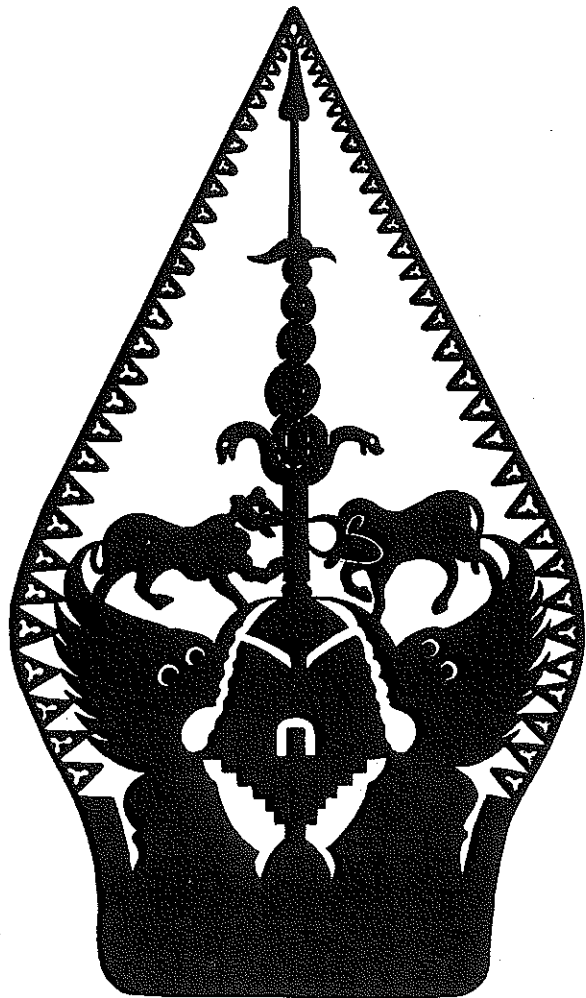


SECTION
THREE

WAYANG



To The Teacher

The Wayang art of shadow puppetry Indonesian style possesses mystical qualities which are difficult to explain and much more difficult to express in words. The complexities and intricacies of the Wayang are certainly beyond the boundaries of my expertise. Suffice it to say that I'm dealing with a medium here which only bears a rudimentary resemblance to traditional Wayang, but which is nonetheless appealing to Australian children in the classroom. They love it!

Traditional Wayang

Traditional Wayang is broadly based on the ancient Hindu epics of the Mahabarata and the Ramayana. The role of the "Dalang" or puppeteer is central to the success of the performance which can last all night. His/her (mostly males) skill is exceptional in manipulating all of the puppets, often conducting the gamelan orchestra and narrating the whole show in ancient Javanese for hours on end. Not only was it a form of entertainment, but also a key player in the education of generations of Indonesians in the ancient ways: "history" by word of mouth.

The Wayang As A Medium

The medium of the Wayang is so powerful that it is today being adapted to modern needs of the Indonesian people. It is not uncommon today to come across a Wayang performance which includes contemporary events/issues, where the Dalang uses his/her skill to inject some humour into the performance. Although much of the language is still in high Javanese and not understood by all of the audiences, the ancient themes are well known and audiences can follow what is happening by the Dalang's skilful manipulation of the puppets. When the Dalang weaves contemporary elements into the story, (particularly if it's highly comical), then some local language will be inserted rendering it comprehensible by its audience.

The Wayang Groupwork Tasks

It is the didactic nature of Wayang that I wish to capture in the lessons which follow. I've based the lessons on traditional Folk Stories from both the East and the West, hopefully stories well known to the students!

Step One: Introduce the Wayang

Firstly it is important that the students be made aware of what Wayang is and how it works. You should spend a couple of lessons introducing the concept of Wayang and shadow puppetry. (If you have video or pictures of traditional Wayang, all the better!) If you need to show the principle of shadow puppetry a simple demonstration will do the trick nicely. You'll need a darkened room, an old sheet which is spread out to make the screen, candle/torch light behind the screen, and some shadow puppets which are provided for you. You could introduce each character in turn and give some descriptive commentary about them. (eg. Hello. I'm a Hare. I'm extremely good-looking, don't you think? I'm pretty fast on my feet too. I'll bet I could beat you all in a race!!!etc. etc.)

Step Two: Introducing The Puppets

In this book you will find shadow puppets which are representative of the characters in both the Western/Eastern Folktales. In the Eastern you will need the Kancil (mousedeer) and the Buaya (crocodile). The leafy Trees can easily be drawn by any class member and cut out from black cardboard. In the Western play you will need the Hare and the Tortoise. (Assorted animal spectators can be drawn by class members and cut out of black cardboard.) Last but not least, you will need the "Tree of Life" which is used like a curtain in Western Theatre. (ie to signify the beginning and the end of a performance.) When the Tree of Life appears, the performance is at an end. When the Tree of Life is taken down, the performance is alive once more: "action" follows! I must make a comment about the shadow puppets here. They are in no way authentic!! They merely pay lip-service to the Indonesian concept of Wayang. Not only that, but they have been simplified greatly in order to make them easy to cut out. I make no apologies however, because the students can easily identify with them and they love them and that's what matters most!!

