



## Tigers, Dragons, and Other Wise 'Tails'

Recommended for  
Ages 5-10  
Kindergarten-Grade 5

### A Reproducible Learning Guide for Educators

This guide is designed to help educators prepare for, enjoy, and discuss **Tigers, Dragons, and Other Wise 'Tails'**. It contains background, discussion questions and activities appropriate for ages 5-10.

### Programs Are Made Possible, In Part, By Generous Gifts From:

D.C. Commission on the Arts & Humanities  
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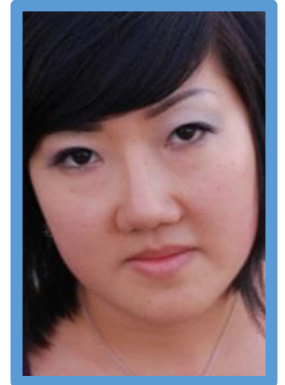
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## About the Playwright:

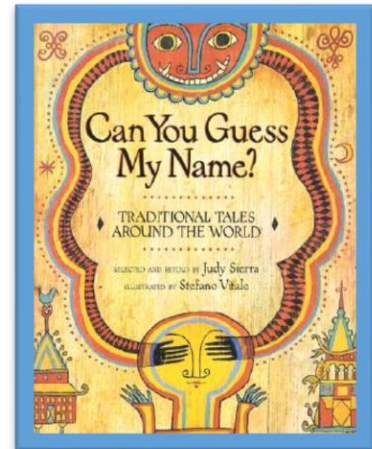
**Soo-Jin Lee** was born in Korea, and raised in Northern Virginia. In 2008, she received her Master of Fine Arts degree in theater from the University of Texas at Austin. Soo-Jin's first play, *Peaches*, was staged in April 2005 as part of the University of Houston's School of Theater Edward Albee New Playwrights Workshop, and placed first at University of Tulsa's New Works for Young Women Competition. She is also the author of two screenplays, and her memoir has been published in *Iris: A Journal for Women*. The production *Tigers, Dragons, and Other Wise Tales* was her first commissioned piece and first children's play. This show received its world premiere in Washington, DC at the Smithsonian's Discovery Theater in 2005. She is currently teaching English at Thoreau Middle School in Vienna, Virginia.



Soo-Jin Lee

## Read...

- *Can You Guess My Name? Traditional Tales from Around the World* by Judy Sierra
- *Fearless Girls, Wise Women, and Beloved Sisters: Heroines in Folktales from Around the World* by Kathleen Ragan
- *Folk Stories of the Hmong Peoples of Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam* by Norma J. Livo & Dia Cha.



## Language Word Bank

These are the translated words that are used in the play.

Hello -----	Aynyung (Korean)	Grandma -----	Hal-muh-nee (Korean)
Baby -----	Egg-ghee (Korean)	House -----	Jip (Korean)
Persimmon -----	Got-ham (Korean)	Tiger -----	Hor-rang-hee (Korean)
Fly -----	Con roi (Vietnamese)	Money -----	Tien (Vietnamese)
Mole -----	Mogura (Japanese)	Birthday -----	Tanjoubi (Japanese)
Sun -----	Taiyou (Japanese)	Sky -----	Sora (Japanese)
Cloud -----	Kumo (Japanese)	Wind -----	Kaze (Japanese)
Earth -----	Tsuchi (Japanese)		

## What are folktales?

**Folktales** are stories or legends passed from generation to generation by word of mouth. An interesting thing about this is that folktales can change a little bit each time they're told. It's a lot like playing the game telephone, where you whisper a message to one person, who whispers it to the next, and so on until the message comes back to you. The final message is almost always a little bit different--and more interesting--than the original.

Another very important characteristic of folktales is that they're typically about the common person at the time of its origin. That's why they're called folktales--the word *folk* is the Old English term for 'common people'--the everyday, average Joe. So, you won't find many stories about frogs kissing princesses.

Perhaps most importantly, folktales typically try to teach a lesson about right and wrong, which is called a **moral**. And this often involves a fight between good and evil.

## Storytelling Template

Try this simple storytelling activity aloud with your class.  
Once your story is complete, try acting it out.

