



## Performance Notes for Pumpkin in a Jar

### 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

- NARRATOR or NARRATORS – Nice, simple clothes.
- KING ADOVIS— Black pants, a nice long-sleeved button-up shirt, and a vest or nice jacket. He wears a crown, which can be made from yellow construction paper with glitter and/or rhinestones glued on.
- HUNTING COMPANION #1 and HUNTING COMPANION #2— Camouflaged pants and shirts or black, brown, green, or tan plain pants and shirts.
- MAIDEN— A plain dress or plain shirt and skirt, and a cape.



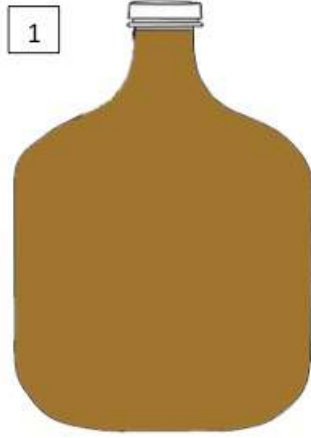
- SOLDIER—Black pants and a plain black shirt.



## PROPS

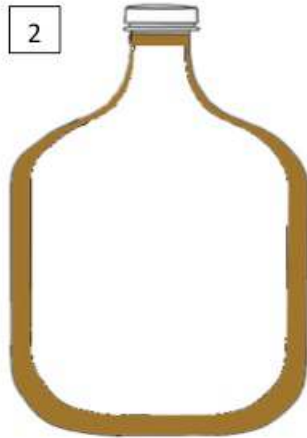
### Scene 1

- Hunting materials for KING and HUNTING COMPANIONS. They can carry FAKE hunting rifles made out of paper towel rolls with black construction paper handles glued or taped to the rolls.  
Another option would be to carry bows and arrows. Bows can be made with sticks and string, and arrows can be cut from cardboard.
- A basket of flowers for MAIDEN to carry. The basket can be a real woven basket, or you can make a basket out of construction paper.  
Flowers can be real, plastic store-bought, or they can be made of construction paper.
- A jar or jug for MAIDEN to give to the KING to drink from. This should be plastic, to avoid breakage.  
Note: When MAIDEN throws the jar/jug offstage, someone offstage can play a sound effect of glass breaking, or they can simulate a breaking noise- put a few coins into a glass jar, and when the MAIDEN throws the plastic jar/jug offstage, someone can shake the jar of coins once, up and down.
- A second jar for MAIDEN to give to KING. The jar should be oversized. It can be made from cardboard and a clear material, such as cellophane.  
To make the jar: Cut two large jar shapes out of cardboard. (The base of the jar is wide and the mouth of the jar is small- too small for a pumpkin to fit through.)  
Using a box cutter, cut out the inside of each jar, leaving a thin cardboard frame in the shape of the jar. Paint the cardboard a light gray.  
Stretch the cellophane across one side of each jar- these will be the “middle” of the jar. Tape or glue the cellophane to the cardboard frames.  
Cut the excess cellophane from around each frame, so nothing sticks out.  
Glue the two frames together, with the cellophane in the middle. This keeps the cellophane in place, and gives the jar the look of having an “inside”.  
See below for images:



1

Cut 2 jar shapes of equal size out of cardboard.



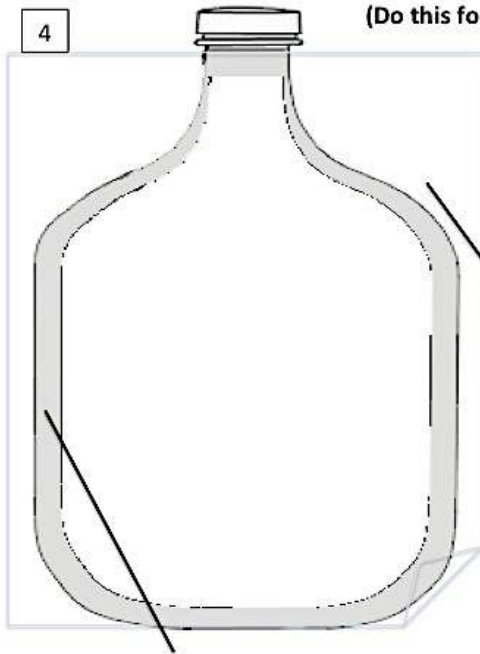
2

Cut the inside of the shapes out, so that there are two a jar-shaped frames, of equal size.



3

Paint the jar frames light gray.



4

(Do this for each jar frame)

2) Cut excess cellophane around edges



(When finished cutting)

1) Glue cellophane to cardboard, all the way around. Do this on BOTH sides.