Step Three: Retelling of Folk-Tales

Tell the Folk Story of the "Hare and the Tortoise" once again to the students. Ask them to imagine how these stories could be told through the Wayang.

Step Four: Give Scripts To Groups

Divide the class into groups. Explain that each group is to decide how the play will be performed. Make sure that they understand that they may make changes if they wish to. Each group will need to decide: Who will be the narrator or the Dalang? Which students will be the characters: Hare/Tortoise? Which students will be in charge of lighting/props? Who will cut out the puppets? Will any sound effects be needed and who will be responsible? Will they make changes to the script?

Step Five: Your Task

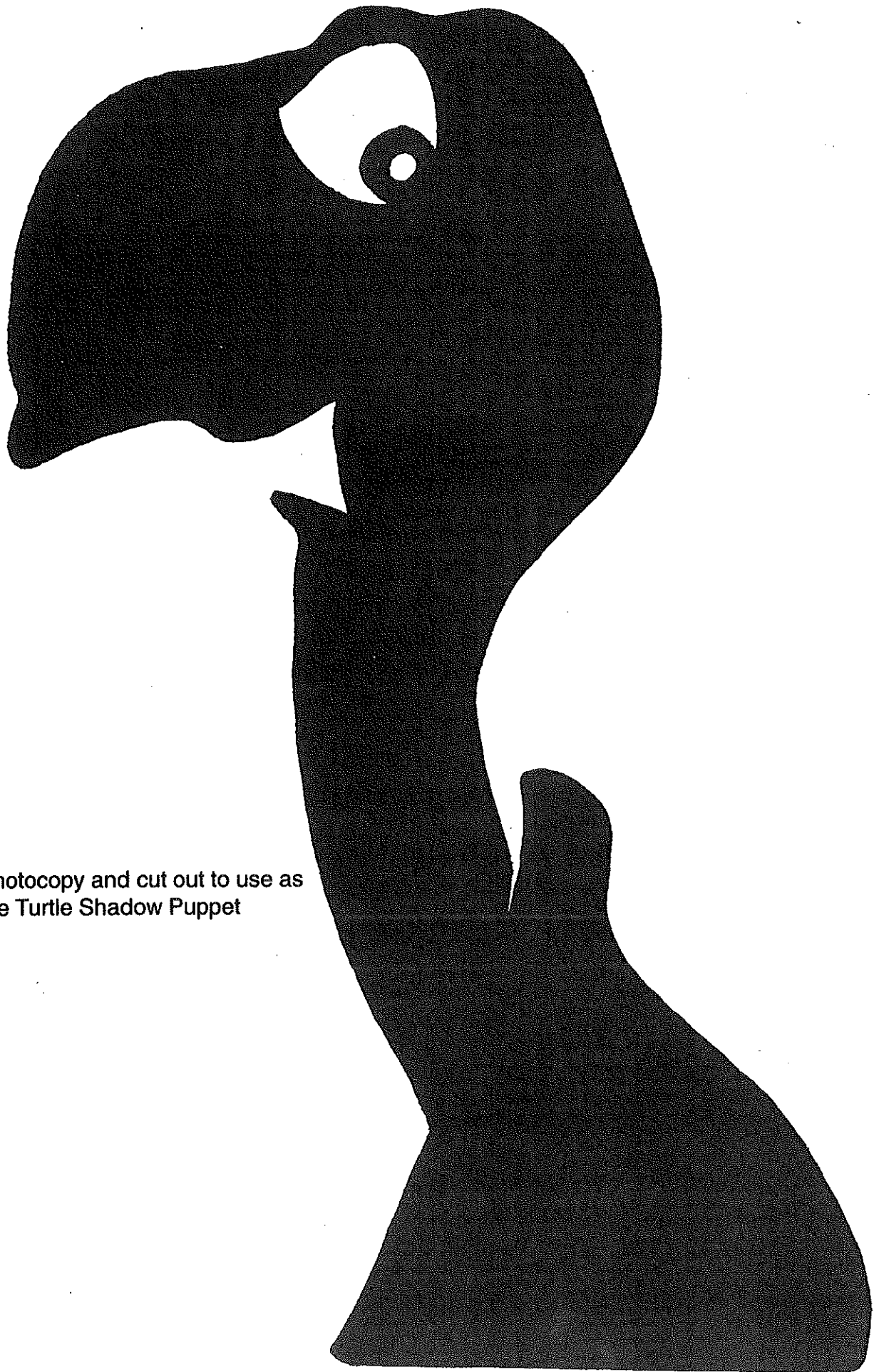
The students will need lots of time to prepare and to rehearse, several lessons in fact. The whole exercise is aimed at cooperative learning. You will be most surprised at the amazingly different presentations which will result from the students' creativity. **Encourage the creative! Encourage the risk-taking! Encourage individual interpretation!**

You will need to monitor groups closely and step in if there appears to be friction or a group is not working well. Otherwise your role is peripheral.

