

**Kids and Cultures** presents



Dear teacher,

We are excited to perform at your school! Together with you and your students, we look forward to learning about other people and places through the folktales that have been passed down to this generation. This letter is a "heads up" of what to expect, as well as some ideas for what you can do to maximize the learning for your students.

Before we come, you and your students can:

- Discuss what a folktale is, and the role folktales have played in societies.
- List familiar folktales that you have grown up hearing.
- Visit the folktale section (j 398.2) of your school library.
- Discuss the various genres of folktales (such as pourquoi and noodlehead).
- Use a map or globe to locate the countries featured in our stories.
- Find out what you already know about these countries. You could begin a Know/Want to know/Learned chart with them, and update it afterwards.
- Prepare to listen for something in the show that you did not know, and recall it later.

As your class enters the performance area, if time allows, you may join our "pre-show trivia game show." This multiple-choice event allows participants to learn about other places and cultures while cheering on fellow student contestants. We may also ask you as the teacher to select a student or two to help us act out part of the show.

Once the show begins, our hope is that you will enjoy it as much as your students, and that we can all learn together. Please interact with us during the show, and encourage your students to do the same. Folktales are best given and received with an involved audience!

The show we will be performing for you is called ***A World of Sillyies***. It features noodlehead stories from different parts of the world. Our hope is that, through the medium of story, we will all laugh and have fun while learning.

After the show, you can:

- Invite students to re-tell the stories.
- Ask students to define "noodlehead" and cite examples from the performance.
- Ask students to list other familiar noodleheads (such as Amelia Bedelia and Curious George).
- Invite students to tell or write about a time that they were a noodlehead, using information from their own culture.
- Allow students to write their own story about how one of the noodleheads from the show might respond in another situation.
- Review the handout with your students and send it home so other family members can find out what the students experienced today.

## ***A World of Sillies***

### Story Specs

***Juan Bobo and the Pig*** from Puerto Rico. Juan is convinced that his pet pig misses the boy's mother when she goes to church, so he dresses the pig in appropriate church clothing and sends the pig to join his mother.

***The Hatseller and the Monkeys*** from Mali. While BaMusa the hatseller rests under a tree, monkeys steal his hats. After several unsuccessful and funny attempts, BaMusa figures out a way to get his hats back.

***The Farmer Who was Easily Fooled*** from Lebanon. A thief convinces a farmer that he was the farmer's donkey under a spell. The farmer, feeling sorry for the way he treated the donkey, lets the thief go and gives him money. The next day, when the farmer's donkey turns up at market, the farmer is determined not to buy him again, as he didn't learn his lesson the first time and was under the spell again after only one day of freedom.

***Next Time I'll Know What to Do*** from England. Poor Jack, no matter how he carries home the various items he receives as payment for his day's work, his mother always has a better idea. Each day he carries home that day's pay in the way he should have carried yesterday's, losing or ruining it enroute. Finally he thinks for himself and succeeds.

Additional "Sillies" stories available upon request:

***The Horse Egg*** from India. Some young men buy their teacher a horse egg from an enterprising watermelon salesman. Enroute to deliver the gift, however, those carrying the "egg" trip and drop it. It breaks, startling a hare nearby, which runs away. Their teacher concludes that the young horse appeared much too fast for his liking, anyway.

***Aili's Quilt*** from Finland. Aili's mother makes a quilt for him which is too short. No matter how much fabric she cuts off the top of the quilt and sews to the bottom, his feet still stick out and are cold.

***The Costly Feast*** from Turkey. Hodja, the local noodlehead, is convinced by his neighbors that the world is ending in three days and he must kill his young lamb to roast and share with them. As they sleep during the hot day, Hodja, who is out of fuel, burns their discarded clothes to finish cooking the lamb, since they won't be needing their clothes anymore.

***Whose Horse is Whose*** from Western USA. The two cowboys in this tale have tried various ways to tell their horses apart, from clipping their horses' manes to trimming tails. Not until they decide to measure the horses do the cowboys discover that the brown horse is taller than the white horse with black spots!

Each story is about three to seven minutes long and includes information about the culture or country from which it comes.



# kids and cultures NEWS



A World of Sillies

www.KidsAndCultures.com

August 10, 2012

## A World of sillies Comes to Brown Library

Kids and Cultures presents their show *A World of Sillies*, an interactive storytelling show with funny folktales, crazy songs, and lots of laughs.

The stories, which are popular “noodlehead” tales, are from China, Puerto Rico, Mali, Lebanon, England, and the U.S.A.

Kids and Cultures, an educational company founded by Timm and Kristina Wenger of Lancaster, introduces children to world cultures with a day camp, World Tour sessions for families, cultural events at restaurants, interactive storytelling programs, and more.

The Wengers have two children, Katia (at band camp this week and unable to come to Brown Library) and Thaniel, who joins them in performing today's show.

For information about their programs, visit their website at [www.KidsAndCultures.com](http://www.KidsAndCultures.com).



Storyteller Kristina Wenger and her family use interactive stories to share about how children live in other parts of the world.

