



The Ram, the Pig, and the Big Bad Wolf

Readers Theater Play Script and Performance Notes

AUTHORS: Elaine Lindy & Lindsay Parker, COUNTRY: Norway, GENRE: Animal Tales



CHARACTERS

NARRATOR

MAID

RAM (a male sheep)

PIG

GOOSE

HARE (a large rabbit)

ROOSTER

WOLF #1

WOLF #2

**If there are performance notes, they can be found on the pages following the script*

Scene 1 – Ram’s Farm

[**Stage set:** At the top of the show, the stage is divided into two sections- RAM’S farm on one side, and PIG’S farm on the other side. The farms are each designated by a free-standing fence, which sit towards the front of the stage. Behind the fences are a few free-standing trees. (See **Performance Notes** for how to make the free-standing trees). At the end of Scene 2, the fences are taken offstage, and the whole stage becomes the woods. (See **Performance Notes** for how to make the two fences freestanding and easy to move). If you’d like to make a backdrop it can be painted to show the woods, with trees and a dirt floor. If you do not have a backdrop, you can just rely on set pieces throughout the play.]

[The play opens at RAM’s farm.]

[NARRATOR enters.]

NARRATOR:

Hello, everyone. This play is from Norway, a country in northern Europe. It is called “The Ram and the Pig”, and it is brought to you by *Stories to Grow by*.

[NARRATOR steps forward.]

NARRATOR:

Do you know what a ram is? It’s a male sheep, the kind that has big horns (*put hands to head where horns would go*). Anyway, once upon a time in Norway, a Ram lived at this farm.

[RAM enters and RAM stands in front of the fence, next to a big bucket or pail with the words “RAM’S FOOD” written on it.]

NARRATOR:

Life seemed very good for this Ram. Very good indeed.

RAM:

(*looks offstage to where Maid will enter*) Mmm! (*rubs tummy*) Time for another yummy meal!

NARRATOR:

Looks like the Ram sees the Maid coming. Every day she would bring dinner for the Ram.

[MAID enters.]

MAID:

Hello, Ram! (*pretending to put food into the bucket*) Lots of scraps from our dinner table – potatoes and corn, peas and bread crusts.

RAM:

How did I get so lucky? (*pretends to eat from bucket*)

MAID:

Eat up! For tomorrow, you will be on our dinner plates!

RAM:

(*stop eating and looks up at maid*) Huh?! (*to audience*) Say.. what?

MAID:

Ram, can it be that you do not know?

RAM:

(*to Maid*) Huh?! (*to audience*) Know WHAT?

MAID:

We raise animals on this farm so we can eat them!

RAM:

(*to Maid*) Augh! (*to audience*) Can this horrible thing be true?

MAID:

You might as well finish every bite, Ram. Tomorrow is your last day! Gotta go. 'Bye!

[MAID exits.]

RAM:

I can't believe this! (*paces back and forth a couple of times, then stops and turns to audience*) What am I to do? I don't want to be on the dinner plate! I have to get out of here! My friend, Pig, lives at the next farm. She's very smart. She'll know what to do. (*note: if actor playing Pig is a boy, the line is "He'll know what to do."*)

[RAM walks over to PIG's farm, on the other side of the stage.]

Scene 2 – Pig’s Farm

[Stage set: A fence, as described earlier.]

RAM:

(calls offstage to Pig) Pig?

[PIG enters.]

PIG:

Hi, friend Ram! How are you doing? What a nice day, isn’t it?

RAM:

Not anymore! I found out why I am so well fed at the farm. I used to think it was because they liked me.

PIG:

Why else would it be? They like me here, too. *(pats tummy)* My tummy here proves it.

RAM:

Pig, they fatten us up only because they want to eat us for dinner!

PIG:

What?! Can it be true?

RAM:

I heard it from the Maid herself. And for me, “someday” is going to be tomorrow!

PIG:

Yikes! Tomorrow?

RAM:

Pig, I am in big trouble! And the same is going to happen to you too, some day.

PIG:

What a fix we are in! *(paces back and forth, then stops)* Friend Ram! I know what we must do.

RAM:

What?

PIG:

Run away! We will run into the woods together. And build our very own house in the woods.

PIG:

Our very own house in the woods. That sounds great! We won't have to worry anymore about the maid and her dinner plates!

PIG:

What dinner plates?

RAM:

Never mind. Let's go!

