



The Carp Who Would Not Quit includes many stories in the play, including the story below ‘The Rolling Musubi.’ Read the story aloud for your students and then engage them in these simple drama activities.

Drama Activities

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.

The Rolling Musubi

Long ago and far away across the wide blue sea, there lived a hard-working old man and old woman. One day, the old man went up into the mountains to gather wood. When he sat down to eat his lunch, one of his rice balls tumbled away. Down the slope of the mountain it tumbled until it finally rolled into a large hole. The old man chased after the rice ball and stopped at the hole. He bent down to look inside and from within the hole he heard a soft song.

The old man was very excited, so he climbed back up the mountain, picked up another rice ball and rolled it away. Down it tumbled into the hole. When he crouched down near the hole, he heard the song once more.

The old man peeked into the hole, but as he did, he overbalanced and tumbled right into the hole itself. As he tumbled, he heard another song.

In the hole was a mouse world, where hundreds of little mice were happily singing and making rice cakes. "Thank you for the rice balls, kind sir. We will treat you to a feast to repay your kindness. Come and join us in our song," they called. And so, the old man and the mice sang,

The old man had a wonderful time singing and dancing with the mice. "Thank you for the feast, but now it is time for me to go home," he said. "Wait, old man," said the smallest mouse, and he gave him a box. "Here is our gift to you." When the old man returned home,

he opened the box and was astounded to find it filled with money and treasure. "There are enough riches to last us all our days," the old man said to the old woman. And they were very happy for the rest of their lives.

However, when the old man told his story to a greedy, old neighbor, the greedy old man thought he would do exactly the same thing, so that he, too, could receive a fortune from the mice world. He immediately went into the mountains and dropped two rice balls into the hole, then tumbled in himself.

Hundreds of mice were happily singing and making rice cakes. After the greedy old man entered the mouse world, he decided to chase away the mice and keep all of the treasures for himself. So, he pretended to be a cat and began to miaow. "Miaow,miaow."

The frightened little mice scattered every which way and disappeared. Just as the greedy, old man thought he could now take all the treasure, everything went black. He realized that the money and treasure had vanished with the mice and now he was left with nothing. Not even a rice ball. Only after a long time scrabbling around on his hands and knees in the darkness, was he able to find the entrance to the hole and leave the mouse world.

Since that time, no one has ever found the mouse world again. Although sometimes, if you are walking high up in the mountains of Japan, you may hear the mouse song carried by the wind.



The Carp Who Would Not Quit is an imaginatively staged and presented play. The imagination is very important for artists and for the audience. Prepare for your HTY experience by experimenting with how objects can imaginatively change from one to another.

OBJECT TRANSFORMATION, or Making the ordinary look magical

Procedure: Show a simple object, like a chalkboard eraser. Demonstrate the activity by transforming the eraser into something else by the way you use it (i.e candy bar, walkie-talkie, or telescope). Pass the object from student to student, guiding each to transform the object into something different than anyone else has done. The other students describe what they see.

If desired, also try the following. **ROOM TRANSFORMATION:** Together with your students, decide on a place you'd like to visit. A restaurant? The zoo? The beach? The mall? Guide your students to help transform your room into that imagined place by using objects and furniture in the room. First, decide what will happen in each part of your room. If a zoo, where will the elephants be? Where might the monkeys live? Where might there be a picnic table? Ask students to help 'design' the space. How can a table become a cage? A chair be a picnic table? How can you imagine the whole room in a new way?



PRE-WRITING - Imaging Stories



Wordless picture books can be a wonderful way to encourage students to understand characters and imagine and tell whole stories. Below is a list of several wordless books available in the local libraries.

Select one or two and:

- Show the entire story to students.
- Discuss with them what the story seems to be about. Who are the characters? What are they doing? What's a problem they might be having in the story? How do they make things better?
- Go back through the story slowly, encouraging students to help tell the story and talk like the characters.

