

Dramatize a Story

Share a Filipino story with the class, such as 'The Battle of the Crabs' below. Guide students to explore and act out the story through drama.

FREEZE: Guide students to shape their bodies as each of the characters and then have them freeze in their poses/shapes. What does the character look like? (Freeze). What does the character like to do? (Freeze). What's something funny that the character likes to do? (Freeze).

ACTION: Guide students to walk about the room as each of the characters. How does the character feel? How fast or slow does the character move? What is this character doing as he/she walks about?

STORY EXPLORATION

Narrate parts of the story, guiding the students to act out the moments as you tell them. Explore different parts of the story more than once each time, encouraging the students to try new ways of showing the action.

STORY PLAY

Ask for or assign volunteers to portray each of the characters. Narrate the entire story, guiding students to play out each moment as you tell it. Repeat the experience, enlisting new volunteers each time until all of the students have a chance to perform.

Battle of the Crabs *Visayan*

Once upon a time, the land crabs lived close by the sea and they lived in peace with all their neighbors including the sea waves.

But the sea waves love to sing and will sing all day long. The elderly crabs had tolerated this for years and had never complained.

The younger crabs were not so tolerant and they decided to do something about it.

So, at one of their big parties, one of the younger crabs took the courage to ask, "The waves have been singing non-stop every day. They sing so loud that we cannot sleep at all. Some of us or maybe most of us, cannot stand this anymore. Can we do something about this?"

There was silence in the crowd, nobody dared say anything.

'Are we afraid of the waves? Someone please says something" asked back the young crab.

Finally, one of the older crabs says " Maybe we should go and talk to them".

"We had done that before, yet they still sing. They just ignored our pleas" said the young crab.

"You are right. Maybe we should do something. Not just talk," answered the oldest of the crabs, "Why don't we declare war on them?"

The others looked at each other and they finally agreed to this suggestion.

They also decided that tomorrow shall be the day and all male crabs to put on their fighting gears and go to war with the sea waves.

The next day as they marched towards the sea, they met up with a group of shrimps.

"I have never seen all of you in these uniforms before. So, where are you heading to my good friends?" asked the shrimps.

"We are going to war. We are tired of listening to the sea waves singing all day long. We want to end all that. We will fight the waves," answered the crabs.

"Are you serious? These sea waves are strong and mighty. I don't think you can fight them. You better go home to your family now" said the shrimps, "Look at you. You are so small and your legs are weak. It can't even support your own body. You have to walk with your legs bent and your body is almost touching the ground" laughed the shrimps.

The crabs didn't like this at all and were angry with the shrimps. They jumped on top of the shrimps and made them promise to help them in their war with the waves otherwise they will be killed.

The shrimps had no choice and had to agree, and together they marched to the shore.

As they neared the shore, the crabs noticed the shrimp's eyes were different and the heads were facing the wrong way.

They all laughed at the shrimps and asked "You guys looked kind of funny. Why are your faces and eyes facing the wrong way?"

"You can laugh and say it's funny but that is our weapon. We can see what others may not see" replied the shrimps.

The crabs felt silent and did not give any other nasty comments about the shrimps.

Unknown to the crabs, the waves were listening to all these conversations and took the opportunity to attack. They came crashing down onto the shores.

The shrimps saw the waves coming and quickly ran for cover. The crabs, however, were facing the opposite direction and didn't see the waves' attack and got submerged in the huge wave and drowned.

The female crabs who were waiting patiently for their husbands and children to come back from the war were getting worried as there were no signs of them.

They all decided to leave their young at home and go to the shore to check on their husband and children, in case they needed help.

But as soon as they reach the shore, the giant waves came crashing down and drowned them as well.

The shrimps who managed to run for cover saw all these happenings and felt sorry for their crab friends. They decided to visit their homes and meet up with the young crabs.

The shrimps told the young crabs the fate of their parents and how courageous were their fathers, mothers, and brothers.

So, until today, if you go to the beach, you will see the young crabs running back and forth finding the courage to fight the waves. When the waves come towards the shore, the young crabs will try but can never find the courage, so they will run into their hundreds of holes that they have dug along the shore, for cover.



Write Your Own Folktale

Many folktales have a 'formula,' in which the problem is always solved and the tale ends happily. The formula often includes four basic ingredients:

- Setting
- Characters
- Problem
- Solution

Write your own folktale using these four ingredients using the story blank on the back. Below are some samples. Select any of these or make up your ingredients to create your folktale.

SETTING

- *In the land of the setting sun*
- *In a place where it never rained*
- *At the edge of the world*
- *Halfway between north and south*
- *In a land far, far away*

CHARACTER(S)

- A wicked stepmother
- A King and Queen
- Three sisters or brothers
- A fool
- A farmer and his wife

PROBLEM

- The hens stopped laying eggs
- The prince was turned into a rock
- The trees refused to grow apples
- The crops would not grow tall
- The princess would not laugh

SOLUTION

- The boy or girl found a magical fish
- The glass slipper fit her foot
- The fool killed the giant
- They found a pot of gold
- He tickled them until they agreed to help

TITLE: _____

_____, there lived a _____ and a
(Setting) (character(s))

_____. At their _____,
(character(s)) (place where they live)

They had a serious problem. _____. Now, one day _____
(problem)

(How do the characters solve the problem?)

