A FOLKTALE PLAY: Explore folktales through drama

Age Range: 3-5

Skills/Subjects
• Creative Thinking & Problem Solving
• Appreciating & Understanding Diversity
• Dramatic Play & Creative Movement
• Language & Literacy

Materials
• Folktales (see “Set up” below)

Directions
Listening to folktales from around the world can enrich children’s understanding of many cultures. Decide on a story with your children, then work with them to turn it into a play.

1. **Set up:** Ask the librarian for suggestions of folktales from around the world that lend themselves to easy dramatization.

2. **Read:** Share the story aloud with your children.

3. **Dramatize:** Act out the story with your children. Make sure everyone has a part. (You and your children can play multiple roles.) You may want to narrate the show. Children can ad-lib lines or mime the action as you provide the words. If the folktale ends with "bad guys" being punished or killed, help your children come up with an alternate ending: *Is there a way the characters could have worked things out so they could be friends?*

Take It Further
Go to your local library or bookstore and look for recordings of storytellers telling folktales from different cultures. Some suggestions: Davie Thomason, Jackie Torrence, Doug Lipman, Tony Toledo.

With a Group
Put on a performance! Invite friends and family to watch. Make sure everyone has a role to play, whether it’s onstage, backstage, or in the box office.