

Reading/Performing the Plays

Sunlight & Moonlight

Notes by Lindsay M. Parker

Three ways that students and teachers can utilize the play:

1. ***Students can read the play aloud from their seats.*** Students simply read their lines. They do not follow the stage directions.
2. ***Students can perform the play in the classroom.*** Clear an area that can be used as the stage. Have the audience sit on the floor in front of the stage. Students in the play can make simple costumes and/or sets, as described below. When the scenes change, the characters on "stage" simply walk to the back of the room, where they wait until their next appearance on "stage."
3. ***Students can perform the play onstage.*** For a performance on a real stage, see the notes on sets, costumes, and props.

Set Suggestions

ACT 1: The backdrop shows the inside of a queen's bedroom. Place a bed, if you can, on one side of the stage. Give the bed a royal appearance

- by gathering the edges of fabric (purple if possible) and tying with a
- large ribbon. Create a poster bed by taping the edges of painted
- cardboard giftwrap rolls, vertically, on each corner of the bed.

ACT 2: The backdrop shows a barren desert with rolling hills of sand, a few bushes, and an overlarge sun. Draw rays from the sun to increase its intensity.

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ACT 3: The backdrop shows the inside of a hermit's house. Put a table in front of the backdrop and set on the table with wooden bowls. If you don't want to create a door that actually opens, paint a red door at the far edge of the backdrop; HERMIT can pretend to open it and the soldiers can enter in front of the door from off-stage. To support the one flapping edge of the door, tape rulers or sticks to the back.

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Set Suggestions, continued

- ACT 4:** The backdrop shows the interior of KHAN #2's castle. On one side of the stage, place a cluster of trees where the DEMON-BEARS will enter.
- Trees can be painted on brown roll paper, cut out, and hung from the ceiling with string and tape. Be sure there's enough space between the trees for DEMON-BEARS to enter without moving them.

Costumes

- QUEEN** - A silky bathrobe with a turtleneck underneath, purple if possible. Necklaces and bracelets galore. A crown from a party goods store. If the actress has long hair, tie it in a bun.
- MAID** - A peasant shirt, skirt, sandals. No jewelry. Her hair is tied behind her neck.
- KHAN #1** - A buttoned-up shirt (not white), dark pants, dress shoes, cufflinks if possible. A sash created from fabric or tissue paper. A crown.
- SUNLIGHT, MOONLIGHT** - A white dress shirt, dark pants, dress shoes. A brightly colored scarf tied around the neck.
- HERMIT** - An old bathrobe (attach squares of fabric to give the appearance of patches). Sandals. For a beard, glue white tissue paper onto a thick string or piece of yarn. A cotton knit hat.
- SOLDIERS** - Brown shirts and brown pants, or gray shirts and gray pants. For the swords, cut the blade and handle from thick cardboard, then attach with glue or staples. Wrap the blade with tin foil. To render a somber look, draw large, scowling eyebrows with face paint or eyebrow pencil.
- KHAN #2** - Similar to KHAN #1, except his crown should be bigger and higher because he is more powerful.
- PRINCESS #1 and #2** - Party dresses with necklaces and bracelets, white tights, and party shoes. Each princess wears her own crown.
- DEMON-BEARS** - Round bear-ears and, if possible, a snout. Brown turtleneck shirts and sweat pants, dark sneakers. Tails.

Props

- ACT 1-** Pillows for bed.
- ACT 2-** No props.
- ACT 3-** Large clear or white plastic cup, swords for soldiers (see costumes)
- ACT 4-** No props.