Finally: The Performance

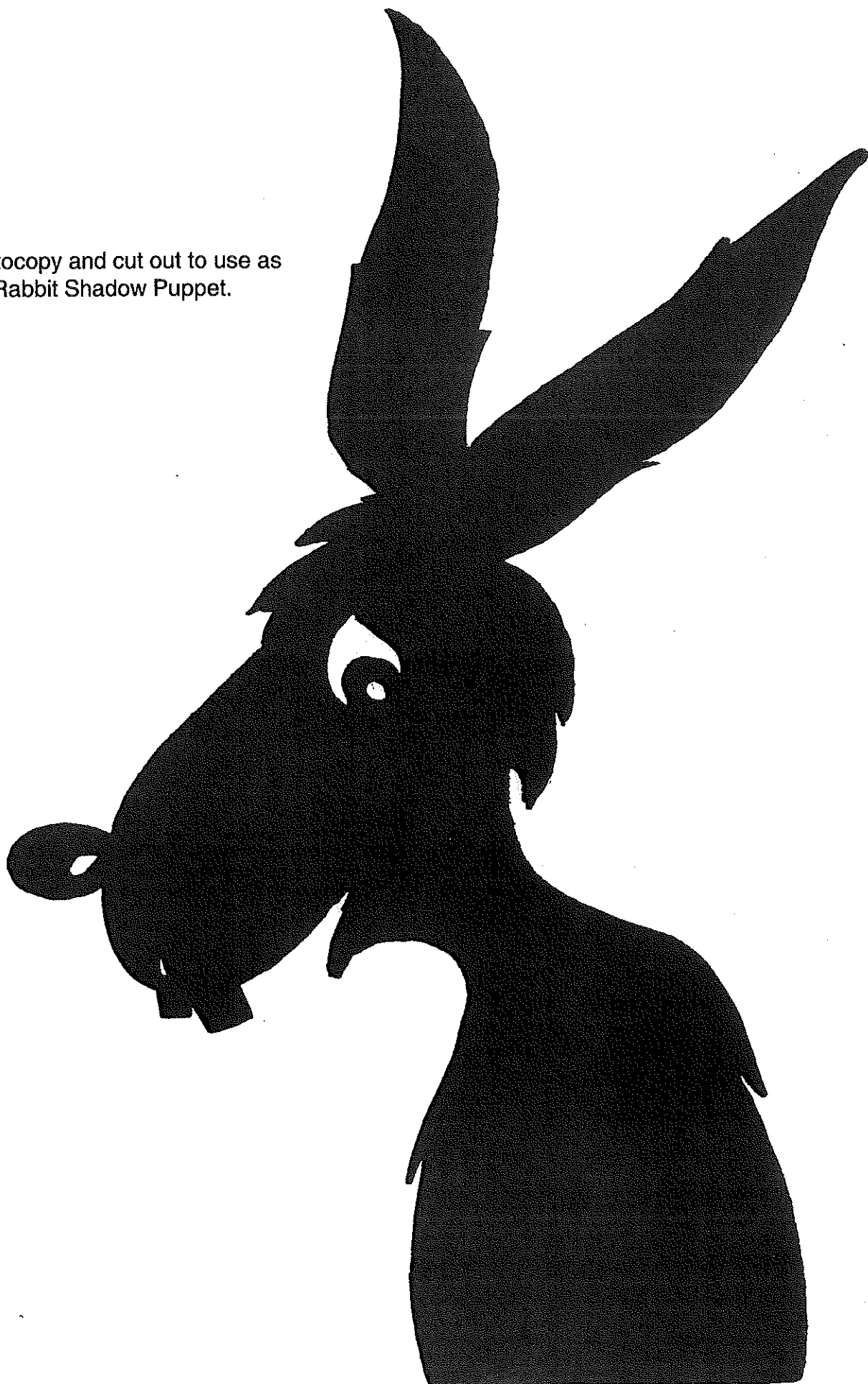
When you think the time has come for a final performance, see if you can arrange a suitable audience. Perhaps another class, other teachers or even parents.

You might like to video the performances and use them as samples for the next time.



Photocopy and cut out to use as
the Turtle Shadow Puppet

Photocopy and cut out to use as
the Rabbit Shadow Puppet.