Once upon a time there was a \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

And everyday \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Until one day \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

And because of that \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

And ever since \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

And the moral of the story is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Activities

### Quick Kimchi (Korea)

No Korean meal is complete without kimchi, a piquant condiment of fermented vegetables (most popularly cabbage) seasoned with ginger, garlic, chili, and all manner of fresh or preserved seafood.

#### Ingredients:

- 1 (3-pound) head Napa cabbage
- 2 tablespoons chopped garlic
- 1 tablespoon chopped peeled ginger
- 2 tablespoons fish sauce
- 2 teaspoons distilled white vinegar
- 1 bunch scallions, chopped (1 cup)
- 3 tablespoons sesame seeds, toasted and crushed
- 2 to 3 tablespoons red-pepper flakes
- 1/2 (1-pound) Asian pear

#### Preparation:

1. Quarter cabbage lengthwise then cut crosswise into 2-to 3-inch pieces.
  2. Toss with 3 tablespoons salt in a large bowl and let stand, tossing occasionally, 2 hours.
  3. Rinse cabbage well, and then drain. Squeeze out excess water with your hands and transfer to a large bowl.
  4. Purée garlic and ginger with fish sauce and vinegar in a blender until smooth, then (*Kid*) pour over cabbage.
  5. Add scallions, sesame seeds, and red-pepper flakes and toss to coat.
  6. Peel pear, then grate on large holes of a box grater (avoid core and seeds). Add to cabbage mixture and toss well.
- Marinate at least 1 hour.

<http://www.epicurious.com/recipes/food/views/quick-kimchi-351892>

### Chinese Dragon Puppet (China)

Celebrate the traditions of China and make a dragon puppet with your class out of recycled materials! Afterwards, the students can act out a Chinese folktale using the dragon puppets.

#### Materials:

- Two paper plates
- An egg carton
- Stapler
- Glue
- Paint and paintbrush
- Feathers
- Streamers

#### Instructions:

1. Cut one plate in half and fold the other in half.
2. Cut the end of the egg carton off, these will be the eyes.
3. Staple the two half plate pieces together around the edges of the folded plate with the eating side of the plate facing in so your hand can fit in like a puppet.
4. Glue or staple egg carton section on top.
5. Paint brightly! When dry, glue on feathers and streamers behind the eyes.

<http://mypoppet.com.au/2012/01/how-to-chinese-new-year-dragon-puppet.html>





### The Cat and Mouse Game (Vietnam)

Try out this fun game from Vietnam during recess! This game is a change from the regular recess activities and will get your students moving and working together.

*Please come over here  
Hand in hand  
Stand in a large circle  
The mouse will run through the hole  
The cat will run after it  
The mouse tries to run as fast as possible  
But it can't escape*



#### Instructions:

Each game requires between seven and ten people. Everyone stands in a circle, holds hands, and raises them above their heads. Then everyone starts singing the song above. One person is chosen as the cat and another as the mouse. These two stand in the middle of the circle and lean against each other. When the others sing the last sentence, the mouse starts to run, and the cat must run after it. The cat must run in the same route and speed as the mouse. The cat wins the game when it catches the mouse, then they exchange roles. If the cat runs the wrong route, it will be dismissed from that round. If the cat fails to catch the mouse in a certain period of time, he/she will exchange its role with the mouse, then the game will continue.

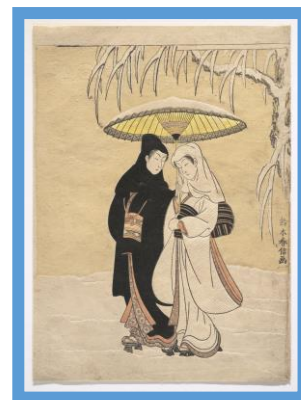
<http://www.vietnamtourism.com/en/index.php/about/items/2294>

### Japanese Woodblock Prints (Japan)

Woodblock prints were initially used as early as the eighth century in Japan to disseminate texts, especially Buddhist scriptures. Artists began to use wood stamps in the early seventeenth century to print designs on paper and silk. Until the eighteenth century, however, woodblock printing remained primarily a convenient method of reproducing written texts. Other prints depicted beautiful women, birds, flowers, and landscapes. Try out this artistic tradition with your students!

