

Creative Dramatics Selected Bibliography
Suggested Sources for Dramatization
Compiled by
Patch Clark
Associate Professor
School of Theatre and Dance
East Carolina University

Birdseye, Tom, Adaptor. Illustrated by Ju-Hong Chen. **A Song of Stars**. New York: Holiday House, 1990.

The author's note in the back of the book gives a wonderful explanation of the background of this Asian celebration on the seventh night of the seventh month to honor and celebrate love. The book summary says: "Although banished to opposite sides of the Milky Way, the princess weaver and the herdsman reunite each year on the seventh day of the seventh month."

Caduto, Michael J. and Bruchac, Joseph. **Keepers of the Animals: Native American Stories and Wildlife Activities for Children**. Colorado: Fulcrum Publishing, 1991.

Choi, Yangsook. **The Sun Girl and the Moon Boy**. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1997.
 A Korean Folktale

Cumming, Robert. **Annotated Art : The World's Greatest Paintings Explored and Explained**. New York. DK Publishing, Inc., 1995.

A great book for integrated arts and looking at visual art as a stimulus for scenes and improvisations.

Fox, Mem. **Tough Boris**. New York: Harcourt Brace and Company, 1994.

"Boris von der Borch is a tough pirate, but he cries when his parrot dies."

Gerson, Mary-Joan. Illustrated by Carla Golembe. **Why the Sky is Far Away**. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 1992.

Isadora, Rachel. **The Pirates of Bedford Street**. New York: Greenwillow Books, 1989.

"After Joey and his sisters see a pirate movie at the movie theater, the adventures of Captain Redbeard continue – if only in Joey's imagination.

Gilman, Phoebe. **Grandma and the Pirates**. New York: Scholastic, Inc., 1990.

"When pirates, attracted by the smell of home-cooked noddle pudding abduct Grandma and her parrot, clever Melissa comes up with a plot to set Grandma free."

Leonard, Marcia. **Violet and the Pirates**. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Silver Press, 1992.

"Longing to be a sailor, Violet the dressmaker stows away on a ship. At intervals in the text the reader is asked questions about the action."

McWilliams, Karen. **Pirates**. New York: Franklin Watts, 1989.

"Describes the ships, social conditions, rules, and behavior of pirates and includes stories from the lives of such famous pirates as Blackbeard, Samuel Bellamy, and the female pirates Mary Read and Anne Bonny."

Mason, Timothy. **Ten Plays for Children: from the Repertory of The Children's Theatre Company of Minneapolis**. N.H. Smith and Kraus, Inc., 1998.

Includes such plays as *Kidnapped in London*, *African Tales*, *Pinocchio*, *The Nightingale*, *Ukrainian Tales*, *Treasure Island*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

Mecca, Judy Truesdell. **Multicultural Plays**. Nashville: Incentive Publications, 1999.

Plays for the classroom representing Native America, Korea, Mexico Puerto Rico, West Africa, and China

Melmed, Laura Krauss and LaMarche, Jim (illustrator). **Little Oh**. New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1997.

"A mother tells her son the story of Little Oh, a girl made of paper who becomes separated from her human mother."

Peterson, Lenka and Oconnor, Dan. **Kids Take the Stage**. New York: Watson-Guption Publications, 1997.

A how-to book for using theatre in the classroom

Pfister, Marcus. Translated by J. Alison James. **The Rainbow Fish**. New York: North-South Books, 1992.

Raffi. **Shake My Sillies Out**. Raffi Songs To Read. New York: Crown Publishers, Inc., 1987.

A fun book for younger children to move to! Summary: “ a trio of animals who can’t get to sleep roam the forest and eventually encounter a group of campers who join them in shaking their sillies out, clapping their crazies out, and yawning their sleepies out. Music is included.

Roberts, Patricia. **Multicultural Friendship Stories and Activities for Children: Ages 5-14**. Maryland. Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1998.

Rosenberg, Jane. **Play Me A Story. A Child’s Introduction to Classical Music through Stories and Poems**. New York: Alfred A. Knopf 1994.

Includes illustrations and CD

Rubin, Susan Goldman. **Fireflies in the Dark: the Story of Friedl Dicker-Brandeis and the Children of Terezin**. New York: Holiday House, 2000.

