

The HERP Project Puppet Presentation

A Kootenai Native American Legend: How the Frog Won the Race

Characters



Tree



Frog

Paper Frogs on sticks (10 facing forward and 10 hopping)

Paper Antelope on a stick (one facing forward and one running)

William Tell Overture audio file

[Start William Tell Overture music at :20 seconds]

Tree: Hello friends. I would like to tell you about a Kootenai Native American legend.

As with many legends, there is a morale to this story. Listen carefully to see if you can interpret this legend and the morale of the story.

Our story begins with two villages and two chiefs. One village was the village of the Antelopes and the other village was the village of the frogs.

[Antelope appears opposite of tree]

Antelope was the chief of the village that was located uphill from the village of the frogs. Antelopes, with their long, slender but muscular legs, are known to be very fast runners. This is a fact they are quite proud of.

[Frog puppet appears next to Antelope]

One day, the Chief of the Frogs decided to challenged the Chief of the Antelopes to a race. Antelope was sure he would win because frogs can only hop and Antelopes have sleek and slender legs that help them to run very fast. However, the Chief of the Frogs had a different idea.

Frog: Antelope, you might be able to run fast, and though we may be slower runners, we frogs can think fast. I will bet you all of my people's frog skins that we will indeed win this race.

[Antelope and frog puppet disappear behind stage]

Tree: Antelope decided to accept this bet wagering everything that his people owned because he was sure that he would win the race and be able to take home all the frog skins. He was thinking that the frog skins would keep his people warm in winter and cool in summer. However, the Chief of the Frogs was a bit of a trickster...

[Frog puppet reappears in the same position where the Antelope had been]

Frog: Frogs might not be able to run as fast as Antelopes but we are faster thinkers! I happen to know that the Antelopes think that all frogs look the same. Soooooo.....I have a plan.....I am going to place my frog-people one hop apart along the race course.

[At the same time, All frogs pop up positioned along the race course]

I will tell them to hop, one at a time, always ahead of Antelope. He will never be able to tell that he is racing different frogs.

[Frogs drop behind the stage]

Tree: And that is what happened. The Chief of the Frogs hopped first then all his frog-people hopped one after another, always ahead of Antelope.

[At this point the recording should be at 2:51 which is where the trumpets begin with the fanfare. The antelope pops up at the beginning of the start line and one of the frogs pops up next to him. They should 'jokey' back and forth until the music gets to 3:06 which is the race music. Antelope 'runs' the race with a bounding motion and frogs along the way pop up always a little bit ahead of him. Make sure that a frog crosses the finish line in front of the tree first.]

[move the music forward to 4:04 before the tree starts to speak again.]

Antelope arrived back in his village behind the frog, losing both the race and everything his people owned.

Does anyone think they might know the morale to this story?

The morale of the story is...

[race music starts back at 4:30, could leave this playing for actor bows]