PIG:

Follow me.

[RAM and PIG exit.]

Scene 3 – Woods

[**Stage set:** As described before, the set pieces for RAM’s farm and for PIG’s farm are removed. The free-standing trees are left behind. STAGE HANDS add a few more small items to the stage- logs and moss. STAGE HANDS can also add a few bushes. The center of the stage should remain clear, for the house that will be “built”. (See **Performance Notes** for suggestions on logs, moss, and bushes).]

[RAM and PIG enter.]

RAM:

What do you think? Is this a good spot?

PIG:

Yes, I think so. Let’s get started. We will need logs.

[RAM and PIG start to look about and gather logs.]

[GOOSE and HARE enter.]

GOOSE:

Good day! What are the two of your doing?

RAM:

Good day to you, too! We are building our very own house in the woods.

HARE:

Wow, that sounds great! May we live there, too?

PIG:

If you help us. What can you do to help?

GOOSE:

I can stuff grass in the cracks with my beak. Then our house will be warm and cozy.

HARE:

I can chew wood with my teeth to make pegs. Then the house will be strong and safe.

PIG:

Warm and cozy... strong and safe... this sounds good!

RAM:

It sure does! The more help we have, the faster we will build our house!

PIG:

We will just make it a little bigger. So we can all fit.

HARE:

That makes sense. All right, I'll start with these logs and chew pegs at the end.

GOOSE:

I'll gather grass to stuff into the cracks.

[GOOSE and HARE start to work, gathering logs and moss from around the stage.]

[ROOSTER enters.]

PIG:

Hello, Rooster. What are you up to?

ROOSTER:

Sometimes I get out of the pen and see what's going on in the world. You all seem busy. What are you doing?

HARE:

We are building our very own house in the woods.

ROOSTER:

Your very own house in the woods! May I join you?

PIG:

Well, what can you do to help?

ROOSTER:

I can crow and crow in the morning to wake everyone up.

RAM:

That would be good! If no one wakes me up, I could sleep all morning!

PIG:

Me, too.

GOOSE:

Me, three.

HARE:

Yup.

GOOSE:

Good, that's settled. Now, let's all get back to work.

[HARE brings some logs to PIG.]

PIG:

Okay, I will go cut some of this wood.

[PIG exits with logs.]

RAM:

I will help you, Pig.

[RAM exits.]

[The ANIMALS will now bring on the three walls of the house. (See **Performance Notes** on how to create the three sides and support them so they are easy to carry and will stand up straight). While the following action is taking place, ROOSTER is sitting down.]

[Offstage, RAM and PIG pick up one of the free-standing side walls. They bring it on and set it down.]

[While RAM and PIG are entering, GOOSE and HARE exit and pick up the other free-standing side wall. They bring it on and set it down.]

[RAM and PIG exit again, and bring on the middle wall. This wall is not free standing, so they hold it in place until HARE gives them the Velcro strips.]

HARE:

Here, I chewed some pegs for our house.

[HARE holds up pegs, or the Velcro strips. (See **Performance Notes** for suggestions and options on making pegs and making Velcro strips).]

[RAM, PIG, and HARE work together to put the house together with the Velcro. (See **Performance Notes** for and how to put house together).]

GOOSE:

Here, let me stuff some moss in those holes.

[GOOSE pretends to stuff moss in the walls of the house.]

GOOSE:

There! All done!

[They all stand back at look at the house.]

RAM:

What a house!

PIG:

What a good team we are!

HARE:

(looks at Rooster) Though SOME of us are working harder than others.

ROOSTER:

I do my part!

HARE:

(grumbles) Right.

ROOSTER:

I mean- I *will* do my part!

GOOSE:

(yawning) What should we do now?

HARE:

Take a nap?

[ANIMALS heartily agree, saying “Oh, yes!” and “What a good idea!”]

RAM:

Let’s take a nap.

PIG:

In our new home!

[ANIMALS crawl into the house and lie down, pretending to sleep. They can snore loudly for a few seconds to give the impression they are sleeping. They quiet down when WOLVES enter.]

[WOLF #1 and WOLF #2 enter. They stay close by the stage wing.]

WOLF #1:

(whispers to Wolf #2) Mmm! Look at all those yummy animals.

WOLF #2:

(whispers to Wolf #1) All in one place, too! That makes it easy.

WOLF #1:

We will get these animals and have them for dinner!