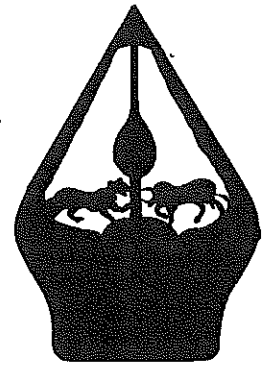
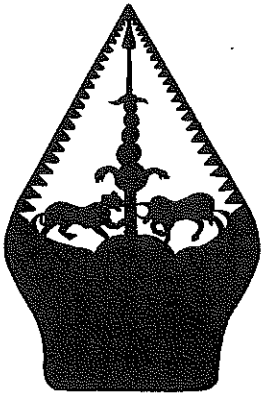
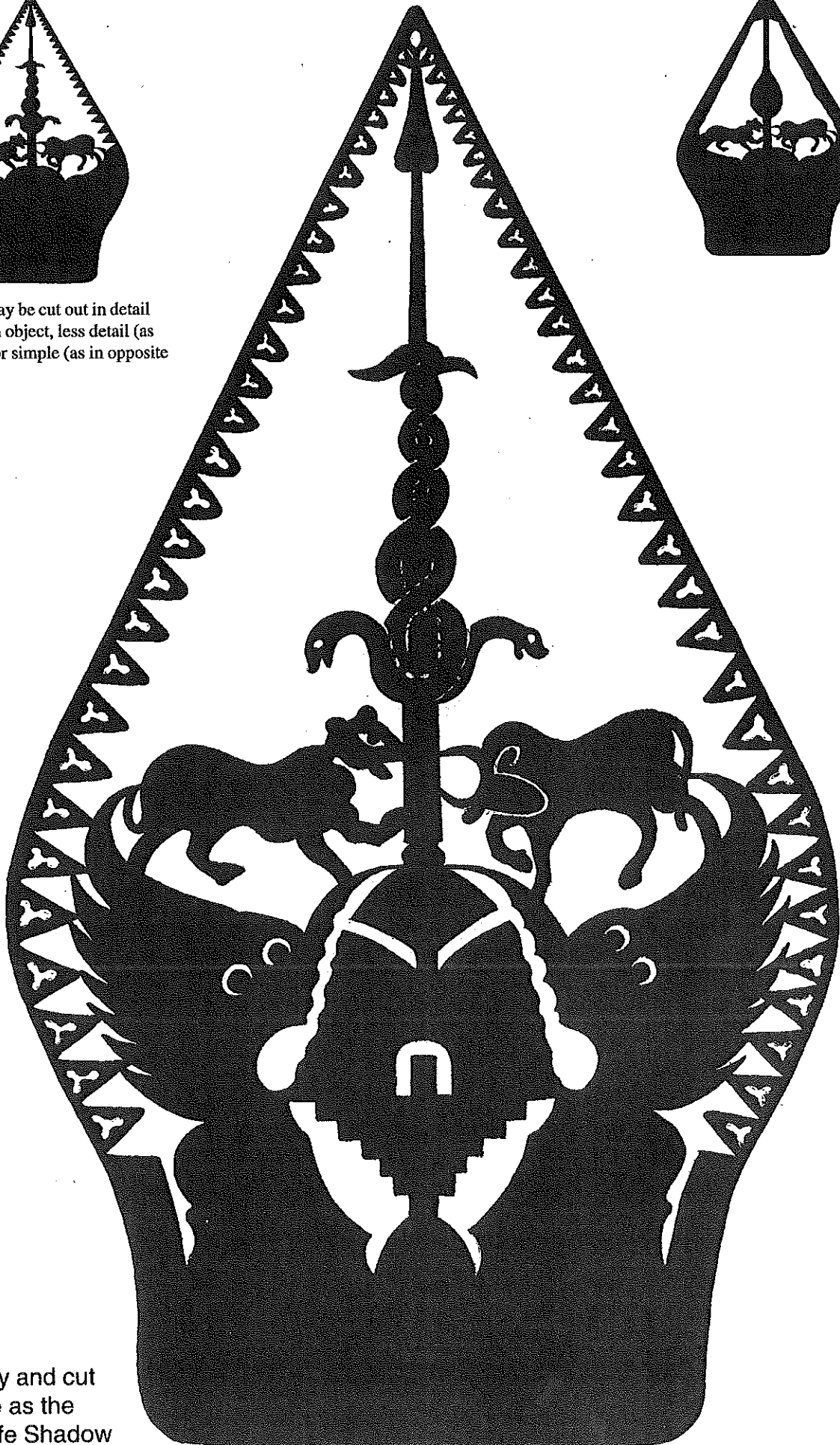


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Photocopy and cut out to use as the Tree of Life Shadow Puppet.

WAYANG STORY 1

WESTERN STYLE

Characters: The Dalang (Puppeteer)
 The Tortoise
 The Hare
 Assorted Animal Spectators (four with speaking parts)

Scene One (Adegan Pertama)

Dalang: (Taking down the Tree of Life)

Once upon a time there were two special animals who were as different as they could possibly be. The first was a hare who could run as swiftly as could be expected of any animal.