(Use additional sheets if you need more space to write)



Read a Scene from the Play

The following is a scene from the HTY play. Read it aloud with student volunteer readers, or have students read it together in groups of 5 (There are five characters).

Why the Sea is Salty *Ilocano*

JUAN 1: Many, many years ago, the sea tasted like ordinary rainwater. It was bland and tasteless.

JUAN 2: Fortunately, the people living in our islands knew of a friendly Giant who kept vast mounds of salt in his cave.

JUAN 3: The people would cross the ocean on boats to reach the gentle Giant's island, and that is how they were able to bring salt back to their villages, in order to prepare tastier meals.

The four Juans sail. The Giant hands them a bag of salt.

JUAN 4: (*tastes the salt*) Delicious! Thanks!

GIANT: No problem, Juan, Juan, Juan and Juan!

The four sail back.

JUAN 3: One time, however, the sea was quite rough and they could not set sail to the Giant's island. The villagers waited but the sea would not calm down. Eventually the sea smashed their boats to bits, they ran out of salt and could no longer enjoy their tasteless meals.

JUAN 2: No!

JUAN 1: This is bad. How can we ever get salt again?

JUAN 2: Why don't we ask the Giant to stretch his giant leg out over the sea so we can walk over to his island?

JUAN 4: That's the worst idea I've ever heard, Juan. Wait! I know...why don't we ask the Giant to stretch his giant leg out over the sea so we can walk over to his island?

JUAN 3: That's a great idea, Juan!

JUAN 2: How are you, mister Giant! If it's not too troublesome, do you think you could help us get some salt by stretching your leg over to us so that we can walk over to your island and get some?

Juan 1 grabs three empty sacks from offstage.

GIANT: Come on over, Juan!

JUAN 2: Thank you mister Giant! Let's get some salt!

The four Juans walk across the Giant's leg. The four Juans fill their bags with salt.

GIANT: OW! Something's biting my leg. Oh no, I must have landed on an anthill. Ow! Red ants! I hate red ants. Ow ow ow! Hey, Juan! Juan! Juan! Juan! Are you all finished grabbing salt?

JUAN 1: All finished mister Giant!

JUAN 2: We'll have salt for months!

JUAN 3: These bags are heavy!

JUAN 4: Just one more!

GIANT: No! You must hurry back to your island. Ow! My leg landed on an anthill and is starting to itch from all the bites. Ow! Hurry back now!

ALL JUANS: Yes!

JUAN 3: It's hard to hurry with these heavy salt sacks.

JUAN 1: And how could some tiny ants hurt a Giant?

JUAN 2: Maybe he's allergic?

JUAN 4: Such a sensitive one this Giant.

GIANT: Ow! Juan! Are you back on your island yet?

JUAN 1: Wait, which Juan are you talking to? I'm almost there.

GIANT: Ow! Hurry Juan!

JUAN 2: Which Juan are you talking to?

JUAN 3: This Juan?

JUAN 4: Or that Juan?

GIANT: Ow, ow, ow, ow, ow, ow, ow...OWEEEEEEEE!!!!

The Giant pulls this leg out from under the Juans. They fall into the sea.

JUAN 1: Juan! I can't swim!

JUAN 3: Help Juan! Juan!

JUAN 2: Which Juan can't swim?

JUAN 4: This Juan!

ALL JUANS: All the salt sacks fell into the plain-water-sea and melted.

GIANT: The Giant saved Juan, Juan, Juan, and Juan from drowning.

JUAN 1: But they were not able to recover any of the spilt salt.

JUAN 2: From that day on,

ALL JUANS: The sea has always been salty.



Cultural Values and Tales

Fables, folktales and legends often teach important values. People from every culture create stories to demonstrate proper ways to act and to live a good life. Read the short fable below and answer the questions that follow to discover what this fable might be teaching us.

The Lazy Dog

A group of animals traveled to a nearby field to harvest rice. One animal, a dog, was too lazy to go with the others. He preferred to sleep instead. While the rest of the animals harvested, the dog slept.

When the animals finished harvesting, they enjoyed a delicious feast together. They played and ate lots of food. The dog woke up as the other animals returned home carrying some leftovers from the feast. Feeling so hungry after a long sleep, the dog asked the other animals for a little food. Nobody gave him even a small piece of meat.

1. Write three words that describe the dog's attitude.
2. What does the dog do in the story that made you pick those words?
3. Write three words that describe the other animals.
4. What do the animals do in the story that made you pick those words?
5. What choice did the dog make that caused problems for him?
6. How might the dog make things work out better next time?
7. The story is teaching us...



Letter to the Actors

Dear HTY Actors:

My favorite part of your play was _____

A Picture of my favorite part

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for a drawing of the favorite part of the play.