of a character from a story.
2. The student recalls story details.
3. The student recognize sequential relationship.
4. The student predicts outcomes of a story.

Social Studies Objective:

1. Locate and label continents and find China.

Writing Objectives:

1. Express thoughts through writing.
2. Explores various genres (folk tale)

BEFORE THE SHOW

1. Introduce the students to folk tales by asking the children if they have ever heard any folk tales or fairy tales. Discuss how folk tales, stories or legends, originated among common people.

2. Locate Asia on a map and discuss that Asia is a continent and have student locate Asia on a globe.
3. Find the country - China. See how far away it is?
4. Explain the difference between China and china.
5. Explain the difference between a frog and a toad.
6. Introduce the name of the puppet show "The Toad Prince."
7. Read the stories of the "Beauty and the Beast" and "The Frog Prince" before the show. In what ways are the two stories similar? In what ways are they different?
8. Remind students to listen carefully to the story. Think about how each character felt.
9. Remind students that most folk tales had morals. Listen for the moral of the story.
10. Remind the students that sequencing means putting things in order and that they will need to be able to sequence one of the stories.
11. Have children define vocabulary words from the story and explain that these words will be used throughout the show.

folk tale	sprite	vile	inherit	Mandarin
orchid	cask	profusion	supreme	dim-witted
jade	treachery	injustice	incompetence	sorrow

AFTER THE SHOW

1. Discuss the story together in class. Discuss and compare "The Toad Prince" with the "Beauty and the Beast" and "The Frog Prince." In what ways are these stories similar? In what ways are they different?
2. Have some of the children tell the story in sequence.
3. Discuss some of the characters in the story. Have the students write a brief character sketch of their favorite character.
4. Discuss the morals of the story and some of the details that support them. In this play, Indri is told he needs to "live in the presence of virtue". Look up the word virtue in the dictionary. What does it mean?
5. What virtues did Yua Nana posses? What virtue did Indri learn? Make a list of some different virtues.
What do you think of the actions of the Father? Why did he try to steal Indri's orchids? Did Father, Nam Li, care for his son?
Was Indri right to refuse to sell the Father the "water of life?" If he was right, that meant someone had to die. Was that right?
6. Have the students sequence one of the story in their own words by writing character descriptions, and details that would support the moral.
7. Have students draw their favorite part of the story.

PREPARING THE SHOW FOR YOU

Many people are involved in making “The Toad Prince” a successful stage production. When you are watching the performance see what each one contributed:

The Writer created the lines for the characters to say.

The Set Designer planned out what the stage should look like during the show.

The Costume Designer created the costumes that the actors wear on stage.

The Puppet Makers build puppets.

The Musicians are playing the music you hear.

The Director instructed the actors and puppeteers where to move.

The Actors/Puppeteers from Puppet Arts Theatre are performing the various parts in the story.

The Lighting Designer set and focused lights to set the mood for the show.

They all worked together to create The Toad Prince just for YOU!

Puppet Arts Theatre brings amazing puppetry to audiences throughout the Southeast. Recognized for its commitment to excellence and innovation, it receives support from the Mississippi Arts Commission and the Greater Jackson Arts Council.

Puppet Arts Theatre was founded in 1967 and now performs for thousands of children each year.

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