(The hare takes a bow.)

However the hare knew it and was as vain as vain could be. He used to spend hours in front of his mirror gazing lovingly at himself and saying things like:

Hare: "Who's a pretty hare then?"

Dalang: and.....

Hare: "Hi gorgeous! Do you want to go out with me?"

Dalang: The other animal was a somewhat modest creature and none too attractive either. Meet Ms Tortoise.

(Tortoise takes a bow.)

Ms Tortoise was a wise old thing for she'd been around a long, long time and wisdom came naturally to her. Indeed many animals came to seek her advice from time to time. This was because after careful and slow consideration she would always come up with clever solutions to difficult problems. She would use most learned phrases such as:

Ms Tortoise: "in the fullness of time" and "all things considered" and "it is most desirable" and "to be or not to be is the question in hand".....

Dalang: It would be true to say however that Ms Tortoise was not swift of foot and anyone could beat her in a race.

Scene Two (Adogan Kedu)

Dalang: Well, one day the hare and the tortoise and many other animals were having their annual Melbourne Cup day picnic and racing was the general topic of conversation. It went something like this:

Animal 1: Who do you think is the fastest animal here?

Animal 2: Well I've heard that Charlie Cheetah is the fastest animal on land.

Animal 3: My cousin Twiggy Tiger is pretty fast. And the Mouse family's not bad on the run either.

Animal 2: No.....it's a fact! The cheetah is the swiftest land animal....I read it in the Funk & Wagnell's.

All Animals Except for the Hare:

Oh...mmm.....yes, well, that must be right.

Hare: (butting in quite rudely)

Don't be absurd!!! You are so ignorant. Of course anyone who's anyone knows that I: Harold Henry Horace Hare am the fastest creature on this earth. And I forbid anyone to say otherwise.

(Preening himself and standing up tall.)

Tortoise: Er...hmm (clearing her throat making ready to speak)

I would venture to suggest that you are indeed swift. Swift of tongue that is....

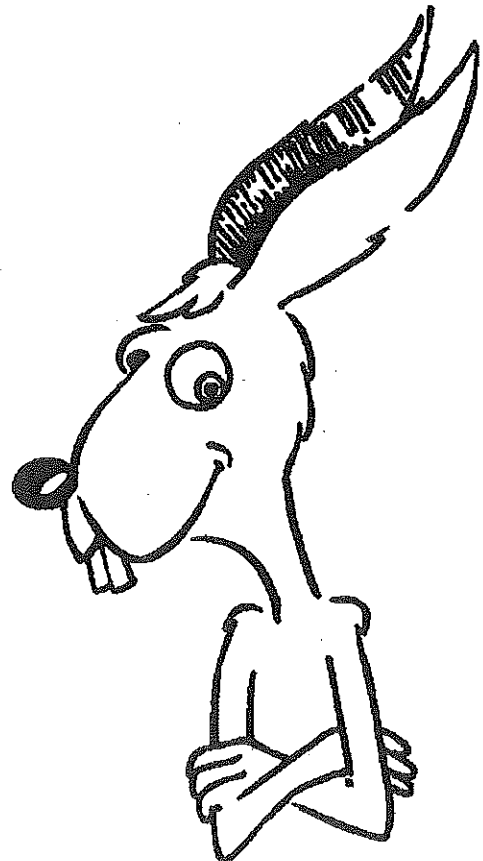
(All of the animals laugh at the hare.)

...and with a most unfortunate nature to boot.

Why, I myself could beat you in a race I expect, because if truth be known: vanity never wins!!!

Hare: (laughing uncontrollably)

You...a tortoise....beat me? Ha!! You're on. Let's do it right now. Who will be the marshal?



Animal 4: I will.

Scene Three (Adegan Ketiga)

Dalang: And so the animals prepared for the big race. The course was marked out by the Marshall, the starting and finishing lines set out and many of the animals lined the course as spectators. Meanwhile the tortoise composed herself by reading a book of poetry....

Tortoise: "On the outer barcoo where churches are few..."

Dalang: And the showy hare prepared himself by doing some vigorous push-ups.....

Hare: One.....two.....(grunt, moan)threeeeeee.....

Dalang: And so it came to pass that the race was ready to begin.

Marshall: Are you ready?

Hare & Tortoise:

Yes, we are.

Marshall: Ready, set.....GO!!!

Dalang: Well they were off! The hare streaked ahead laughing all the way.....and the tortoise slowly plodded on, step by step, centimetre by centimetre, but very, very slowly. And so the race went on for quite some time.

(Actions of hare puffing, panting, streaking past.....and tortoise plodding slowly by)

Then, when the hare was so far in front of the tortoise it wasn't funny anymore, and indeed he was right in front of the finishline, he stopped and said aloud to himself:

Hare: Well, talk about a piece of cake!!! That stupid tortoise is not so smart... and she's so slow it's quite a joke. I think I'll have my last sweet victory right in front of her face. I'll really rub it in by waiting here until she toddles up to me. And then I'll get her hopes up and dash them to smithereens by beating her at the post in the last moments of the race. That'll be fun. Ha! Ha!