WOLF #2:

I can almost taste them!

[WOLF #1 and WOLF #2 creep up to sleeping animals.]

[ROOSTER notices.]

ROOSTER:

Cockle doodle-doo! Time to get up!

[RAM and PIG wake up, sticking their heads out the windows or door.]

RAM:

Why did you wake us?

PIG:

It's not morning!

ROOSTER:

Cockle doodle-DOO!

[GOOSE and HARE wake up, too, sticking their heads out as well.]

[WOLF #1 and WOLF #2 run over to the ANIMALS.]

WOLF #1:

All of you yummy animals are MINE!

WOLF #2:

(attacks) AUGHHHH!

RAM:

Get out of here! Stay away from us!

PIG:

(shows teeth) Take that! Argggh!

GOOSE:

Peck, peck. Get out of our house! Peck, peck

ROOSTER:

(runs around in a frenzy) Cock-a-doodle-do! Cock-a-doodle do!

HARE:

(runs around) Leave us alone!

WOLF #1:

(scared) AUGHH!

[WOLF #1 and WOLF #2 run off to the far corner of the stage.]

WOLF #2:

What happened? What happened?

WOLF #1:

There are monsters in that house!

WOLF #2:

(scared) So many of them!

WOLF #1:

We're lucky to be alive!

WOLF 2:

Let's get out of here!

WOLF #1:

Quick!

[WOLF #1 and WOLF #2 run offstage.]

PIG:

We did it!

RAM:

We saved our house!

GOOSE:

We did it together!

HARE:

Good job, everyone!

ROOSTER:

Me, too?

HARE:

Yes, you too!

PIG:

We couldn't have done it without you, Rooster.

RAM:

Now we can stay in our very own house in the woods!

ALL ANIMALS, together:

Forever!



Performance Notes for The Ram and the Pig

THREE WAYS THAT STUDENTS AND TEACHERS CAN UTILIZE THIS PLAY:

- 1.** *Students can read the play aloud while sitting in the classroom.* Ask the readers to skip all bracketed stage directions. You may prefer to rotate your actors to give all students a chance to read the speaking parts.
- 2.** *Students can perform the play in the classroom.* Clear an area that can be used as the stage. Have the audience sit on the floor in front of the stage. Students in the play can make simple costumes and/or sets as described below. When the scene change, the characters "on stage" simply walk to the back of the room where they wait until their next appearance "on stage."
- 3.** *Students can perform the play on stage.* Refer to the production notes that follow. Ask the actors to enter from the back of the room and move through the audience as they approach the stage.



COSTUMES

Each character wears clothing with a color indicative of his or her animal character and also wears a customized hat. Ears, horns, and beaks can be made from construction paper and hot-glued onto the hats.

- NARRATOR— Simple, nice clothes.
- RAM— White clothes and big horns attached to the hat.
- MAID— Long skirt, white shirt, and apron. If you have it, a bonnet, too.



- PIG— Pink clothes and squiggly ears on the hat.
- GOOSE— White clothes and a yellow beak on the hat.
- HARE— Brown clothes and large pointed ears on the hat.
- ROOSTER— Brown shirt, orange pants, and a red jacket. A beak on the hat.
- WOLVES— Gray clothes and pointed ears on the hats.



PROPS

Scene 1

- A bag of food for MAID to feed to RAM. This can be a cloth or burlap sack with the word “RAM FOOD” painted on.
Note: When MAID feeds the RAM, she can either pretend to grab a handful of food from the sack, or you can fill the sack with real seed, or you can use bits of construction paper.

Scene 2

- N/A

Scene 3

- Logs for RAM and PIG to gather. These can be real logs or sticks, or you can make logs by rolling up brown construction paper and taping the seam. You can also use paper towels rolls painted brown.
Note: Logs can be scattered around stage at the top of Scene 3, with the Scene change.
- A saw for PIG to use. This can be a plastic prop saw or you can make one out of cardboard.
- Pegs for the HARE. These can be made out of small pieces of brown construction paper rolled up and taped. Or they can just pretend.



Note: If you construct the house with Velcro, as suggested in Set notes, HARE can carry the Velcro strips in his/her pocket, and these can act as the “pegs”.

- Moss for GOOSE to collect/stuff house with. This can be represented with pieces of green construction paper or green tissue paper.
Note: This can also be scattered around at the top of the scene, along with the logs.
- Three walls of the house- the front and two side walls- for animals to bring on. These can be made out of three large cardboard pieces. Each piece should be the same size.

