



Performance Notes for: *Janet and Thomalyn*

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

- EARL — A white collared shirt, a nice buttoned jacket, preferably a deep rich color, black or brown pantaloons (can be pants or sweatpants rolled up to just under the knee), high socks, boots, and a crown.
- JANET — A medieval-style gown, which can be represented with a long richly colored gown, with a cord or rope wrapped around the waist in a crisscross



pattern and tied in the front. She also wears a headband, flat sandals, and a green hooded cloak.

You can make the cloak, drape a piece of fabric over JANET'S head and gather the fabric together around the collar. This creates a hood. Mark the place where the fabric comes together in the front, and attach Velcro to both sides, so the cloak can be closed at the front.

Another option is to use a green hooded sweater or sweatshirt. Cut up the front of the shirt, leaving a strip of fabric at the top, so that the two shoulder pieces are still connected. Cut off the sleeves and sew the holes.

See images for examples of cloaks:





- **FAIRIES** — Light-colored flowy dresses or skirts (flowy or tulle) and tank-tops. They should have some greenery/leaves wrapped around them in some way, perhaps at the waist or in their hair. They also have wings, which can be bought, or made from poster board covered in fabric and pinned to the toga. For Scene 5, they can pin flowers and ribbons to their hair, or make crowns of flowers and ribbons.
- **THOMLYN** — A long olive green or greenish-brown shirt, tied at the waist with a brown belt, cord, or strip of leather and black or brown pants tucked into boots. He can also wear a brown cape. He has pointy ears, which must be removed in Scene 5.
You can make the ears out of paper and cardboard. First, look up a picture of elf ears, and decide which style you'd like to use. Then draw and color a set of ears on a piece of paper. Cut the ears out and glue them to cardboard. Once dry, cut them out of the cardboard. Attach rubber bands to the back of the ears with strong tape. The rubber bands go around the actor's ears and hold the elf ears in place.
Find steps and photos here: <http://www.instructables.com/id/Elf-ears-fast-easy/>
You can also do a Google search for how to make elf ears, as there are many sites and many options.
- **FAIRY QUEEN** — Same as FAIRIES, but more colorful so that she stands out, and she wears a crown of flowers. You can make this by gluing plastic or paper flowers to a headband.
For Scene 5, she can add more flowers to her hair as well as ribbons, and she can add a bright cloak of some sort.



PROPS

Scene 1

- N/A

Scene 2

- A bunch of roses for JANET to pick and then hand to THOMALYN. These can be plastic roses, or you can make them from cardboard. The bunch should be Velcroed onto the cardboard rose bush (see set suggestions) and when JANET “cuts” the flowers, she can just make a cutting motion and pull the roses off.

Scene 3

- N/A

Scene 4

- Optional: Orange poppies for JANET to hold while she walks with THOMALYN. These can be plastic or made the same way the roses are made.
- A bell to ring offstage.

Scene 5

- A bag for JANET to carry, with masks inside.
- Three masks, to be placed inside bag- Bear, Lion, Dragon. Masks can be made from paper, the thicker the better so they hold up. In order to make masks easy to take on/off, you can secure each mask glasses frames. You can buy three cheap pairs of glasses or sunglasses, take the lenses out, and hot glue or tape the masks to the frames. This way, THOMALYN can remove one mask and put the next on fairly easily.
- Three horses- one black, one brown, one white. These can be hobby horses as they are easy to make and lightweight. You can also make your own hobby horses with sticks and cardboard. Cut the horses’ heads out of cardboard and



tape or glue each to one stick. Another option is to cut entire hobby horse shapes from cardboard.

- A bell, to ring offstage, same as Scene 4.
- A rose for NARRATOR. Can be real, plastic, or made from cardboard. Needs to be heavy enough to be thrown.



SETS

The majority of the stage is set like a forest throughout the play. If you have a backdrop, it can be painted to show a forest. Several trees line the back of the stage. One tree, closer to the center of the set, is wider and will act as the tree that JANET hides behind (See below for more information on tree construction). You can leave a small section on the stage less-heavily decorated, so it can act as the pop-up location for Scene 1 and Scene 5.

- **Scene 1** — The Earl’s Castle. This is a pop-up scene and it takes place at the front of the stage, in front of the forest set. If you have a small section of the stage that is less-heavily decorated, you can use that spot for this scene. A throne sits in the area designated as the castle. You can cover a chair with nice fabric, and wrap the chair legs with gold foil.
- **Scene 2** — The forest, near the rose bush. Several trees line the back of the stage, with one tree being wider than the others. In front of the trees, there are a few rose bushes.

To make the trees: Use tall pieces of cardboard, such as refrigerator boxes, and cut out trees of various shapes and sizes and paint brown. Leaves can be cut from paper and glued onto the cardboard branches. Make the “wide” tree first, and make all other trees skinnier than that.

To brace the trees, you can lean them against chairs or stools and duct tape them to the legs (in the back of the tree).



To make the rose bushes: Start with a long piece of cardboard, about three or four feet tall. Cut a few bush-shapes, so that there are several bushes in a row, attached to each other. Paint everything green. You can use darker greens to create texture.

Paint several red roses on each bush. Choose one bush to place several real roses- a bunch of plastic or paper roses. These can be attached to the front of the cardboard bush with Velcro.

Brace the back of the bushes with a cardboard brace or lean it against a chair or milk crate.

- **Scene 3** — The forest, in the fairy court. Same as Scene 2 but rose bush is removed and throne is brought on. The throne can be a lightweight wooden chair, or a regular chair covered in brown fabric to give the appearance of wood.

Tie colorful ribbons around the chair and attach flowers to the chair or to the brown fabric. You can also add strands of green leaves and/or moss, and any other woodsy or fun decorations you'd like.

See image for example:





- **Scene 4** — The forest, further in, near the poppies. Same as Scene 3 but throne is removed and orange poppies are brought on.

Orange poppies can be made much like the rose bushes. Start with a long piece of cardboard, about three feet high. Paint the cardboard green to look like a field. Paint orange flowers onto the cardboard. You can also attach (with hot glue or duct tape) a few flowers to the top of the cardboard, so that they stick up and are visible to audience. These can be plastic orange flowers or cut from cardboard and painted.

See below for images of poppies:



- **Scene 5** — The forest, at Miles Cross. Poppies are removed and trees are decorated with paper chains and other things to make the stage look festive. You can have STAGE HANDS bring on streamers and place them on and throughout the trees.

Five large rocks (should be visible from audience) are brought on and placed in a circle. The rocks can be set in the same location as the pop-up castle set, off to one side.

To make rocks: You can use large Styrofoam balls. Carve/cut the bottoms to flatten, carve tops to resemble rock shapes, and paint gray. You can also cut large rock shapes out of cardboard and paint them gray. Brace the cardboard rocks by tying them to milk crates or other object that can hold them up.