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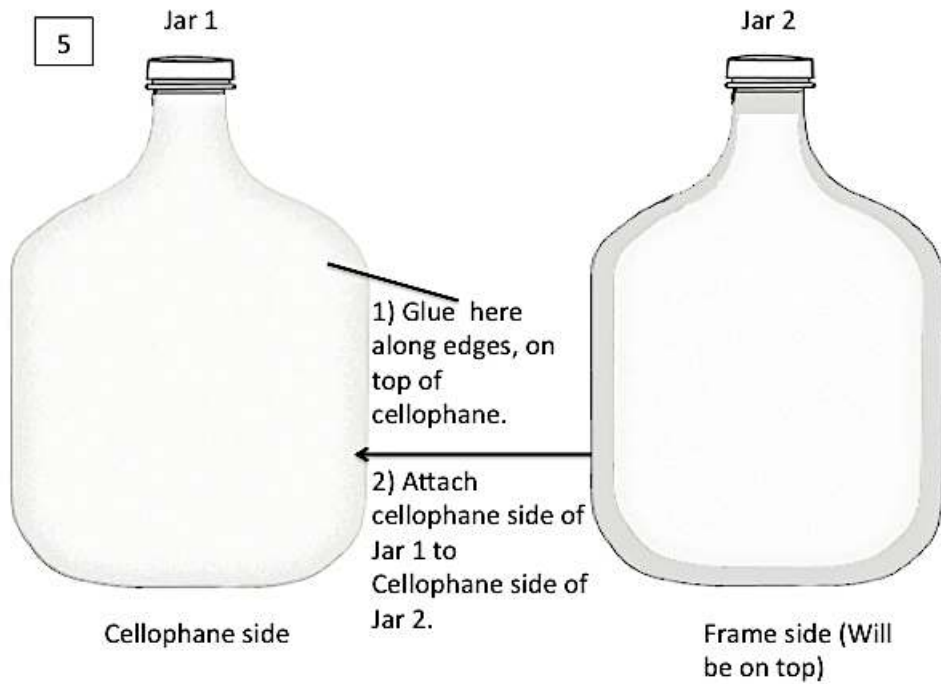
### 3



(Now, each jar will have a side with a cardboard frame showing and a side with the cellophane cut to the edge.)



5





Finished jar, with two cardboard frames glued together, with two sheets of cellophane in between.



- The SOLDIER can carry a toy sword or a sword made out of gray construction paper or gray foil.

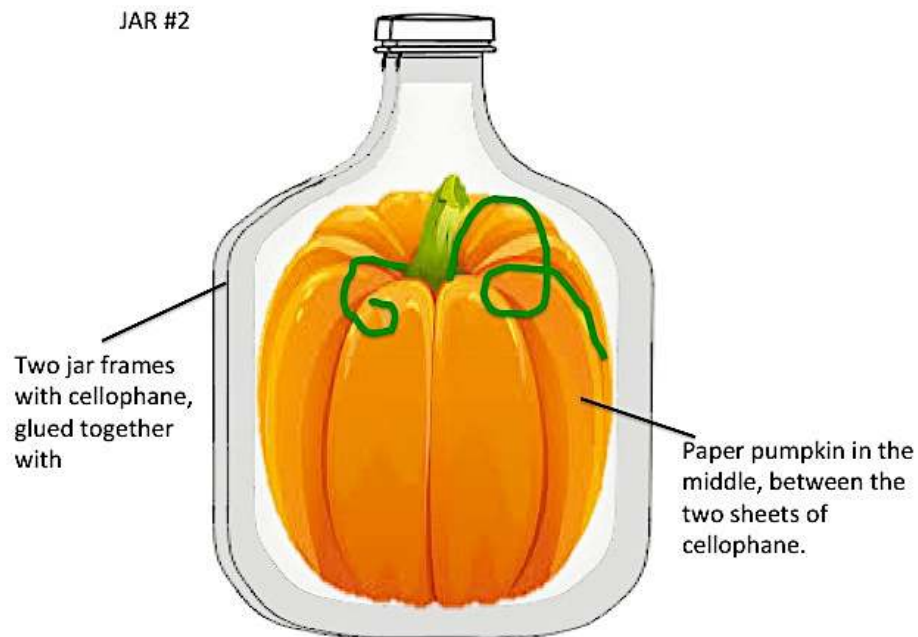
## Scene 2

- Another jar, identical to the first oversized cardboard jar. This one needs to have a pumpkin inside of it.

For the pumpkin: You can cut the pumpkin out of orange construction paper, or you can cut it out of white paper and paint it orange. It should be as wide as the jar and as tall as you'd like it to be- it should be big enough to be seen from the audience. You can add a few curly vines coming off of the stem. These can be green ribbon, pipe cleaners, or paper.

For the jar: Make this jar the exact same way as the jar in Scene 1, but put the pumpkin in between the two pieces of cellophane when you glue the frames together

See image for example:



The stage has a primary set and a secondary set. The primary set is a woody scene. If you have a backdrop it can show rolling fields of grass with a cottage in the distance, surrounded by large pumpkin patches. If you don't have a backdrop, you can just rely on the set pieces.

**Scene 1** – A few cardboard trees can be scattered around the stage. These can be made by cutting basic tree-shapes out of cardboard and cutting leaves from construction paper. Glue leaves to tree branches. Tie or tape trees to stools, chairs, or milk crates, so that they can be free-standing.

**Scene 2** – The door to the King's castle. The door can be made from cardboard. Start with a big rectangular piece. Paint the cardboard a light tan or gray. You can make "stone bricks" by dipping sponges into another shade of tan or gray and stamping the cardboard. Let this dry.



With a marker, draw a door within the large piece.

With a box cutter, trace the marker, leaving one side of the door uncut. This will act as the hinge. Paint the door brown and use a darker brown to paint lines going down and across, to resemble a castle door.

You can make two triangular cardboard braces or use stools, milks crates, or other sturdy objects to make the door free-standing. Tape or tie the bracing to the back of the door.

Another option is to have two STAGE HANDS hold the door in place for the scene.

See images below for example:

