

## 5. Let's Perform a Story!

[For ages 13+]

### Goals

1. To perform a story
2. To use song, dance, dialogue, movement, and visual art props to tell a story
3. To encourage multilingualism

### Materials

Paper, pencil/pen, black or white board, chalk or a marker, clothes (as needed to represent the characters)

For props [depends on availability and those involved] wire, cardboard, elastic, paint, foam, pliers, scissors, glue, existing objects in one's home or around the community

### Preparation

Make sure find a space where you will not be disturbed and you will not disturb others!

### Activities

#### Warm Ups [Need to Determine]

- Voice
- Body
- Improvisation

#### Part 1: Select A Story

- Collect folk tales in your communities
- Choose One of the folk tales
- E.g. *How Humans Became Monkeys* (a Tamang story told by the elders to younger children when they are herding their animals in the hills and mountains)

#### Part 2: Transform the story into a Performance

- Adjust the story as necessary to accommodate the group and the groups' ideas
  - **Characters** – Create enough characters for the group. Make sure there is a narrator.
  - **Setting** – Designate the main places and times of the day
  - **Identify Key Words**
    - Determine the main objects of significance in the story and ensure that they are bilingual
  - **Collect Local Songs**
    - Collect songs that are sung in the community that go with the time of year/activity/place/event
  - **Set the Sequence of the Story**
    - Divide the story into sections
    - Recommended: Three Acts

- Think about the Beginning | Middle | End
- **Create the dialogues for each character in each section of the story**  
Each character can go through an exercise of creating her/his own dialogue and should feel free to use her/his mother tongue. This can even be assigned as homework
- **Write the Script.** One person needs to write everything down into one final script.
- **Choose Your Costumes and Props**

### Part 3: Creating the Props

- Make a list of props needed to identify characters and the setting
- Create the props with available materials

### Part 4: Rehearse

- Rehearse the separate sections
  - Remember the sequence
  - Remember your lines
  - Become your character
  - Make sure you project your voice!
- Make sure you practice with the props
- Bring all the sections together

### Part 5: Perform

- Invite your friends, family, teachers, and other people from your community
- Be careful of the acoustics of the space—can your audience hear you? Can you arrange for mics to make sure you are heard? You can put mics in several places on the stage to catch the acoustics.
- Have a very obvious beginning [e.g. a cloth that can be moved to the side to indicate the performance is beginning]
- Make sure props are in predictable places so that you can get them when you need them.

### Reflect

What were aspects of performing that you enjoyed? What was challenging? What could you do better next time? What did you learn through this process?

What did you think about the story you chose?

How did your audience react to the performance?