Dalang: And so the hare takes five and dozes off.

(Hare lies down and instantly falls asleep snoring loudly.)

In a little while the tortoise slowly made ground and caught up with the hare. All of the animals began to cheer as she closed in on the hare, but they did it quietly because no-one liked the hare and they all wanted the tortoise to win.

Indeed she plodded right past the hare and just as the hare began to wake up she walked right across the finish line.

Hare: (waking up...) wha....?

Tortoise: Aaaaaaah, (collapsing across the finish line).....that's better!!!

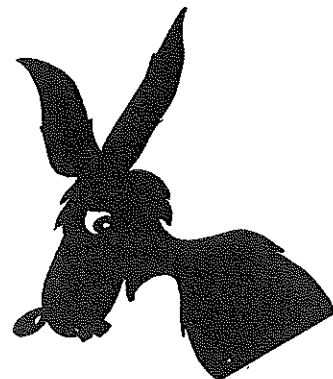
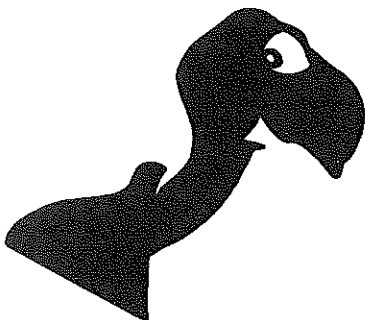
Dalang: The hare started throwing a tantrum.
(Hare jumps up and down and makes unpleasant noises)

The tortoise started shaking her head.
(Tortoise shakes her head and makes clicking noises with her tongue)

All of the animals cheered.
(Animals jump up and down cheering)

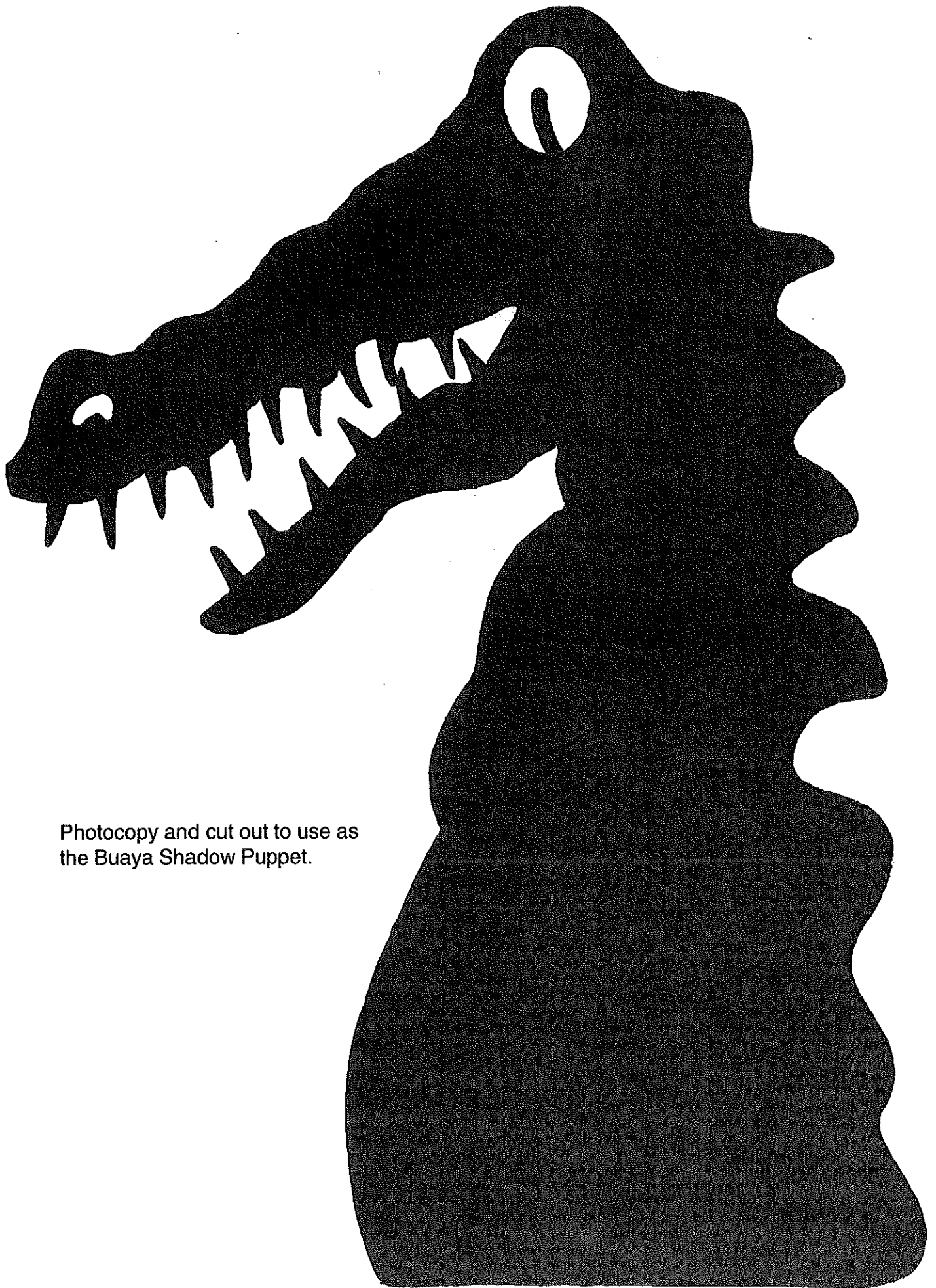
And so ends the tragic tale of the hare and the tortoise. And do you know what the moral of this story is??????
Of course you do!!!!

