

Reader's Theatre / Performance Notes

A Native American Cinderella

Notes by P. J. Rittiger

If students read the play aloud while remaining seated in the classroom, ask readers to skip all bracketed stage instructions. If you divide the class into several sections, you can rotate turns for speaking roles. See pages 30-31 for Casting Slips.

If students perform the play in the classroom, seat audience members on the floor in the center of the room.

If students perform this play onstage, create a set for all three acts. Paint a backdrop showing a forest scene along the shore of a bay, possibly with a few wigwams or birch bark canoes. If you have a curtain available, close the curtain between acts.

Character Notes

There are eight main characters in this play, but more parts can easily be written for children of either gender. There can be an unlimited number of BRAVES and MAIDENS. More MAIDENS can be added who fail STRONG WIND'S test of honesty. You can also add non-speaking animal characters to sit among the BRAVES and MAIDENS in front of the teepees. Either girls or boys can also play these characters.

Prop List

When BRAVES and MAIDENS are seated in front of their wigwams, they should be doing something with their hands until the end of ACT 3, when they sit up to notice what's going on with STRONG WIND and YOUNGEST DAUGHTER. They may be grinding corn; decorating baskets or moccasins; harvesting corn, beans, squash or berries; carrying game or fish, etc. Without props, actors can pantomime these actions. The Abenaki were known to make *wampum*, necklaces of small cylindrical beads made from polished shells, a practice which can be suggested by stringing colored dry pasta onto string. An assortment of pasta, toy bows and arrows, ears of corn, plastic fish, toy fishing poles and baskets may be used throughout the play. STRONG WIND carries a bow and wears a shoulder strap to hold it. He also has a (plastic) sled.

Casting Slips
A Native American Cinderella

Strong Wind

**Strong Wind's
Sister**

Oldest Daughter

Chief

Second Daughter

Youngest Daughter

White Fox

Feather Braid

Brave of the Village

Maiden of the Village

Casting Slips, *continued*

Brave of the Village

Maiden of the Village

Brave of the Village

Maiden of the Village

Brave of the Village

Maiden of the Village

Brave of the Village

Maiden of the Village

Brave of the Village

Maiden of the Village