

Kids and Cultures presents
A World of Sillies
www.KidsAndCultures.com

Dear teacher,

We are excited to perform at your school! Together with you and your students, we look forward to learning about other people and places through the folktales that have been passed down to this generation. This letter is a “heads up” of what to expect, as well as some ideas for what you can do to maximize the learning for your students.

Before we come, you and your students can:

- Discuss what a folktale is, and the role folktales have played in societies.
- List familiar folktales that you have grown up hearing.
- Visit the folktale section (j 398.2) of your school library.
- Discuss the various genres of folktales (such as pourquoi and noodlehead).
- Use a map or globe to locate the countries featured in our stories.
- Find out what you already know about these countries. You could begin a Know/Want to know/Learned chart with them, and update it afterwards.
- Prepare to listen for something in the show that you did not know, and recall it later.

As your class enters the performance area, if time allows, you may join our “pre-show trivia game show.” This multiple-choice event allows participants to learn about other places and cultures while cheering on fellow student contestants. We may also ask you as the teacher to select a student or two to help us act out part of the show.

Once the show begins, our hope is that you will enjoy it as much as your students, and that we can all learn together. Please interact with us during the show, and encourage your students to do the same. Folktales are best given and received with an involved audience!

The show we will be performing for you is called ***A World of Sillies***. It features noodlehead stories from different parts of the world. Our hope is that, through the medium of story, we will all laugh and have fun while learning.

After the show, you can:

- Invite students to re-tell the stories.
- Ask students to define “noodlehead” and cite examples from the performance.
- Ask students to list other familiar noodleheads (such as Amelia Bedelia and Curious George).
- Invite students to tell or write about a time that they were a noodlehead, using information from their own culture.
- Allow students to write their own story about how one of the noodleheads from the show might respond in another situation.
- Review the handout with your students and send it home so other family members can find out what the students experienced today.

A World of Sillies

Story Specs

Juan Bobo and the Pig from Puerto Rico. Juan is convinced that his pet pig misses the boy's mother when she goes to church, so he dresses the pig in appropriate church clothing and sends the pig to join his mother.

The Hatseller and the Monkeys from Mali. While BaMusa the hatseller rests under a tree, monkeys steal his hats. After several unsuccessful and funny attempts, BaMusa figures out a way to get his hats back.

The Farmer Who was Easily Fooled from Lebanon. A thief convinces a farmer that he was the farmer's donkey under a spell. The farmer, feeling sorry for the way he treated the donkey, lets the thief go and gives him money. The next day, when the farmer's donkey turns up at market, the farmer is determined not to buy him again, as he didn't learn his lesson the first time and was under the spell again after only one day of freedom.

Next Time I'll Know What to Do from England. Poor Jack, no matter how he carries home the various items he receives as payment for his day's work, his mother always has a better idea. Each day he carries home that day's pay in the way he should have carried yesterday's, losing or ruining it enroute. Finally he thinks for himself and succeeds.

Additional "Sillies" stories available upon request:

The Horse Egg from India. Some young men buy their teacher a horse egg from an enterprising watermelon salesman. Enroute to deliver the gift, however, those carrying the "egg" trip and drop it. It breaks, startling a hare nearby, which runs away. Their teacher concludes that the young horse appeared much too fast for his liking, anyway.

Aili's Quilt from Finland. Aili's mother makes a quilt for him which is too short. No matter how much fabric she cuts off the top of the quilt and sews to the bottom, his feet still stick out and are cold.

The Costly Feast from Turkey. Hodja, the local noodlehead, is convinced by his neighbors that the world is ending in three days and he must kill his young lamb to roast and share with them. As they sleep during the hot day, Hodja, who is out of fuel, burns their discarded clothes to finish cooking the lamb, since they won't be needing their clothes anymore.

Whose Horse is Whose from Western USA. The two cowboys in this tale have tried various ways to tell their horses apart, from clipping their horses' manes to trimming tails. Not until they decide to measure the horses do the cowboys discover that the brown horse is taller than the white horse with black spots!

Each story is about three to seven minutes long and includes information about the culture or country from which it comes.



Noodlehead News



Manheim, Pa.

from Kids and Cultures

Thursday, March 2, 2006

A World of Sillies Comes to Manheim

(Manheim, Pa., USA) Kids and Cultures presents *A World of Sillies*, an interactive storytelling show with funny folktales and lots of laughs. Today we celebrate Read Across America with Stiegel, Mastersonville, and Sporting Hill Elementary Schools. The stories, which are popular “noodlehead” tales, are from China, Puerto Rico, Mali, England, and Lebanon (the country, not the county just north of here with the bologna).

Kids and Cultures, a non-profit educational organization founded by Timm and Kristina Wenger of Lancaster, introduces children to the cultures of the world with a summer day camp, a cultures club for families, and interactive storytelling programs: *Treasures of the World*, *Horsing Around!*, *Why Why Why in the World?*, *Celebrate World Holidays for Kids*, and *AnimalWhys* (coming this summer). Invite them to your event at www.KidsAndCultures.com.

By the way, Timm went to school at Sporting Hill Elementary and graduated from MCHS. He knew Dr. Hess when they were children. For some of the storytellings shows, Kristina is joined by Timm and their two children—Katia (9) and Thaniel (6)—who help to tell the stories.



Storyteller Kristina Wenger uses interactive stories to share about how children live in other parts of the world.

VOTE

for your favorite Sillies story at www.aWorldOfSillies.org!