**TELL** the Sillies stories to a parent, friend, or sibling, using these news items

**Monkeys Escape Zoo**  
(Bamako, Mali) Six monkeys have escaped the Bamako Zoo, according to zoo officials. The monkeys were last seen heading toward the city of Timbuktu. “These monkeys have a fondness for mangoes and imitating humans” commented Amadou Konare, primate specialist at the zoo.

**Crash Blamed on Pig**  
(San Juan, Puerto Rico) A pig, dressed in pearls, high heels, and a dress was the cause of an automobile accident on Sunday.

“I was driving to church when I saw a pig running beside the road. I was watching the pig when I crashed into the tree,” said José Felipe Rios Hernandez, the driver of the vehicle, who suffered minor injuries.

**Farmer Offers Reward for Laughter**

(London, England) Lionel Blair, a local farmer, has offered two bags of gold to anyone who can make his daughter laugh. “She’s a sad one, m’girl. Never smiled a day in her life. M’wife ’n I will do anything to get her over her gloominess,” he said.

**Farmer Seeks “Unchanging” Donkey**

(Baalbek, Lebanon) Local farmer Fadi El Khazen is offering a high price for a new donkey. He claims that his former donkey was a wicked person in disguise. “My donkey turned back into a human, so I let it go. The next day, I saw it—in donkey form again—at the Bekaa Market. All I want is a normal donkey,” he said.

### Juan Bobo and the Pig— A Story from Puerto Rico

Add up the numbers under each line. Use the key to figure out the corresponding letters and words.

6-2	11-10	2+1	3+3				
15-5	5+10	8+2	7+8				
2+5	11-2	5+0	10+2	16-4	4+1	4+3	
7-6	5+9	9+2	7+6	8+4			
10+4	14-1	8-6	11-3	11+4	2+7		
8+8	12-1	1+0	12-3	20-4	10+1	4-4	

The temperature in Puerto Rico averages 80°F year round!

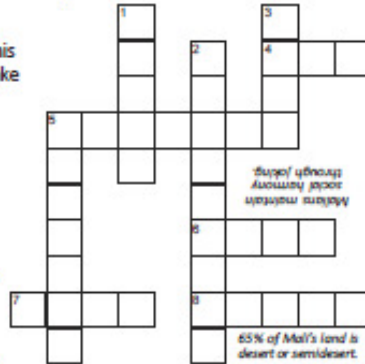
- KEY:  
A=3  
B=10  
C=16  
D=7  
E=5  
F=8  
G=2  
H=11  
I=13  
J=4  
N=6  
O=15  
P=14  
R=9  
S=12  
U=1  
!=0

*This story gives new meaning to throwing your pearls before swine!*

### The Hatseller and the monkeys— A Story from Mali

Using the clues, fill in the squares.

- Down
- BaMusa threw this
  - BaMusa didn't take time for this
  - Taken from BaMusa
  - Thrown at BaMusa
- Across
- What BaMusa did with the fruit
  - Who stole from BaMusa?
  - Think best on a \_\_\_\_\_ stomach
  - BaMusa wanted to do this with the hats
  - What BaMusa did under the tree



### Oh, Next Time I'll Know What To Do— A Story from England

Find the list of words in the puzzle. Use the words to retell the story to your mom, dad, or sibling!

D	L	O	G	M	E	A	T	Y	R
Z	R	E	H	C	T	U	B	E	L
B	O	R	J	E	P	A	T	R	A
G	A	A	E	P	F	T	M	E	U
C	C	K	E	H	U	I	W	M	G
K	A	N	E	B	T	O	W	R	H
J	C	T	A	R	R	O	C	A	P
E	D	O	N	K	E	Y	M	F	K

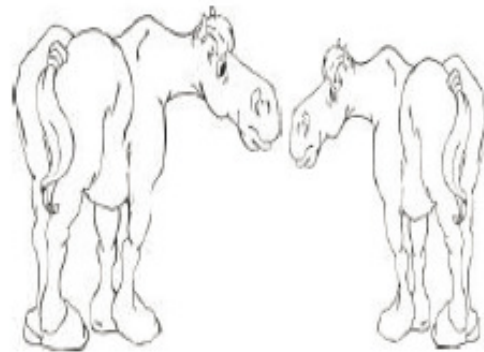
Tuppence is a word for a two-cent coin.

- Jack
- Mother
- Work
- Farmer
- Tuppence
- Wife
- Butter
- Baker
- Cat
- Butcher
- Meat
- Donkey
- Laugh
- Gold

The word "Jack o'lantern" comes from a Jack story.

### Whose Horse Is Whose— A Story from the USA

Color the two horses in the story.



#### DVD and Educational Materials



Join Katia and Thaniel on an 11-day Really Big Field Trip to Turkey, visiting historical sites, making new friends, trying new foods, and participating in Children's Day festivities.

This fast-paced family documentary is available at [www.ReallyBigFieldTrip.com](http://www.ReallyBigFieldTrip.com). Now only \$10!