Wordless Stories

- *Alligator's Toothache* by Diane de Groat: An alligator with a toothache is afraid of the dentist.
- *A Boy, a Dog, and a Frog* by Mercer Mayer: A boy's unsuccessful attempts to catch a frog.
- *Frog, Where are You?* By Mercer Mayer: A boy and his dog search for an escaped pet frog.
- *Do You Want to be My Friend* by Eric Carle: A mouse searches everywhere for a friend.
- *The Farmer and the Clown* by Marla Frazee: A farmer rescues a baby clown who's bounced off the circus train, and reunites him with his clown family.

READING - Connect Literature to the Play



There are many books on local library shelves that contain themes and ideas that are similar to THE CARP WHO WOULD NOT QUIT. Use your play-going experience to introduce and explore new books with your students and to discuss those themes and ideas.

BEFORE SEEING THE HTY PLAY

READ *Peace Tales* by Margaret Read MacDonald

Talk about:

Respect: How do the characters in the story show or NOT show respect for each other? How does their attitude help or hurt their relationship?

Peace: Which characters want peace? How do the characters help peace happen?

AFTER SEEING THE HTY PLAY

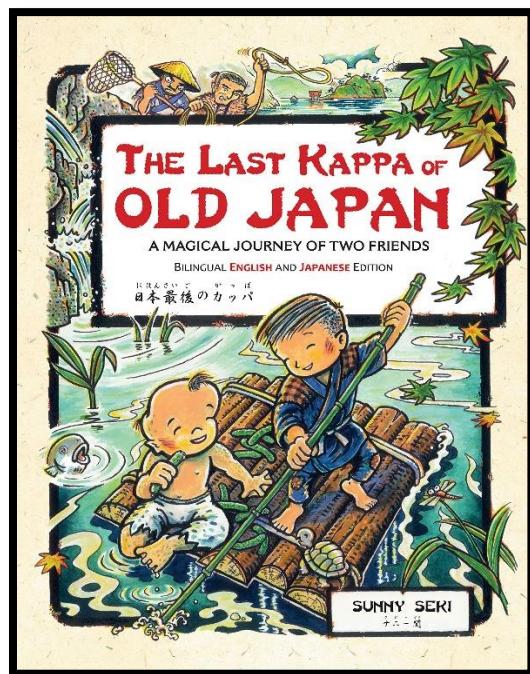
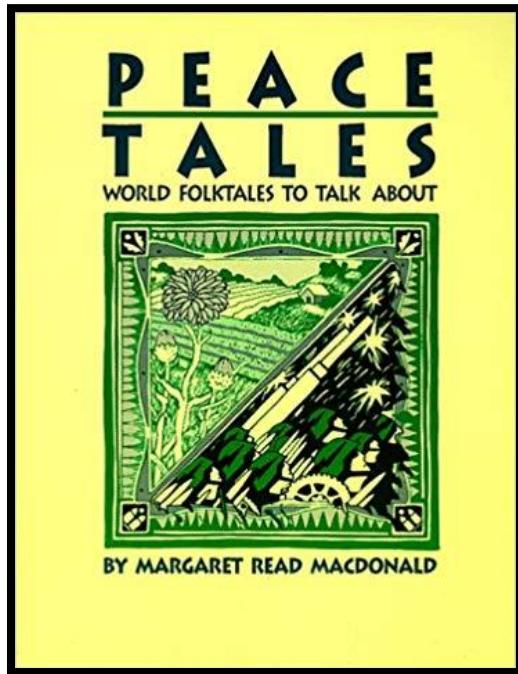
READ *The Last Kappa of Old Japan: a Magical Journey of Two Friends* by Sunny Seki

Talk about:

Friends – Who were the friends in the story? What did they do?

Caring – How did the friends care for each other?

Persistence – How did the friends work to help the world?



VISUAL ARTS – Japanese Flying Carp Fish



Toilet Roll crafts are simply the best. Here we have some fabulous Toilet Roll Koinobori or also known as Japanese Flying Carp Fish. They are pretty and colorful and a great addition to any activity time that you may be planning!

Materials



You also need a bit of white paper and black marker to make the eyes.

String or yarn can be used instead of twine. If you do plan to wave these around, consider using a hot glue gun for steps 8 and 9.

