



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.

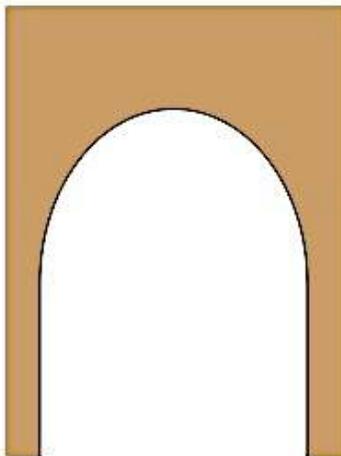
See “Other Staging Notes” for ideas on how to have animals bring on the walls and how put them together.

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

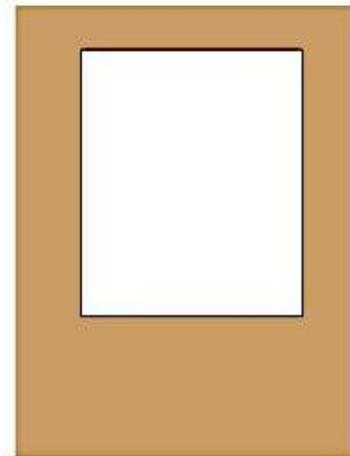
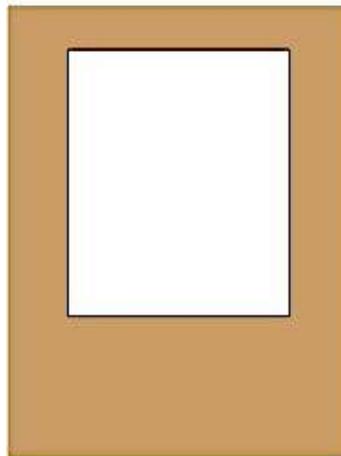
Optional: paint the cardboard pieces brown, or paint them to resemble stacked logs/wood planks.

See Images below for examples:

House Pieces- front



Middle (front) wall



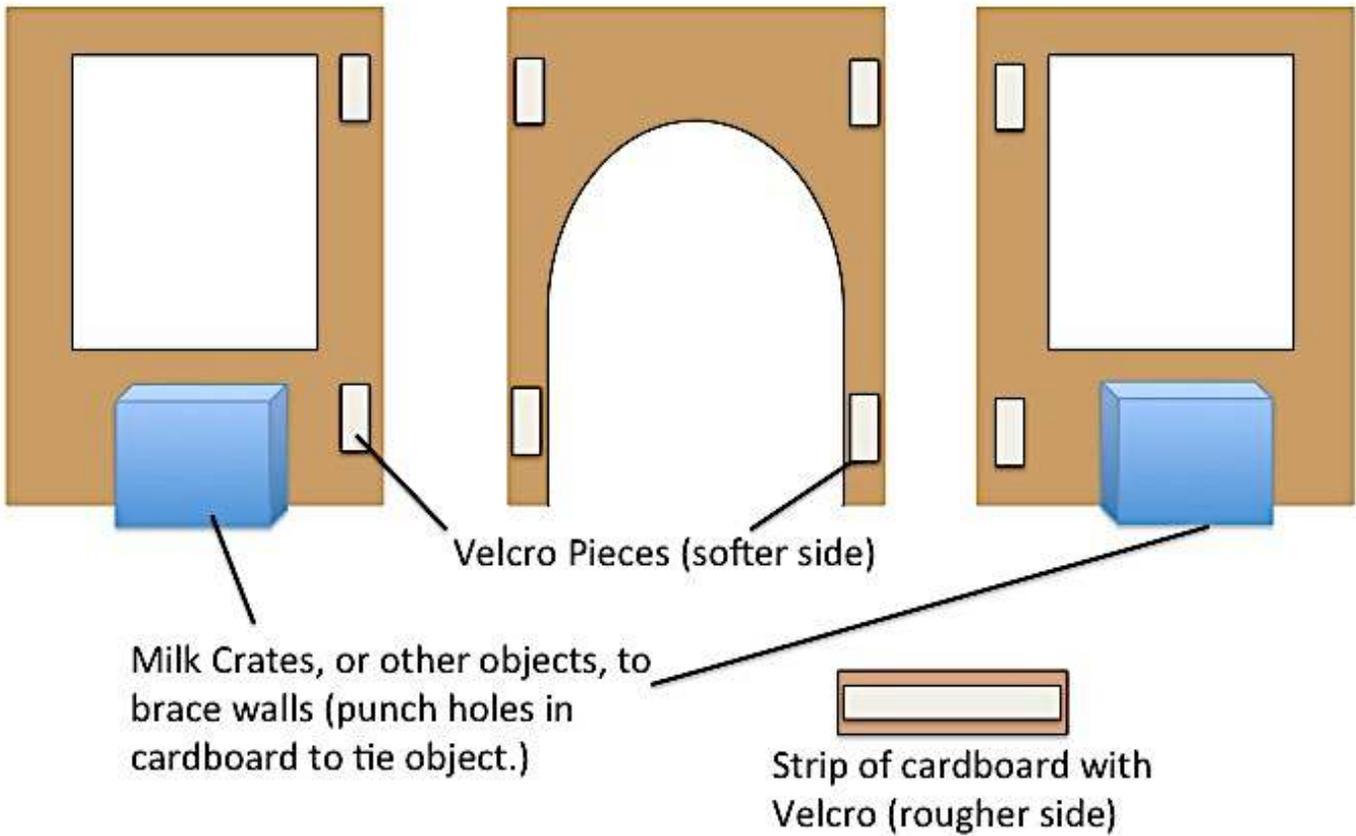
Side walls



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.