Classified Ad

SEEKING EMPLOYMENT
(Lanchester, England) Frustrated Mum needs her son to get a job. He has experience with farm work, churning butter, bakery tasks, and butchering. The lad's name is Jack. If you have a job for him, please contact Margaret Hedley.

Monkeys Escape Zoo

(Bamako, Mali) Five monkeys have escaped the Bamako Zoo, according to zoo officials. The monkeys were last seen heading toward the city of Timbuktu. “These monkeys have a fondness for mangoes and imitating humans” commented Amadou Konare, primate specialist at the zoo.

Crash Blamed on Pig

(San Juan, Puerto Rico) A pig, dressed in pearls, high heels, and a dress was the cause of an automobile accident on Sunday. “I was driving to church when I saw a pig running beside the road. I was watching the pig when I crashed into the tree,” said José Felipe Hernandez, the driver of the vehicle, who suffered minor injuries.

Farmer Seeks “Unchanging” Donkey

(Baalbek, Lebanon) Local farmer Fadi El Khazen is offering a high price for a new donkey. He claims that his former donkey was a wicked person in disguise. “My donkey turned back into a woman, so I let her go. The next day, I saw her—in her donkey form again—at the Bekaa Market. All I want is a normal donkey,” he said.

TELL

the Sillies stories to a parent, friend, or sibling, using the news items on this page

Sample Handout (back)

Oh, Next Time I'll Know What To Do— A Story from England

Find the list of words in the puzzle. Use the words to retell the story to your mom, dad, or sibling!

Tuppence is a word for a two-cent coin.	D	L	O	G	M	E	A	T	Y	R	Jack
	Z	R	E	H	C	T	U	B	E	L	Mother
	B	O	R	J	E	P	A	T	R	A	Work
	G	A	A	E	P	F	T	M	E	U	Farmer
	C	C	K	E	H	U	I	W	M	G	Tuppence
	K	A	N	E	B	T	O	W	R	H	Wife
	J	C	T	A	R	R	O	C	A	P	Butter
	E	D	O	N	K	E	Y	M	F	K	Baker
										Cat	
										Butcher	
										Meat	
										Donkey	
										Laugh	
										Gold	

The word "Jack o'lantern" comes from a Jack story.

Juan Bobo and the Pig—A Story from Puerto Rico

Add up the numbers under each line. Use the key to figure out the corresponding letters and words.

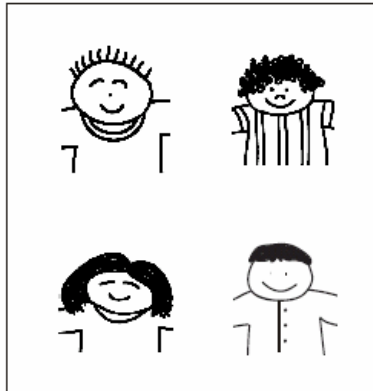
$6-2$	$11-10$	$2+1$	$3+3$	<i>The temperature in Puerto Rico averages 80°F year round!</i>		
$15-5$	$5+10$	$8+2$	$7+8$			
$2+5$	$11-2$	$5+0$	$10+2$	$16-4$	$4+1$	$4+3$
$7-6$	$5+9$	$9+2$	$7+6$	$8+4$		
$10+4$	$14-1$	$8-6$	$11-3$	$11+4$	$2+7$	
$8+8$	$12-1$	$1+0$	$12-3$	$20-4$	$10+1$	$4-4$

This story gives new meaning to throwing your pearls before swine!

KEY:
A=3
B=10
C=16
D=7
E=5
F=8
G=2
H=11
I=13
J=4
N=6
O=15
P=14
R=9
S=12
U=1
!=0

Horns Horns Horns—A Game from Finland

"Finnish" the picture by adding the children's arms making various horns. Try this game with your family.



Did you know that in the northernmost part of Finland the sun doesn't set for 73 days in the summer? It doesn't rise for 51 days in the winter!

89% of Finland is covered by forest.

The Hatseller and the Monkeys—A Story from Mali

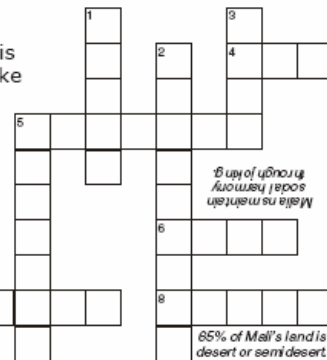
Using the clues, fill in the squares.

Down

- BaMusa threw this
- BaMusa didn't take time for this
- Taken from BaMusa
- Thrown at BaMusa

Across

- What BaMusa did with the fruit
- Who stole from BaMusa?
- Think best on a _____ stomach
- BaMusa wanted to do this with the hats
- What BaMusa did under the tree



Kids and Cultures is a non-profit educational organization that exists to introduce children to the cultures of children who live in other parts of the world, promoting awareness, understanding, and responsible action as world citizens.

To find out how to book our shows for your school or group, to access our resource directory, to learn about our summer day camp program and our cultures club for families, visit www.KidsAndCultures.com.

Cultures of the World DAY CAMP 2006

for grades 1 to 5

Join us for stories, crafts, games, music, snacks, and guests from other countries.

"Visit" a different country every day and create your own travel scrapbook.

week 1 > **June 19 to 23**

Millersville International House

week 2 > **June 26 to 30**

321 Manor Avenue

9 a.m. to 12 noon each day

Millersville, Pa.

Registration begins on March 15, 2006.

Sponsored by *Millersville International House* and *Kids and Cultures*.

For more information and to register, visit www.KidsAndCultures.com or call 717-872-5901