



--CURRICULUM GUIDE--

TEARS OF JOY PUPPET THEATRE

Tears of Joy brings amazing puppet theatre to audiences throughout the U.S. and abroad. Founded in 1971, the theatre is recognized nationally for its commitment to excellence and innovation. Three of the theatre’s productions have received American puppetry’s highest honor, the *Citation of Excellence in the Art of Puppetry*. www.tojt.org

WHEN ANIMALS WERE PEOPLE

BACKGROUND

Folktales from Mexico and Argentina are brought to life in this dynamic bilingual play. *When Animals Were People* is a story from the Huichol Indians of Mexico. As the play begins, Grandfather Vulture, Turtle and Squirrel are making a delicious stew when a stranger asks to join them. The stranger is Wolf who wants to have Turtle and Squirrel for dinner rather than the stew they are making. But when Turtle is gone there is no water for Wolf to drink and he finds that to get water he must bring Turtle back to life.

This story is paired with *The Lazy Bee*, a story by Horacio Quiroga from Argentina. Haragana, the lazy young bee cannot be bothered with doing her share of the work. When the old bees refuse to let her into the hive she spends the night with a hungry snake and learns her lesson. Both of these stories are available on the Tears of Joy Theatre website: www.tojt.org. (under field trips/*When Animals Were People*).

The bilingual script was written by Nancy Aldrich and by Omar Vargas who is from Ecuador. The music was recorded by Gerardo Calderon, a musician originally from Mexico. This play was funded in part by the Oregon Cultural Trust and by The Jackson Foundation,

CHARACTERS

Grandfather Vulture	Abuelo Zopilote	Haragana	Lazy Girl (young bee)
Turtle	Tortuga	Old Bees	Abejas mayores
Squirrel	Ardilla	Mariposa	Butterfly
Wolf	Lobo	Snake	Serpiente

VOCABULARY

<i>Agua</i>	water	<i>Mañana</i>	tomorrow
<i>Abejita</i>	little bee	<i>Mi amigo</i>	my friend
<i>Abuelo</i>	grandfather	<i>Muchacha</i>	girl
<i>Adiós</i>	goodbye	<i>Papas</i>	potatoes
<i>Buen viaje</i>	bon voyage	<i>Por favor</i>	please
<i>Estofado</i>	stew	<i>Que</i>	What
<i>Hola</i>	hello	<i>Señor</i>	mister
<i>Maiz</i>	corn	<i>Si</i>	yes

BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE

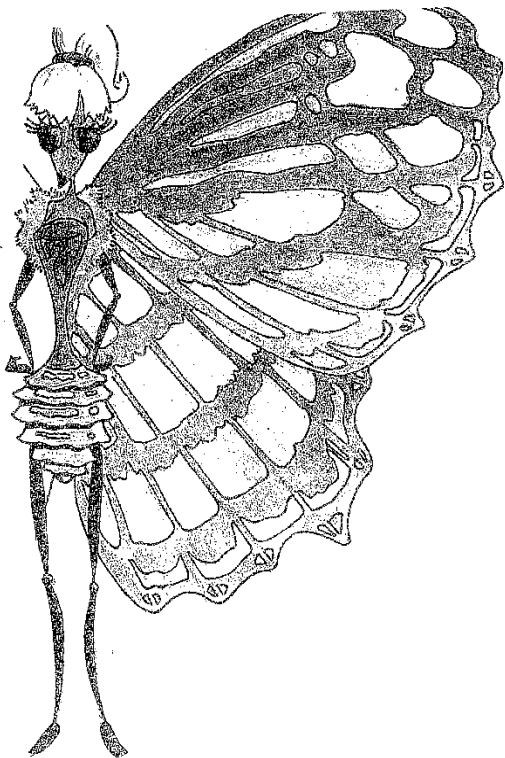
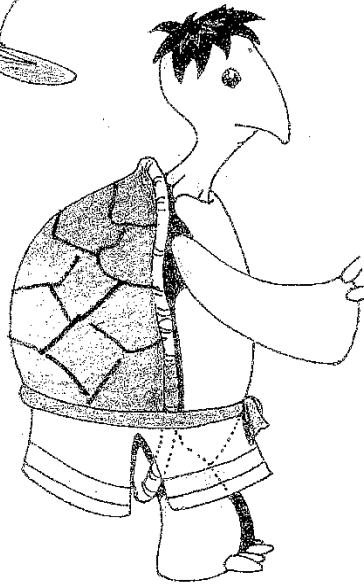
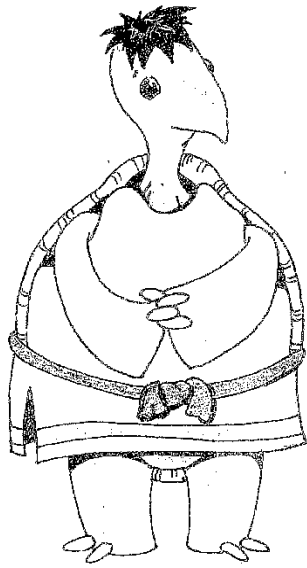
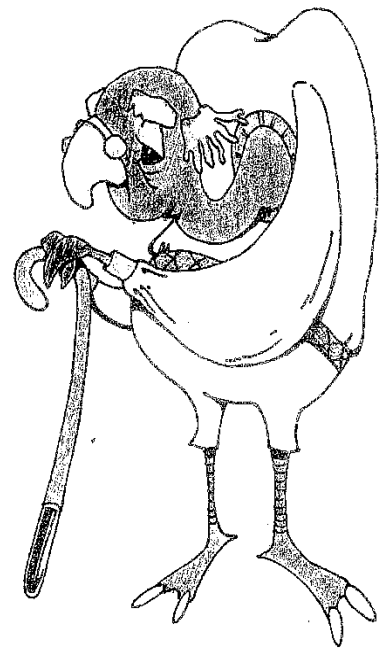
1. Read the stories *When Animals Were People* and *The Lazy Bee*.
When Animals Were People was published as a bilingual story so it may be in your school library. (It is no longer available from the publisher.) These stories can be found on the Tears of Joy website www.tojt.org and may be printed for student use.
2. Go over the Spanish vocabulary words.
3. Locate Mexico and Argentina on a map or globe.

DURING THE PERFORMANCE

1. Look at the set. What kind of place does it suggest?
During the play the set will change. What kind of place is suggested for *The Lazy Bee*?
2. Listen to the music? How does the music make you feel?

AFTER THE PERFORMANCE

1. Draw a picture of the character you liked best. Tell why you like this character.
2. Write a letter to Tears of Joy Theatre telling what you liked about the play
3. Use the designs in this curriculum guide to make simple stick puppets for the characters in the stories and perform your own plays.
4. The play explains how something came to be the way it is—why turtles have shells that look cracked. Ask students to give examples of other stories that explain how something came to be a certain way.
5. When Wolf eats Turtle there is no water because Turtle brought the water. Ask students to give examples of how humans may change the environment in a harmful way.
6. Both stories in this play are fables. A fable is a fictitious story that is meant to teach a moral lesson. The characters in fables are usually talking animals. What moral is taught in each story?



Characters from
When Animals Were People
& *The Lazy Bee*
By Tears of Joy Theatre