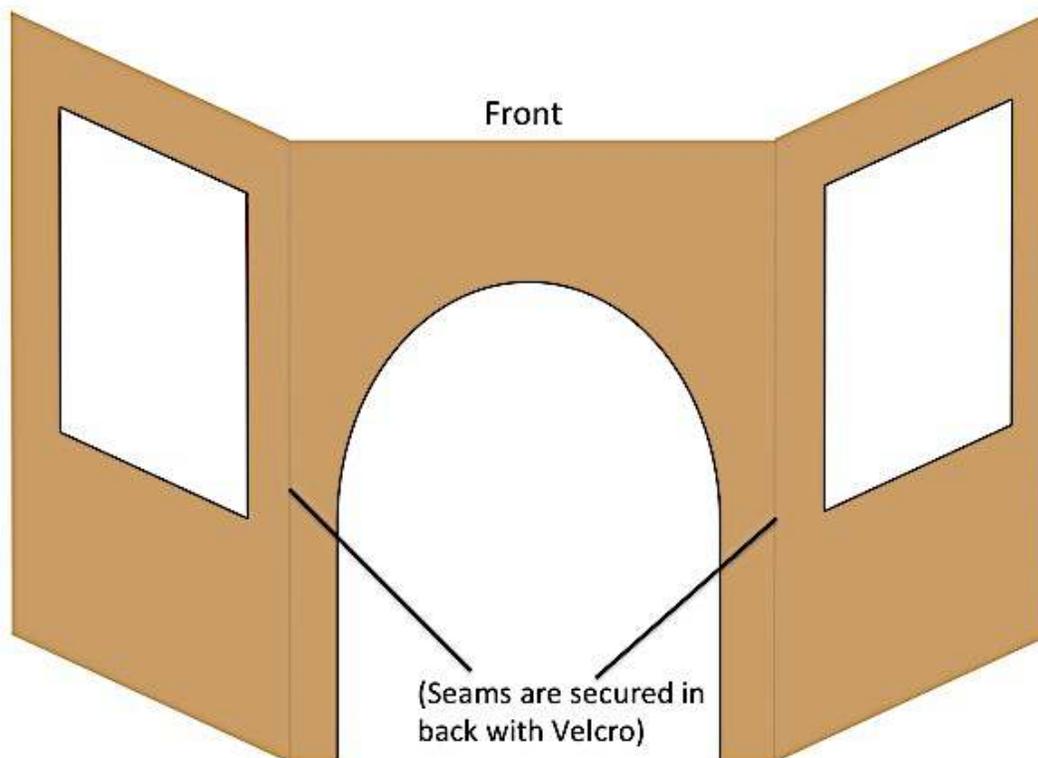
OTHER STAGING NOTES

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.

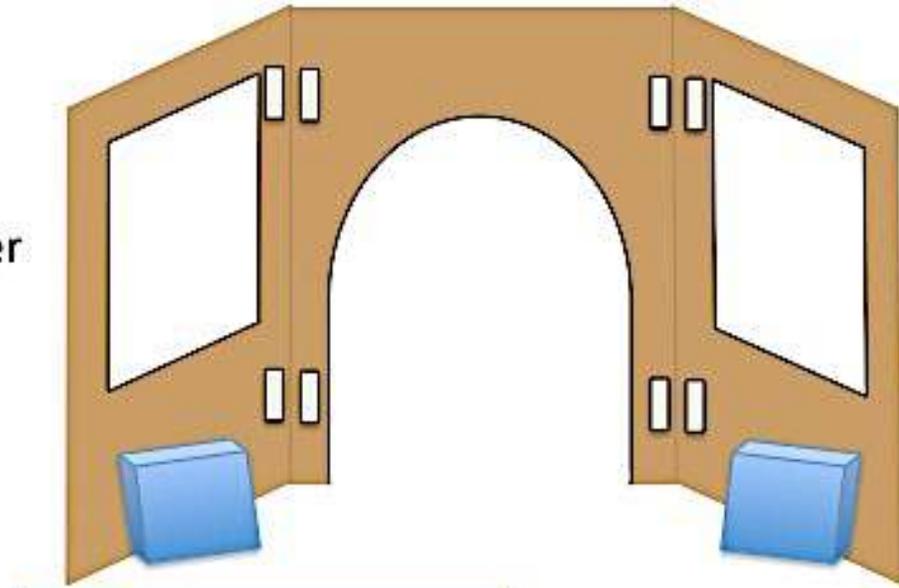
Note: The two outer walls should be at an angle, so that audience can see the windows.

See images for examples:





Three pieces
pushed together



Cardboard
pieces with
Velcro, bent to
fit at an angle

