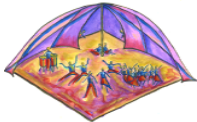


Gabeta board

An adaptation from an Ethiopian tale by David Pollendine

A Partnership between

Big In Tenz



CONTACT 9 Butts Cottages, Hampton Road West, Hanworth, TW13 6BW OUR BOOKING OFFICE ON: 0208 894 3403 or email bigintent1@aol.com or visit www.bigintent.com



Church Mission Society

Partnership House, 157 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UU. Tel: (020) 7928 8681 Fax: (020) 7401 3215

Email: name.surname@cms-uk.org Website: www.cms-uk.org Registered Charity Number 220297

General Secretary - The Revd Canon Tim Dakin

Mid-Africa Ministry is part of CMS.

Contents

1	Introduction to using the resource	3
2	Outline for Workshops	4
3	The performance script	5

1. Introduction to using the resource

The aim

This resource is geared to engage children in Mime and physical theatre in a fun way, while at the same time learning about another culture and their values through the story of an Ethiopian tale. The performance is put together through an improvisational workshop designed to last about 20 minutes, where all the ideas are created and performed by the cast. Then the script is added to bring the piece to life.

The role of the Teacher/Leader

Is that of facilitator, but some directional skills are needed and a knowledge of good stage- craft practice.

The medium

Mime and physical theatre techniques are the focus and can be juggled around. Techniques such as group freeze frames, individual Mime, and physical story telling are all used. In addition song can be done live if there are talented singers or any appropriate track can be used. Big Intent has written a track specifically for this show and it can be ordered by email at bigintent1@aol.com

Create the Performance in two easy steps.

1. Start by referring to the, **“Outline for workshop”** to take the group through the creational process of creating the mime and movement.
2. Then referring to the **“performance script”** add the scripts to the performance with a run through rehearsal

The performance takes about 10 to 15 minutes

Outline for Workshop

1. Warm up with everybody (20 mins to teach the scene)

Walking around the room shout out the following commands. These images will be physicalised by the group or individuals in the performance and will be set as you run through the script. In this workshop you can start to identify suitable candidates.

1. Town of Nebri (a whole group picture)
2. Olive tree
3. The Gabeta board
4. Dried up fire
5. Flames burned high
6. Herd of cattle
7. A man scything
8. Hot and tired
9. Children playing
10. Wood cutter
10. Boy starts to cry

While the group are not performing they can be standing in an arc to define the space of the stage and then they are also able to enter and leave the action quickly.

Encourage individuals to make strong simple images, which they can hit quickly, although feel free to experiment with doing things at different speeds too.

The performance script

Narrator: Once upon a time a man in the town of **Nebri** carved a beautiful **Gabeta board** for his son. He made it from the wood of an **olive tree**.

The son was very happy, he set off on his way until he came to a **dried up fire** in the riverbed. The fire cried out

Fire: "Where can I get wood to re light my flame" The boy smiled and said,

Boy: "Here is wood" and he gave him the precious **Gabeta board**. The **flames burned high** and the boy cried, so they gave him some water to quench his thirst. The boy departed following a **herd of cattle** when he came upon **a man scything** wheat in a field. The man was so **hot** and **tired** that he needed water and seeing the boy he said

Scything man: "Please spare me your water"

The boy smiled and said,

Boy: "Here is my water" and the man drank it all in one gulp. In return he gave the boy some rope and the boy skipped away

As he skipped he came to a group of **children playing**,

Children play to a drum or African song.

"Moyoni (C), Moyoni (G), Mini (D) Pata Yesu (G), Moyoni (C)" – Jesus is in my heart (verse repeated over and over)

Mojoni

Piano

Guitar Chords:

Pno.

– Playing stops

They saw the boy's rope and said

Children: "Can we play with your rope?"

" We'll give you a saw"

The boy smiled, nodded and they exchanged items.

It was getting late so the boy decided to head home following another **herd of cattle**. As he walked he came to a **woodcutter chopping down a tree** with an axe. When he saw the boy he said

Woodcutter: *"Can I have your saw to chop down the tree as my axe is blunt"?*

The boy smiled and gladly gave him the saw. In return he got a stump of wood that he held affectionately as it reminded him of his **Gabetta board**. The boy then became very sad.

At that precise moment an old lady appeared and with a kind voice said **Old lady:** *"Can I have that wood for my fire?"*

The **boy started to cry** and gave the wood to the old lady. He was happy to help her but sad that he had to return to his father without the board. He looked down feeling very sad.

The old Lady looked caringly at the boy. She reached into her bag and pulled out a **Gabetta board**, which her father had made for her. She then handed it to the boy speaking these words

Old lady: *"We give up that most precious through neglect, selfishness or fear and only taste it's value when it's presence isn't near. But God's white teeth stay smiling when all seems lost and gone as we get back the very thing that gave our heart a song"*

The boy got up, smiled and rushed home to his **father in the Town of Nebri**. His father was pleased to see him and commented that there is nothing better than a **Gabetta board** to keep a boy out of trouble.

(All the highlighted/italic words are where the children will act out something or make a visual picture)

THE END