On the front wall of the house, you can cut out a door big enough for the animals to crawl through.

In each of the two side walls, cut out a large window.

The two side walls can be braced with milk crates, chairs, or stools. The middle piece is then attached to the two side pieces with Velcro, so that all three walls are supported and the entire house is free-standing.

Cut four strips of cardboard and put the rough side of the Velcro on each. These will be used to attach the walls together.

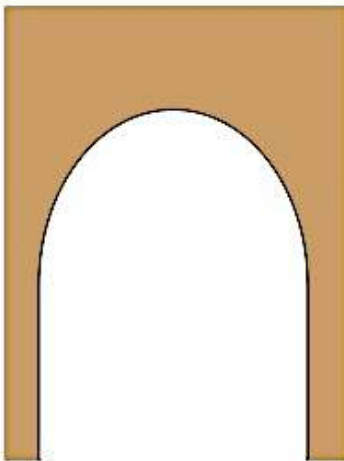
See “Other Staging Notes” for ideas on how to have animals bring on the walls and how put them together.

Note: When the animals are scaring away the WOLVES, they can stick their heads out the of the large windows and the door.

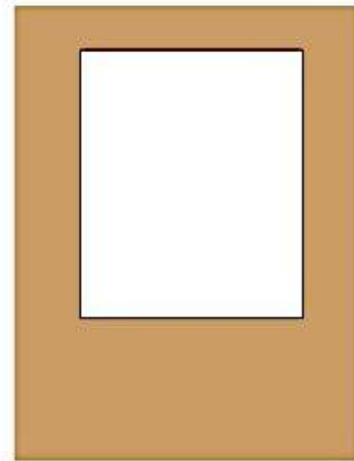
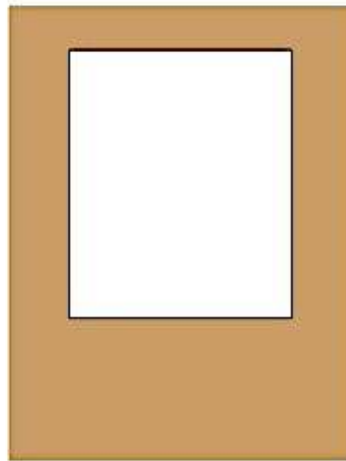
Optional: paint the cardboard pieces brown, or paint them to resemble stacked logs/wood planks.

See Images below for examples:

House Pieces- front



Middle (front) wall



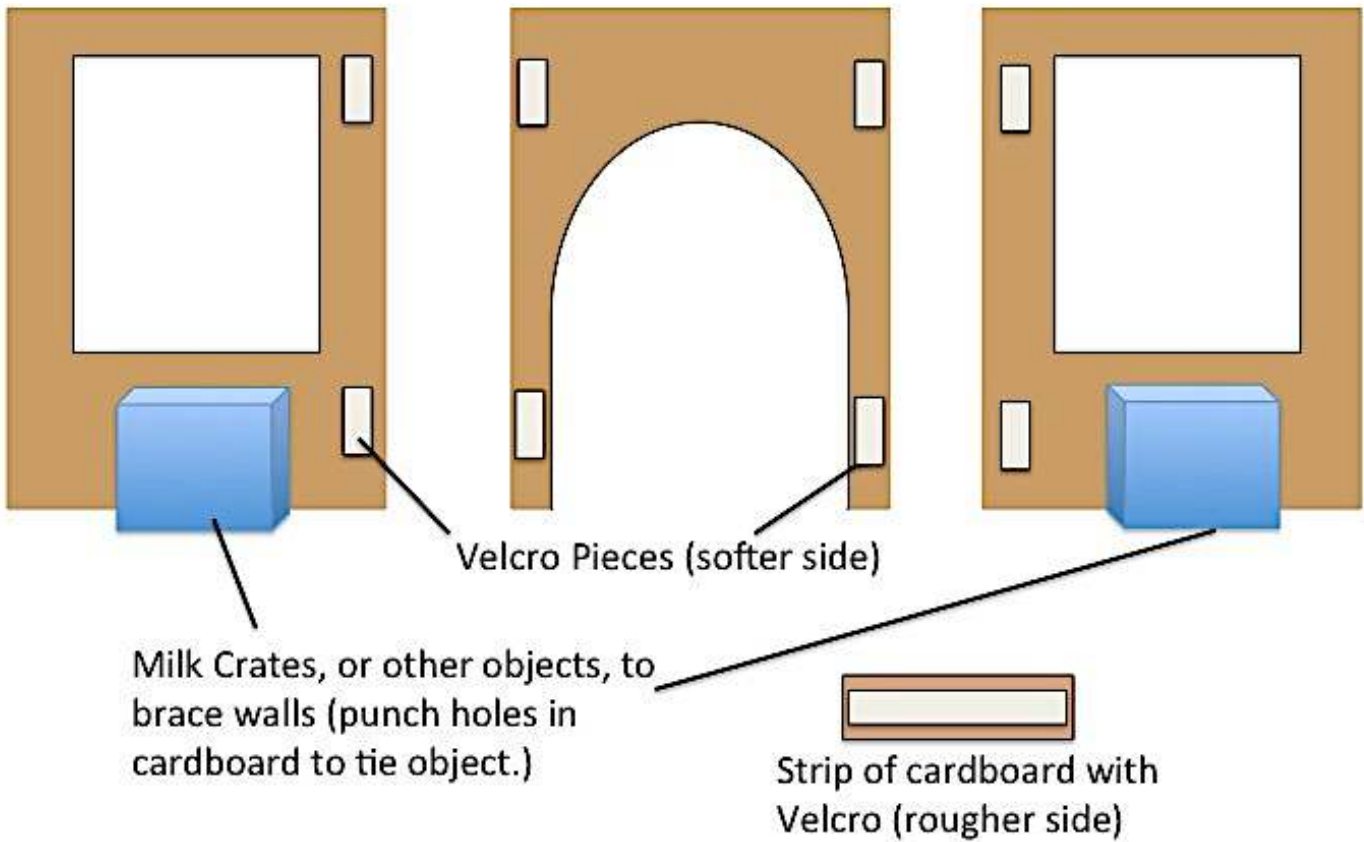
Side walls



Examples of how to paint the walls:



House Pieces- back





SETS

At the top of the show, the stage is divided into two sections- RAM'S farm on one side, and PIG'S farm on the other side. At the end of Scene 2, the farm sets are taken offstage, and the whole stage becomes the woods.

If you want to make a backdrop, it can be painted to show the woods- lots of trees, and a brown dirt forest floor. This can hang throughout the show. If you have no backdrop, you can rely on set pieces to determine the location.

There are a few free-standing trees towards the back of the stage. These remain up for the whole play. You can cut a few trees out of cardboard and make them free-standing by tying them to milk crates, stools, or chairs.

Scene 1— RAM'S farm. A white picket fence which sits in front of the trees. The fence can be cut from a large flat piece of cardboard, and painted white. In order to make it freestanding, it can be tied to a milk create, stool, or chair.

There is also a big bucket, somewhere in front of the fence. This is where MAID “feeds” RAM.

Scene 2— PIG'S farm. A brown picket fence which sits in front of the trees. The fence can be cut from a large flat piece of cardboard, and painted brown. In order to make it freestanding, it can be tied to a milk create, stool, or chair.

Scene 3— The Woods. STAGE HANDS take off the two fences and buckets and add more pieces to the woods set- some logs and handfuls of moss.

Optional: To make the woods more “lush”, you can have STAGE HANDS bring on a few free-standing bushes. For the bushes, you can either make them the same way as the trees, out of cardboard and attach to an object for bracing, OR you can use potted plants.

Note: Keep the center of the stage clear for the house that will be built.
For the logs and moss, see Prop notes.



