

Performance Notes for A Donkey to Market

THREE WAYS THAT STUDENTS AND TEACHERS CAN UTILIZE THIS PLAY:

1. Students can read the play out loud from their seats. In this case, the students read their lines and do not read the stage directions that are in italics and brackets.
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. Student in the play can make simple costumes and/or sets from paper. When the scenes change, the characters could walk to the side of the room, behind the audience and then come back on stage.
3. Students can perform the play onstage. This will take much more prep work by both the teacher and students. In this case, costumes can be created, and students can design sets.



COSTUMES

- GRANDFATHER and GRANDSON – Plain, bland colors and baggy pants rolled or cuffed. They wear triangle shaped Cambodian hats. No shoes if possible.
 - DONKEY – Gray clothes. Make ears from fabric and attach to a headband. Make a tail from gray fabric or from cardboard and pin or Velcro to the waist band of pants. Optional: A piece of circular white fabric attached to the front of the gray shirt, as the stomach fur.
 - FARMERS/MALE VILLAGERS – Plain cloths, dull colors, old shoes and same hats as GRANDFATHER and GRANDSON.
 - WELL WOMEN/FEMALE VILLAGERS – Long, flowing skirts, handkerchiefs covering their hair and no shoes if possible.
 - CUSTOMHOUSE OFFICER – Wears clothing that looks like a uniform including a button-down shirt and overcoat. Pants and coat should be the same color.
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PROPS

Scene 1

- Feed bucket.
- Stalks of hay. You can make these flat, by painting rectangular pieces of cardboard to look like hay, or you can use small cardboard boxes- tape them up and paint them to look like hay. Another option is to use a hay bundle. You can cut long strips of cardboard and yellow paper, bundle them altogether, and tie it up with a string.
- Feed for GRANDFATHER to give to GRANDSON. You can get a sack or a brown paper bag and write “FEED” on it in black marker. GRANDFATHER can reach into the bag and pretend to pull out a handful of food.
- Bag for GRANDFATHER and GRANDSON to take on their journey.

Scene 2

- Buckets at the well.
- Farming tools (safe and age appropriate). You can use plastic tools or make some from cardboard.

Scene 3

- Clipboard and papers for the CUSTOMHOUSE OFFICER.
- A pole (5' long)
- Rope to tie up the donkey
- Carrots for GRANDFATHER to put in his pocket. These can be real or made from cardboard.
- Fake Donkey. This can be made out of cardboard so that the GRANDFATHER and GRANDSON can tie it up. Use a large piece of cardboard from an old refrigerator box. Cut out and paint to look like a donkey. Cut another piece of cardboard about 1 ft by 1 ft, fold it in half, and attach the fold to the back of the cardboard donkey using duct tape. This forms a hinge and helps it stand up. Paint the cardboard donkey to match the costume of the real DONKEY. Make another set of ears from fabric to match DONKEY'S ear headband and attach to cardboard donkey.

Scene 4

- Food and goods for the VILLAGERS to carry and sell. Bags of grain, etc, for VILLAGERS to sell. You can get sacks and/or paper bags and write
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“GRAIN”, “RICE”, etc. on them. You can also make fake fruit and vegetables and other items from cardboard.

- Cardboard Donkey (same as Scene 3).



SETS

If you want to, paint a backdrop to show a basic countryside, with a forest, a field, some streams, etc. This will stay up throughout the play. The items on stage will signify the locations:

- 1) On one side of the stage, place the well.
- 2) In the middle of the stage, place the CUSTOMHOUSE OFFICER'S counter (See below for details on how to make).
- 3) On the other side of the stage, place the stalls and signs for the town (Made the same way as CUSTOMHOUSE OFFICER'S counter).

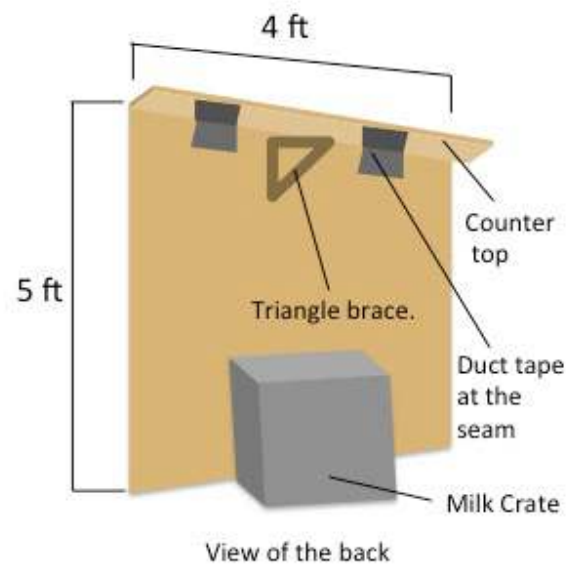
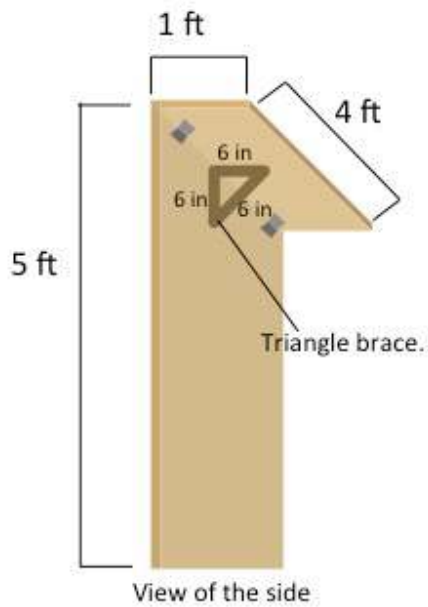
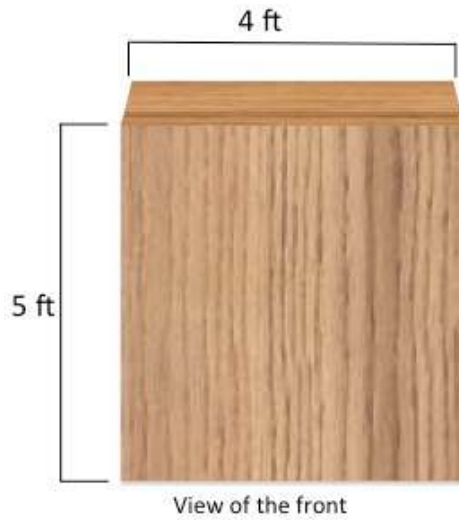
Scene 1: This scene can happen at the front of the stage. GRANDFATHER, GRANDSON, and DONKEY can stand in front of all the set pieces.

Scene 2: This scene takes place on the side with the well. The well can be made from a plastic outdoor trashcan. Paint the trashcan with gray round circles with white outlines to make it look like stone.

Scene 3: This scene takes place in the middle of the stage. The counter for the CUSTOMHOUSE OFFICER can be made from cardboard. Paint a large piece of cardboard (4'x5') to look like wood paneling (brown vertical streaks). Attach a milk crate to the back of it using wire. This will help it to stand upright and keep it secure.

Paint another long piece (4'x6") and attach it to the top- the 4' side- using duct tape at the seam underneath. This will be the counter top. Make a 6" triangular out of cardboard and attach it under the counter top, in the middle. This will help hold it up. This provides a surface on which you can set papers and a clipboard.

See images:



Scene 4: This scene takes place on the other side of the stage. You can use tables for the stalls, or make them out of cardboard, much the same way as the CUSTOMHOUSE COUNTER.