Summary: “ Covers the years during which Friedl Dicker, a Jewish woman from Czechoslovakia, taught art to children at the Terezin Concentration Camp. Includes art created by teacher and students, excerpts from diaries, and interviews with camp survivors.”

San Souci, Robert D., Pinkney, Brian. **Cut From the Same Cloth: American Women of Myth, Legend, and Tall Tale**. New York. Philomel Books, 1993.

Contains wonderful stories to dramatize from the northeast, south, Midwest, southwest, and the west.

Siegelson, Kim L., Illustrated by Pinkney, Brian. **In The Time of the Drums**. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 1999.

African- American Folktale – Coretta Scott King Award

Stephoe, John. **Mufaro’s Beautiful Daughters**. New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1987.

An African Tale – Caldecott Honor Book

Surface, Mary Hall. **Short Scenes and Monologues for Middle School Actors**. New Hampshire. Smith and Kraus, 1999.

_____. **Most Valuable Player and Four Other All-Star Plays for Middle and High School Audiences**. N.H. Smith and Kraus, 1999.

Wiesner, David. **The Three Pigs**. New York: Clarion Books, 2001.

A whimsical, “hip” book to act out! Summary: “The Three pigs escape the wolf by going to another world where they meet the cat and the fiddle, the cow that jumped over the moon, and a dragon.” An interactive version of a “story within a story” and the storytellers ask you to take a closer look at everything. The last line is “And they all lived happily aft.”

Wolkstein, Diane. Illustrated by Robert Andrew Parker. **The Magic Wings**. New York: E.P. Dutton, 1983.

A Chinese Folktale. A Reading Rainbow Book

Wolkstein, Diane. Illustrated by Ed Young. **White Wave**. New York: Harcourt Brace and Company, 1979.

A Chinese Tale

Yagawa, Sumiko, Paterson, Katherine, Suekichi Akaba, Illustrator. **The Crane Wife**. William Morrow and Company, 1981.

A Japanese Folktale

Yep, Laurence, Ming-Yi, Yang. **The Shell Woman & the King**. New York: Penguin Books, Inc., 1993.

A Chinese Folktale – “To save herself and her husband from an evil king, Shell agrees to bring him three wonders.”

Young, Ed. **Lon PoPo**. New York: Philomel Books. 1989.

A Chinese Little Red Riding Hood Story – Winner of the 1989 Caldecott Medal

Young, Ed. **Red Thread**. New York: Philomel Books, 1993.

A Chinese Folktale

Creative Dramatics Selected Bibliography
Suggested Sources for Dramatization
 Compiled by
Patch Clark
 Associate Professor
 School of Theatre and Dance
 East Carolina University

Aardema, Verna. **Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain.** New York: The Dial Press, 1981.

Summary: “A cumulative rhyme relating how Kipat brought rain to the drought-stricken Kapiti Plain.” The text also provides information in the back of the book about the author, artist and tale. It states, “This tale was discovered in Kenya, Africa, more than seventy years ago by the famous anthropologist Sir Claude Hollis. Sir Claude camped near a Nandi village and learned the native language from two young boys. He learned riddles and proverbs from the Nandi children, and most of the folktales from the Chief Medicine Man. This tale reminded Sir Claude of a cumulative nursery rhyme he had loved as a boy in England, one also familiar to us – “The House That Jack Built.” So he called the story “The Nandi House Jack Built” and included it in his book *The Nandi: Their Language and Folklore* published in 1909. Verna Aardema has brought the original story closer to the English nursery rhyme by putting in a cumulative refrain and giving the tale the rhythm of “The House That Jack Built.”

It might be fun to come up with an improvisation or scene with Sir Claude Hollis as the main character.

Caduto, Michael J. and Bruchac, Joseph. **Keepers of the Animals: Native American Stories and Wildlife Activities for Children.** Colorado: Fulcrum Publishing, 1991.

Chinery, Michael. **Rainforest Animals.** New York: Random House, 1992.

Summary: Introduces animals of the rainforest and how they live, including the howler monkey, toucan, and deadly arrow-poison frog. A good book to “act out” the animals.

Choi, Yangsook. **The Sun Girl and the Moon Boy.** New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1997.

A Korean Folktale

Gerson, Mary-Joan. Illustrated by Carla Golembe. **Why the Sky is Far Away.** New York: Little, Brown and Company, 1992.

Lewis, Shari and Oppenheimer. **Folding Paper Masks.** New York: E.P. Dutton, 1965.

A great resource book for making mask personalities out of folded paper and includes such characters as “Funny Face,” Rabbit, Clown, Pinocchio, dog, ox, deer, cat,” etc.

A Nigerian Folktale - Music, dance, sculpture, environmental concerns

Mecca, Judy Truesdell. **Multicultural Plays. Nashville:** Incentive Publications, 1999.

Plays for the classroom representing Native America, Korea, Mexico, Puerto Rico, West Africa, and China.

Peterson, Lenka and Oconnor, Dan. **Kids Take the Stage.** New York: Watson-Guption Publications, 1997.

A how-to book for using theatre in the classroom

Pfister, Marcus. Translated by J. Alison James. **The Rainbow Fish.** New York: North-South Books, 1992.

Rosenberg, Jane. **Play Me A Story. A Child's Introduction to Classical Music Through Stories and Poems.** New York: Alfred A. Knopf 1994.

Includes illustrations and CD

Saldana, Johnny. **Drama of Color: Improvisation with Multiethnic Folklore.** Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 1995.

Contains the following rich resources: "Stories from the Mexican and Mexican American Canons; "Stories from the Native American Canons," "Stories from the Asian and Pacific Islands Canons," and "Stories from the African and African American Canons."

Siegelson, Kim L., Illustrated by Pinkney, Brian. **In The Time of the Drums.** New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 1999.

African- American Folktale – Coretta Scott King Award

Step toe, John. **Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters.** New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1987.

An African Tale – Caldecott Honor Book

Wolkstein, Diane. Illustrated by Robert Andrew Parker. **The Magic Wings.** New York: E.P. Dutton, 1983.

A Chinese Folktale. A Reading Rainbow Book.

Wolkstein, Diane. Illustrated by Ed Young. **White Wave.** New York: Harcourt Brace and Company, 1979.

A Chinese Tale

From the "Author's Note" "White Wave" belongs to a group of Asian stories sharing the motif of the celestial being who descends for a short time to earth, chooses a mortal to bless, and then returns to heaven."

Summary – Kuo Ming's discovery of a mood goddess inside a snail shell changes his lonely life."

A young farmer is walking home in the evening and spies a white stone. He is too poor and shy to marry. He picks up the stone but finds that it is not a white stone but has all the colors of the rainbow and that it is a snail. Before he fixes his dinner, he gives the snail leaves to eat. He has placed it in an earthenware jar. Every morning before he leaves for the fields, he leaves fresh leaves for the snail and every evening upon his arrival home, there is dinner waiting for the farmer. There is always a wildflower in the vase. One morning he pretends to go out to the field but circles back around and watches the jar. Out of the jar comes a beautiful girl. He knew that she was a moon goddess. He was so happy and went to work everyday filled with joy. One day he could stand it no longer and opened the door to gaze upon her. She said she was "White Wave" Moon Goddess and that she had to leave him now that he had looked upon her. She told him to be still and count to five and that she would leave him a gift. She tells him that she will leave him her shell and that if he ever needs her to call into the shell and she will come. There is a streak of lightning and a roll of thunder and huge wind and she is gone. He goes back into the house and the snail shell is still there but no living creature inside. He decided to build her a shrine of beautiful stone. Because he worked so much on the stone shrine he did not have a very good crop and had very little to eat. He cried into the shell "White Wave I need you" and rice tumbled out of the shell, enough to last him until the next harvest. He then began farming in earnest and had good crops, married and had

children. He told his children about White Wave and they would go to the shrine hoping to see her, but they never would.

Yagawa, Sumiko, Paterson, Katherine, Suekichi Akaba, Illustrator. **The Crane Wife.** William Morrow and Company, 1981.

A Japanese Folktale

Yep, Laurence, Ming-Yi, Yang. **The Shell Woman & the King.** New York: Penguin Books, Inc., 1993.

A Chinese Folktale

Young, Ed. **Lon PoPo.** New York: Philomel Books. 1989.

A Chinese Little Red Riding Hood Story – Winner of the 1989 Caldecott Medal

Young, Ed. **Red Thread.** New York: Philomel Books, 1993.

A Chinese Folktale