#### Materials:

- Pre-cut Styrofoam rectangles or squares (can use Styrofoam trays to do this)
- Tempera Paint
- Paint rollers
- Pens
- Paper



#### Instructions:

1. Pick out a story to illustrate
2. Divide the story by plot points or actions of the story
3. Ask each student to pick a plot point to illustrate in their wood block print
4. Using a pen, etch the picture into the Styrofoam
5. Use a roller brush (or paint brush is fine) to cover the Styrofoam piece in paint.
6. Stamp the Styrofoam piece firmly onto your piece of paper. Gently smooth over the entire shape. Very carefully pick the Styrofoam up on the paper to see the print.
7. Place all the prints in order of the actions or plot points of the story

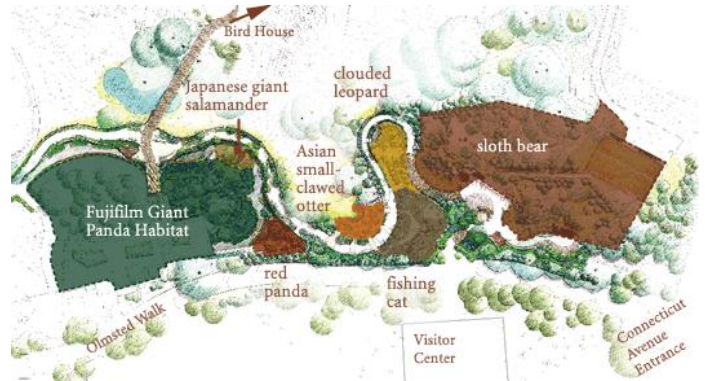
[https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/ukiy/hd\\_ukiy.htm](https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/ukiy/hd_ukiy.htm)

## SMITHSONIAN SPOTLIGHT

### The National Zoological Park

The Asia Trail at the National Zoological Park, a series of exhibits that opened in 2006, is home to seven Asian species: sloth bears, fishing cats, red pandas, clouded leopards, Asian small-clawed otters, a Japanese giant salamander, and giant pandas.

Visit them online at: [www.nationalzoo.si.edu](http://www.nationalzoo.si.edu)



**Animal:** Sloth Bear  
**Region:** India and Sri Lanka  
**Habitat:** Grasslands and forests  
**Diet:** Fruit and bugs



**Animal:** Giant Panda  
**Region:** China  
**Habitat:** Coniferous forests  
**Diet:** Bamboo



**Animal:** Clouded Leopard  
**Region:** China and Taiwan  
**Habitat:** Dry forests  
**Diet:** Monkeys, cattle, pigs, bird



**Animal:** Red Panda  
**Region:** China  
**Habitat:** Cool bamboo forests  
**Diet:** Bamboo leaves



**Animal:** Small-clawed Otter  
**Region:** China and S.E. Asia  
**Habitat:** Freshwater streams  
**Diet:** Crabs, mussels, snails

### Freer | Sackler Museums of Asian Art

The Smithsonian Institution has two museums of Asian art: the Freer Gallery of Art, which opened in 1923, and the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, which welcomed its first visitors in 1987. The galleries are connected by an underground passageway; they are also linked through the study, exhibition, and sheer love of Asian art.

Visit them online at: [www.freersackler.si.edu](http://www.freersackler.si.edu)



Porcelain bowl from 15th Century Vietnam  
 Located at the Freer-Sackler Gallery



## Smithsonian Institution

### OUR MISSION: "THE INCREASE AND DIFFUSION OF KNOWLEDGE"

Smithsonian Associates advances the Institution's mission through life-enriching educational and cultural experiences inspired by the Smithsonian's research and collections for DC-region students, families, and adults, and for learning communities nationwide.

Discovery Theater has been presenting DC-area children with live educational performances for almost 40 years. With programs that enrich the Smithsonian experience for nearly 50,000 children annually, Discovery Theater is a gateway to the exhibits, collections, and themes contained in the museums and galleries on the National Mall and beyond. We explore American history and cultures, folk tales from around the world, and exciting, accessible science and math programs in the company of puppeteers, storytellers, dancers, actors, and musicians. Discovery Theater performances unite ideologies, enact themes that reflect the diversity of its audiences, open avenues of self-reflection, and offer an enjoyable means for parents and teachers to demonstrate life's lessons. There's so much to do and explore at the Smithsonian—and Discovery Theater is the ideal place to begin!



#### Our Location

The S. Dillon Ripley Center, 3rd Sublevel  
1100 Jefferson Drive, SW  
Washington, DC 20024

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