(All of the animals disappear and the Dalang places the Tree of Life back onto the screen.)





Photocopy and cut out to use as
the Kancil Shadow Puppet.



Photocopy and cut out to use as the Buaya Shadow Puppet.

WAYANG STORY 2

EASTERN STYLE

Kancil Dan Buaya

Characters: Dalang
Kancil
Buaya
2-3 Leafy Trees Who Talk

Adegan Pertama

Dalang: (Taking down the Tree of Life)

Once upon a time there was a very clever mouse-deer called "Kancil" who was tiny, fleet-footed and very, very clever. Not only was he clever, but also very pretty. (Kancil takes a bow.) He lived in the forests and had many enemies, the greatest of whom was "Buaya". Buaya was an enormous crocodile, fat, ugly, always starving and he had an incredibly mean streak.

(Buaya takes a bow whilst he snaps his teeth.)

Well Kancil was always outsmarting Buaya. No matter how hard Buaya tried to capture Kancil for his supper, the little mouse-deer always managed to use his wits to get away.

(Kancil sniggers.)

It didn't help that Buaya was a slow learner and thick as a brick!!

(Buaya acts offended.)

Well one day Kancil was walking in his beloved Forest in the middle of the dry season. He passed his friends the Trees who spoke to him in their secret language.

Tree One: Oh Kancil, it is soooo hot and dry and I'm sooo thirsty.

Tree Two: Yes Kancil. Could you not bring us some water to drink from the great river at the edge of the forest?

Tree Three: Oh, Kancil we would be ever so grateful to you and our leaves would soften with moisture to

provide you with a comfortable bed at night.

Trees One & Two: But be careful Kancil. Remember that the great river is the home of Buaya!!

Kancil: Oh no problem my friends. I will roll the empty coconut husks to the river, fill them and roll them back to you. And I'll have it done before Buaya even notices I've been there.

Adogan Kedua

Dalang: So Kancil does just that. He rolls some coconuts down to the river's edge, fills them and rolls them back up out of harm's way and there has been no sign of Buaya. So he decides to take another chance and goes down to the water's edge for a long cool drink.

But just as he puts his delicate head down to drink he catches a glimpse of what looks like a log floating nearby. Kancil gets suspicious but has an idea.

Kancil: Hey there in the river, if you're a crocodile then be silent, but if you're just a log then tell me.

Buaya: No, don't be afraid Kancil. I'm just an innocent log and would never hurt you.

Dalang: Well quick as a flash and laughing mischievously Kancil takes off for the forest kicking up his heels all the way.

Buaya: Aduh!

Dalang: And so Kancil had yet again outsmarted the crocodile and managed to deliver his coconut shells full of water to his friends the trees as he had promised to do.

Adogan Ketiga

Dalang: One day a little later, it was hotter than ever in the forest. It was still the dry season and all the trees were swaying and sighing with the heat. Kancil decided to take his chances one more time down at the riverside to cool off and refresh himself.

Kancil: (arriving at the water's edge and gazing around) Well, so far so good. No mean old Buaya in sight.

Buaya: (just visible emerging from the water and whispers so Kancil can't hear him) Aha! My

pretty little friend. I'll have you now!

Dalang: And suddenly Buaya strikes and indeed closes his mighty jaws around one of Kancil's delicate legs. Kancil is in much pain but still has his wits about him. He decides to try a bluff.

Kancil: (picking up a nearby branch) Ha! Ha! Buaya, do you really think you've got my leg? You are soooo stupid. What you have in your mouth is actually a branch. Here is my real leg, dummy. (Kancil waves the naked branch in front of Buaya's head.)

Buaya: Drops Kancil's leg and bites into the branch with much ferocity.

