



Red Herring Puppets

Teacher's Study Guide

ROWBY'S TRAVELS: An Adventure in Folklore

Students see our world through the fresh perspective of Rowby, a friendly green alien. While visiting planet Earth, Rowby shares his impressions and cultural experiences through this collection of stories from around the globe.

Stories include:

- **DOGS**, a romp through the parks of Paris with animated cut-outs designed by artist François Manavit and accompanied by music from Nina Roti.
- **THE DRUM**, an adaptation of a traditional Indian folk-tale from the Himalaya Mountains performed with carved wooden hand puppets clothed in authentic Indian fabrics with original music by Lynn Anderson. Kamala, a young girl, dreams of owning her own drum. Through her many acts of kindness and a little help from the Monkey Spirit, she earns her wish.
- **THE THREE LITTLE PIGS**, a fast-paced American rap song of the well-known tale with "funky" hand & mouth puppets.
- **JACK and the BEANSTALK**, told by world renowned Scottish born musician/storyteller Robin Williamson accompanied by his Celtic harp. The show incorporates hand puppets, a magical beanstalk, a gigantic giant, and a colorfully painted backdrop that turns with the action.

DOGS - a humorous appetizer

On an early morning in a park in Paris, France, people are out walking their dogs. The separation between dog and master disappears as visual humor joins each couple in a perfect match.



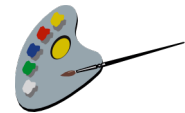
GEOGRAPHY

France is a small European country shaped a little like a star. To the north is the English channel. To the south is Spain and the Mediterranean Sea. Its westerly neighbors are Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, and Italy. On the East, it borders the Atlantic Ocean. It is known as a place where people like to be and act individually, and for this reason; it is a leader in art, fashion, and food. Red Herring Puppets painted a background depicting the very popular Eiffel Tower built in the early 20th century for the World's Fair. Also on the background is the Sacra-Coeur, a famous white church nestled on top of Montmartre hill, a popular place for artists.



ART ACTIVITY

Choose either yourself or someone you know who owns a pet. Think about the similarities between the pet and their master and draw a picture that caricatures these common traits.



MEET RED HERRING PUPPETS

Red Herring Puppets is a professional puppet company founded in 1988 and based in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Western North Carolina. They delight young audiences with their lively and informative "edu_tainment."

Lisa Sturz, Artistic Director, is a nationally recognized puppeteer and teaching artist whose credits include Jim Henson Productions, Lucasfilm, Walt Disney Imagineering, NBC, PBS, the Ice Capades and the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Lisa's giant puppets have been featured at such places as the Field Museum, the Shedd Aquarium, and the Biltmore Estate. Her film and television credits include Murphy Brown, Puzzle Place, Elmo in Grouchland, Muppets in Space, the Flintstones, Howard the Duck and Ninja Turtles III. Her work has been supported through grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Jim Henson Foundation, the Puppeteers of America and many State and local community agencies. She has earned a California Emmy.

THE DRUM - a Himalayan folk-tale

The Drum is derived from a folk-tale of the oral tradition that has been passed down for centuries through storytellers, families, and communities. There are many versions of this story that fall into the category of a clever animal (often a monkey or a jackal) who makes fortunate exchanges. Ours is an original version based on a story of a young child.

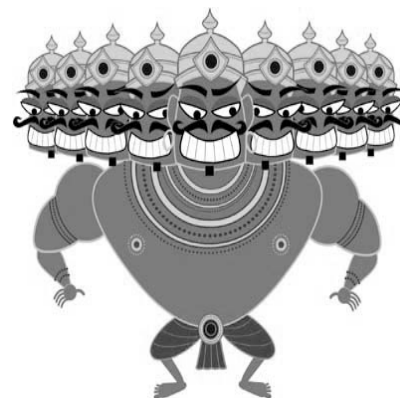


GEOGRAPHY

India is a large country with many distinct regional flavors and a variety of landscapes and climates. Hindus and Muslims make up the majority of the population, but there are over 100 different languages, 10 major script systems, and many old religions still practiced today. Our story is from the north-central region that extends into the foothills of the Himalaya mountains. It was originally recorded in the Hindi language. Other versions of the story exist in other regions; so we have taken the liberty of combining scenic and costume elements with the neighboring province of Rajasthan.

VOCABULARY

- Bapu, an affectionate term for father
- chai, a flavorful tea with lots of spices
- chapatti, a flat bread baked on a griddle
- chulha, a wood burning stove
- cow-dung patties, a fuel made from cow dung collected in the fields
- dals, split lentils
- namaste, a greeting that means both hello and goodbye
- puris, golden puffs of bread
- rakshasa, a demon
- rupee, the Indian currency
- salam alekum, a welcoming greeting in Arabic
- samosa, a deep-fried flour patty filled with potatoes and vegetables
- shokria, thank you
- Surpanaka, the sister of the demon-king Ravana as depicted in the Ramayana



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who does the monkey represent?
2. Do you think Kamala deserved the drum?
3. What are some of the kind things Kamala did for the people she met?
4. Think of a kind act you can do for someone you know.

The Three Little Pigs

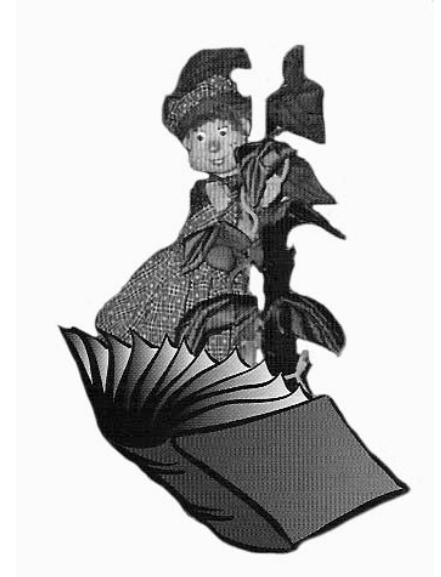


The Three Little Pigs is an old story that was first published in the 18th century as a Nursery Tale. The story gained popularity in Europe during the 19th century; but it wasn't until the Disney cartoon in 1933 that it became well known to generations of American children.

Our version is accompanied by the rap rhythm of L.L. Cool J.

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

Jack and the Beanstalk is one of many similar stories known as the "Jack Tales". Most originated in Western Europe and then traveled to Appalachia. The stories in the cycle revolve around the main character, Jack, who comes from a poor family, meets a magical person or acquires a magical object, and then returns to his home wealthier and happier than before. Giants are prevalent throughout the cycle, as are magical plants, and golden objects. Jack is a folk hero who achieves success through luck and cunning. In other countries he is known as Hans, Juan, Jean, Jock, or Jake



Robin Williamson, our narrator, grew up in Scotland and now lives in Wales. He is widely known as an expert in Celtic music and folklore. His accent is typical of the Scottish Highlands and he accompanies himself with a variety of Celtic instruments, especially the harp.

GEOGRAPHY

Many of the JACK tales, originated in the British Isles and traveled across the ocean to Appalachia with the early settlers. References to Kings and Queens were replaced with wealthy landlords.

PUPPETRY is an ancient art form that began, like traditional theatre, as an expression of ritual and magic. Puppetry is the art of transforming inanimate objects into believable characters. There are many different kinds of puppets which are usually distinguished by how they are manipulated. In this show we are using primarily hand puppets, but there are some rod puppets such as the two-dimensional ones used in DOGS and the monkey in THE DRUM.