

Performance Notes for Native American Cinderella

THREE WAYS THAT STUDENTS AND TEACHERS CAN UTILIZE THIS PLAY:

- 1.** *If student read the play aloud while remaining sitting in the classroom,* ask readers to skip all bracketed stage instructions. If you divide the class into several sections, you can rotate turns for speaking roles.
- 2.** *If students perform the play in the classroom,* seat audience members on the floor in the center of the room.
- 3.** *If students perform this play onstage,* create a set for all three scenes. If you have a curtain available, close the curtain between scenes.



COSTUMES

- NARRATOR or NARRATORS can wear anything, perhaps a nice shirt and slacks, a nice shirt and skirt, or a nice dress.
- STRONG WIND can wear brown or khaki pants and a brown shirt. They can also wear light brown vests over their shirts.
- RUSHING WATER, MAIDENS, FEATHER BRAID, WHITE FOX, WILD THORN, DARK MOON, and BLUEBIRD can wear brown shirts and skirts or brown dresses with beaded necklaces. They can wear their hair in braids.
- CHIEF can wear brown or khaki pants and a brown shirt with a headband that has feathers made of colorful construction paper attached.



PROPS

Scene 1

- Things for the BRAVES and MAIDENS to do- they can pretend to grind corn using bowls and real stones, real sticks, or toilet paper tubes, they can decorate baskets with colorful yarn and beads, they can pretend to mend pieces of cloth with string or yarn, they can arrange construction paper fish, vegetables, and fruit in bowls or baskets, and/or they can make *wampum* (necklaces of small, cylindrical beads) by threading real beads or dry pasta on to strings.
- Two sheer panels, one blue and one white, for STRONG WIND to use to designate when he is invisible to all and when he is visible to only one person. You can attach each sheet to a rod or piece of wood about a foot long. This will make it easier for STRONG WIND to hold the sheets in front of himself.
- A bow for STRONG WIND. You can either use a toy bow or make one from cardboard and yarn. Cut a strip of cardboard about 3 inches wide and 12 inches long in the shape of a bow limb. Poke a hole in each end of the strip. Cut a piece of yarn about 12 inches long and string it through the two holes, and knot it so it won't slip out. You can also tape the yarn to the side of the limb. The yarn should be tight.





- A basket for FEATHER BRAID to carry. You can make fake fish from paper to put in the basket.
- A basket for WHITE FOX to carry. You can use real ears of corn or make them from paper to put in the basket. Make them large enough that when you rest them in the basket, they will stick out about half way.

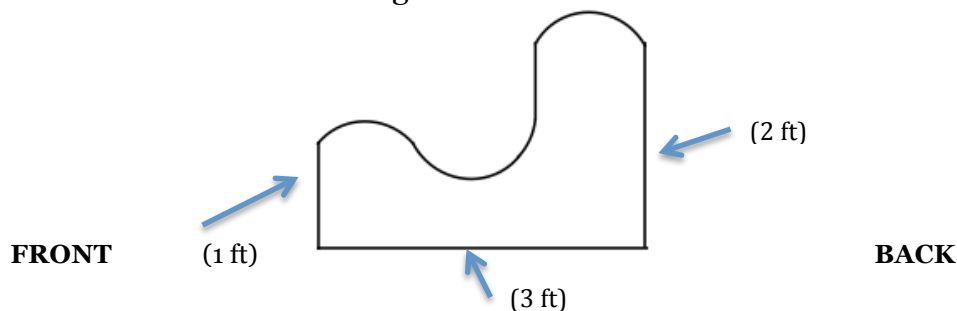
Scene 2

- A small basket for WILD THORN to carry. You can put real berries in the basket or use craft puff balls or make them out of paper.
- A few pieces of fabric for BLUEBIRD.
- A basket of sewing supplies for BLUEBIRD. The supplies won't be seen, so you don't need to fill the basket with many items, but it might be good to have something sticking out/showing, and something she can pick up, such as a spool of thread.

Scene 3

- Food for the DAUGHTERS to give to RUSHING WATER. Wrap the food in a cloth. You can use a real loaf of bread, or block or something else solid, to give the look of food wrapped up. RUSHING WATER can pretend to eat the food.
- A rainbow. This can be made from cardboard. Paint a rainbow, about a foot long, and then cut it out. Attach a piece of yarn to it, so that STRONG WIND can carry it around his shoulder. (see below in "Other Staging Notes" for ideas on the reveal.)
- A sled. You can make this out of cardboard.

To make the sled: Draw shape like this on a piece of cardboard, making the base about three feet long, one side about two feet long, and the other side about a foot long:



Cut the shape out. This is one side of the sled. Use this to trace the same



shape onto a piece of cardboard, and cut that out also. This is the other side of the sled.

Cut out two more pieces of cardboard, both about 2 feet wide. One should be 2 feet long, for the front, and the other about 3 feet long, for the back. These will be the pieces that connect the two sides.

Tape these two pieces to the two sides, and curl over the extra foot on each end. See picture below:



Note: For the purposes of the show, leave the bottom open. You can attach straps to either side of the sled. This way STRONG WIND can put his legs in the sled, put the straps on his shoulders, and walk with it. Another option is to just make one side of the sled, and have stage hands walk along STRONG WIND holding the piece at his side as he walks.

STRONG WIND draws his sled with the Milky Way. You can paint a picture of the Milky Way onto a piece of cardboard- just paint a black spiral and add stars, planets, etc- and cut it out. When the time comes, stage hands, wearing black, can come on and hold the Milky way in front of the sled.

(see below in “Other Staging Notes” for ideas on the reveal.)

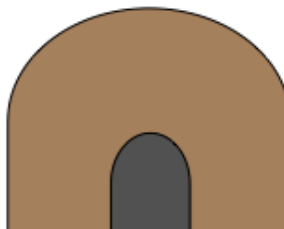


SETS

If possible, paint a backdrop showing a forest scene along the shore of a bay, possibly with a few wigwams or birch bark canoes. This backdrop can hang for all three scenes.



Scene 1 – A free-standing Wigwam. You can make this by cutting a dome shape out of cardboard. Paint both sides brown and paint a doorway. One side stays brown- this is STRONG WIND and RUSHING WATER’S home. The other side will be the CHIEF’S home. You can add some color to this side, perhaps some decorations, to make it stand out the dwelling of an important figure.



In order to have the dome stand up on its own, make triangular bases, attaching two to the front, and two to the back:



Scene 2 –STRONG WIND’s wigwam transitions into the CHIEF’S wigwam. You can do so by turning the wigwam around and moving to the other side of the stage.

Scene 3– Same as Scene 1. Turn wigwam back around and move to original spot.

OTHER STAGING NOTES

Scene 3

When WILD THORN and DARK MOON turn into birch trees: Two sisters can become birch trees by simply moving themselves into a tree-like stance and freezing that way. You can also have stage hands help by bringing on four sets of branches and places one in each hand of the two sisters. You can make branches by using real sticks or a long piece of cardboard, and gluing paper leaves on.



When STRONG WIND reveals himself to BLUE BIRD: STRONG WIND should already be wearing the sled, holding the rainbow, and the Milky Way when the Chief's family comes to visit. When they enter, STRONG WIND can exit quickly to get these items, and then re-enter holding the blue and white sheets in front of him. You can also utilize stage hands for this scene, having them hold the sheets this time, or held hold his props.