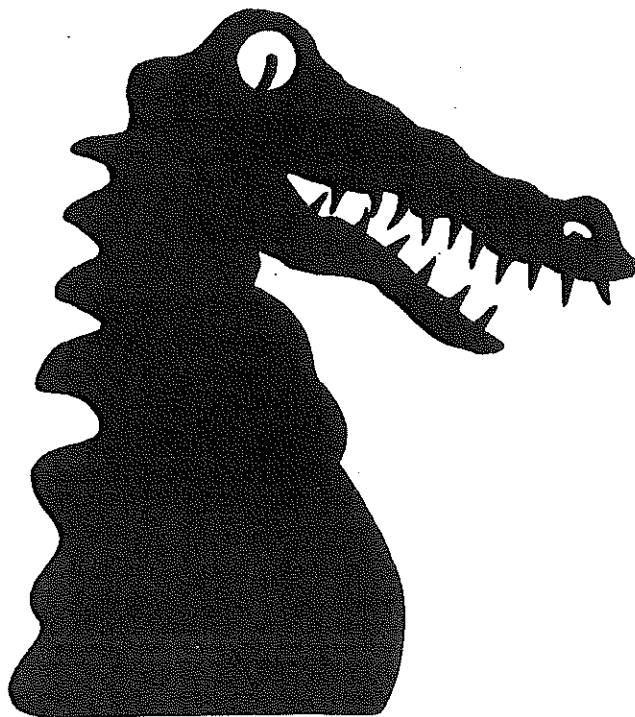
Dalang: Kancil takes off as fast as his sore leg can carry him. Laughing all the way.

Kancil: Ha! Ha! Ha!

Dalang: Poor old Buaya. Not only has Kancil escaped again, but Buaya appears to have chipped a tooth in the process.

Buaya: Wah! Aduh! Saaaakit!!!

Dalang: And so ends our tragic tale. Kancil has tricked Buaya again and has run away to trick him another day. And as for Buaya, well he just never gets his man!!!



STUDENT ASSIGNMENT SHEET

WAYANG

Groupwork Task:

So now that you have experienced the wonders of the Indonesian Wayang medium, it's your turn!

Your group is to write a story and adapt it to Wayang. Your story must have a moral or an educational message or theme. You will need to assign tasks to various members of your group according to their particular talents or interests. For example, people who are adept at projecting their voices will be involved in the actual presentation. Those who prefer to maintain a low profile might like to be behind the scenes. Artistic and writing talent could be put to good use at various stages of production. Your group cooperation will be the key to a successful performance!

Step One-Writing

Choosing your story is most important and warrants careful consideration.

You might like to choose an existing story from Indonesian or English folklore or perhaps your group will be clever enough to make one up from scratch! Perhaps you could make up a new story but incorporate existing traditional, well known characters. In any case, you should devote enough time/thought so you will be assured that the end-product will be of high quality. (Make sure that you check your work with your teacher at regular intervals.)

Step Two-Adapting to Wayang

You have your story now and you need to turn your attention to the Wayang medium of delivery. The characters must be drawn and cut out from black paper/cardboard and props must be considered also. Deciding what parts will be said by the characters and how much will actually be said by the Dalang will be essential at this point and sound effects should be an important consideration.

Step Three: Rehearse, Rehearse, Rehearse

Several rehearsals of your play must be undertaken in the early stages and at least one full dress rehearsal before the final performance.

Step Four-The Final Performance

Your final performance in front of other students, parents, other teachers or for video should be as polished as can be.

ASSESSMENT:

Marks will be given for: group cooperation
 effort
 quality of performance

Student Sample

THE ANT AND THE GRASSHOPPER

By Tristan yr 6

Dalang: (Taking down the tree of life)

One hot summer day a cool, popular young grasshopper called George was hanging out with some top girls when he came across a wise old ant called Anny storing food, she was a nice slow going ant with a big brain. Showing off to the girls he shouted out to the ant

George: "What are ya' doing storing food now there's plenty to eat - see"

Dalang: He picked up a bit of spinach and shoved it into his mouth.

(shoves food in mouth)

Anny ignored him.

The girls laughed and hopped off with George.

A while later on a cold day, the first day cold enough to see your own breath, young George couldn't find food anywhere. He looked left and right, up and down but still not a speck of food.

He wondered where all the plants went (Scratches head.) George had never been in a winter before and he was hungry (Rubs tummy.)

Crying ,(Cries) George noticed Anny the ant storing food in her hole, he walked up to her and sobbed in her face hopeful that she would give him something to eat.

Anny: "What's wrong?" screamed the ant.

George: "I'm cold and hungry" cried George
"Will you give me some food please?"

Anny: "Rack off!! This is my food. I stored it while you were out roller blading and smoking in front of the girls. Maybe next time you should store your food.

Dalang: (While putting up the tree of life.)
The young grasshopper went hungry for the winter but learnt a valuable lesson.

STORE YOUR NEEDS FOR THE FUTURE!