Procedure

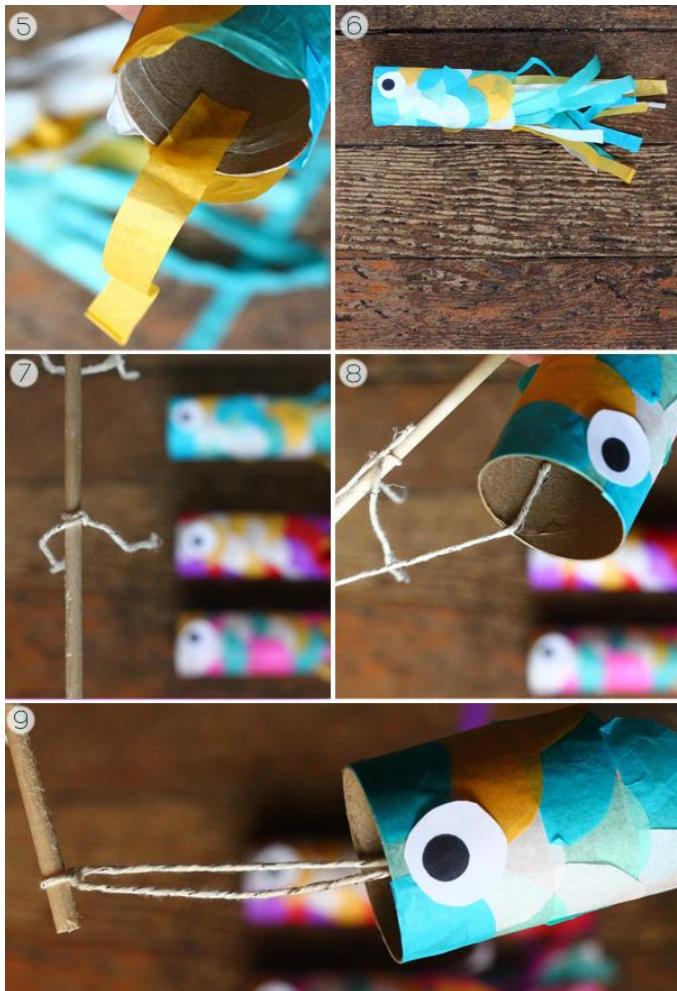
1 In 3-4 colors, cut out several circles of tissue paper, approximately 1.5 inches in diameter, then cut those in half to make semi circles. Place a piece of double-sided tape around the bottom of your roll. Start placing the straight edge of each semi-circle on the double-sided tape, overlapping slightly so no roll shows underneath. Ensure the curved end of the semi-circle hangs off the roll so it isn't attached. This end will be the fish's tail. Complete all the way around.



2 Leave a 2 inch gap and place another strip of double sided tape around the roll, repeating with the semi circles. The color order doesn't matter much, just do what you think looks good. You will have to overlap a fair bit and not all the ends will be taped down. Leave them. The next layer should cover them.

3 Repeat all the way to the top, making sure you finish with the tape and half circles around the top of the roll. This is the head. At this point, if there are any half circles that are still sticking up, use double sided tape to stick them down.

4 Cut out a circle with white paper (approx. 1 inch in diameter) then use a black marker to draw a large circle inside for the eye. Use double sided tape to stick onto the side of the head.



5 Cut strips of tissue paper using the same colors as your semi circles. At the tail end, carefully place a piece of double-sided tape around the inside bottom of the roll. One by one, stick a long piece of tissue paper to the tape, going all the way around until it's covered.

6 Trim any ends if necessary so they're about the same length. Repeat steps 1-6 to make two more carp.

7 Cut three pieces of twine about 7 inches long. Double knot each one onto your dowel, making sure the ends are even.

8 On the head side, place a piece of double-sided tape inside the roll, opposite the eye. Start with the top knotted twine on the dowel and secure the loose ends onto the tape inside the roll. If you plan to swing this koinobori around, use hot glue instead, or place another piece of tape on top the twine.

9 Repeat on the opposite side, just behind the eye. Repeat for the next two carp.

Draw the Show



Distribute the image below to your students and guide them to draw their favorite part of the show.