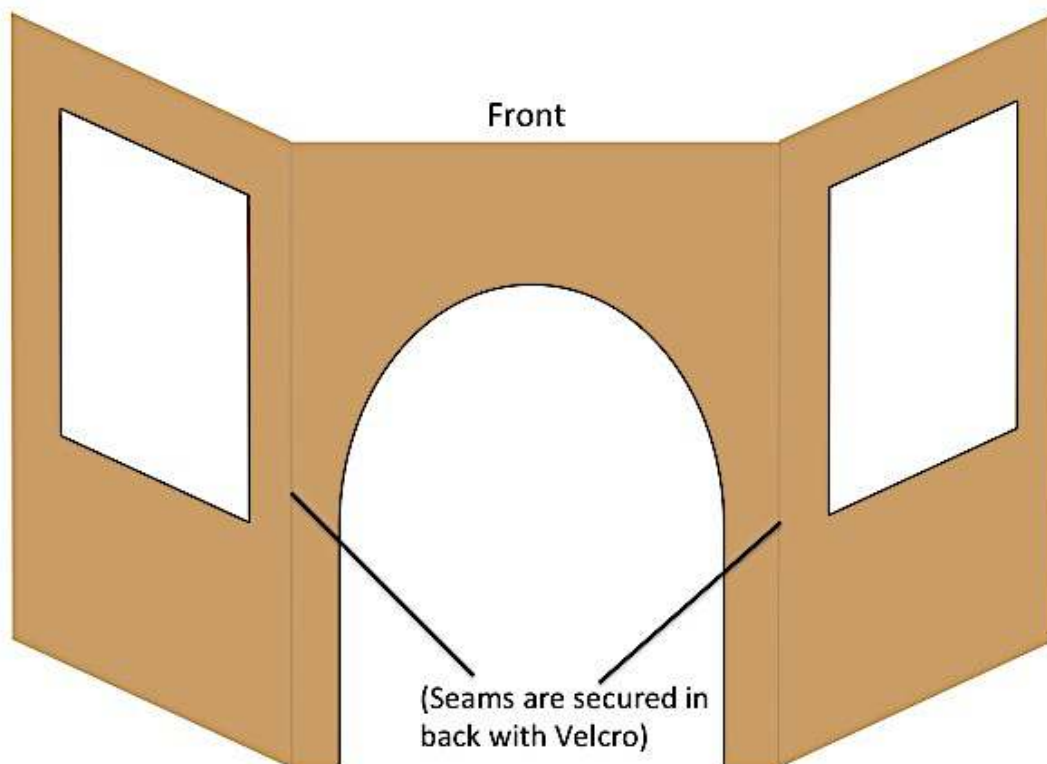
OTHER STAGING NOTES

Throughout the process of “building” the house, animals take turns bringing on the walls. If walls are too large/awkward for one animal to carry alone, they can carry the walls in pairs. If walls are easy enough to carry, you can have one animal carry each wall and have the fourth animal act as “foreman” directing them where to go.

Since the sidewalls are freestanding, they can be the first two pieces to come on. When the middle wall comes on, the animals can work together to push the three pieces together and secure with the Velcro on the back.

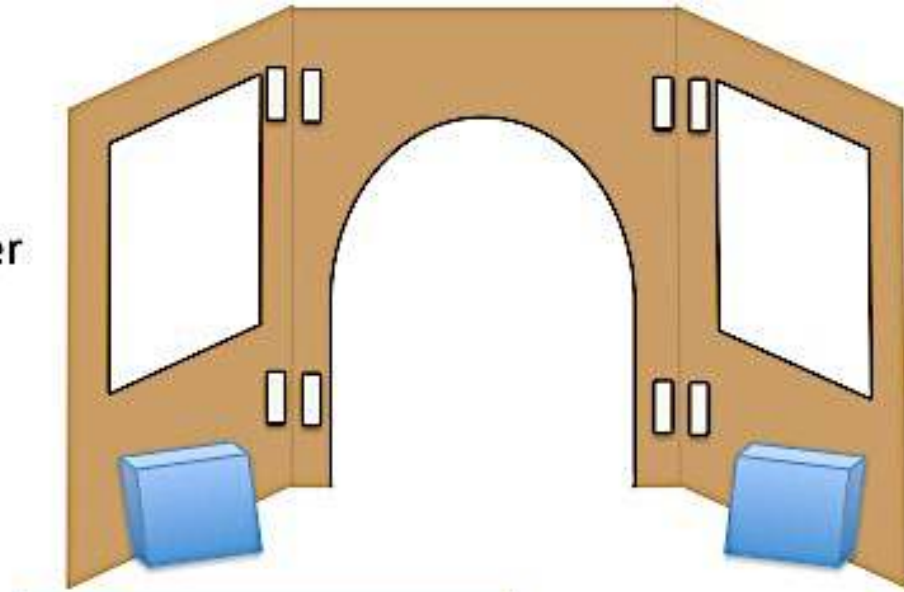
Note: The two outer walls should be at an angle, so that audience can see the windows.

See images for examples:





Three pieces
pushed together



Cardboard
pieces with
Velcro, bent to
fit at an angle

