

The Avanti PRE Curriculum

Exercise Sheet 7.6.4c

Homework: "Preparation for the 'Bridge to Lanka' Play"

During Week 5, we are all going to stage a short drama entitled "Bridge to Lanka". Please start preparing according (1) these guidelines (2) your specific roles. You might even wish to consult your friends or the teacher.

1. Scenes

There are four possible scenes (each lasting just 4-5 minutes each). The first one is optional (check with the teacher to see if we will include it)

1. Vibhishana joins Rama (The monkey generals are suspicious; Hanuman gives advice; Rama quotes his famous verse) .
2. Rama orders the Ocean to give way, and becomes angry.
3. Building the Bridge (the stones float miraculously; the story of the squirrels might be included; see <http://students.ou.edu/H/Sara.H.Huber-1/indianstoryfour.html>)
4. Marching heroically over the Bridge (very little dialogue needed here; music or song might be helpful).

2. Roles

The following are some of the players we will need (with costumes - see the section called 'Resources' on page 2.

1. Lord Rama
2. Vibhishana (possibly with four demon assistants)
3. Varuna (Lord of the Ocean)
4. Lakshmana
5. Hanuman
6. Sugriva
7. Nila (Monkey General who oversaw the building of the bridge)
8. Many, monkey soldiers
9. Possibly some bears
10. Optionally, some squirrels (if this scene is included).

3. Key Film-production Roles:

1. **Scriptwriter** (please start writing dialogue for these scenes)
2. **Set designer** (start designing the set; do drawings for each scene; also ask, “What will you need?” e.g. What will you use to show the sea? You could work with the prop manager)
3. **Prop manager** (start thinking about what you will need e.g. ‘weapons’; make a list - do not include costumes; you might work with the set designer – e.g. on the floating stones you’ll need)
4. **Songwriter and choreographer** (write a song or poem for one scene; perhaps also a dance you might use – for example, as the army marches over the bridge.)
5. **Music director** (choose music – or other sounds – to accompany some scenes)
6. **Costume-Designer** Do drawings for the main characters; decide what costumes you will need; find out how to make monkey masks - even monkey tails!
7. **Make-up artist** (make some drawings and write down what materials you might use - you will need to make Rama good-looking and the demons look grotesque; collect some materials.
8. **Casting director;** work out which of your friends might best play the different characters (see the list on page 1); think about how each actor looks, their character etc.
9. **Actors** (write down which character you might play; write some ‘character profiles’; perhaps do some research into the characters or look at some video clips of the Ramayana.
10. **Stunt man;** study the story and write down the scenes in which you will need stunt men; what will they do?
11. **Researcher:** Find out about the bridge; what was it made of and how big was it? Check out the story to make sure we have all the correct facts.
12. **Camera person:** get ready your equipment; do you need a tripod? Make a sketch of one scene and decide where you will stand.
13. **Promoter:** we will invite some guests and staff members to our short drama. Please start designing a poster for the school.
14. **Reviewer;** we don’t need one yet! Please choose another role.

4. Resources Needed

Costumes* (sarees always come in handy, but avoid nylon in the vicinity of fire)
Sea-blue saree (to represent the ocean)
Monkey masks and tails
Weapons (including bows and arrows for Rama and Lakshmana)
Stones (for constructing the bridge)
Helmets
Horns (for the demons)
Squirrel costumes (if that scene is included)
Conches and horns (to blow during march over bridge)
Sound equipment
Camera or video equipment

For more details of costumes, please see Exercise Sheet 7.6.5b “Characters and Costumes in the Ramayana”.