

にほん むかしばなし  
**日本の昔話** Japanese folktales

There are many Japanese folktales you could use to make skits. Here are some famous folktales. Match the Japanese and English titles!

1. Princess Kaguya 2. The Old Man Who Made Trees Blossom 3. Little One-Inch  
 4. Peach Boy 5. The Struggle between the Monkey and the Crab 6. Straw Hats for Jizo  
 7. Urashima Taro 8. The Miraculous Teakettle



Answers 1.(e) 2.(d) 3.(f) 4.(c) 5.(g) 6.(b) 7.(h) 8.(a)

じょうえん ことば  
**上演の言葉** Performance words

Here are some words you can use when speaking about dramatic (or comic!) performance.

はいやく 配役 is the word for 'cast', and the hero or heroine of a play is 主演 主人公. The supporting players

are <sup>わきやく</sup>脇役, and sometimes there is a ナレーター. The play has a plot, あらすじ, and the performers, <sup>やくしゃ</sup>役者, must learn their lines, <sup>せりふ</sup>せりふ. To stage a play you use <sup>いしょう</sup>衣装, costumes and <sup>こどうぐ</sup>小道具, props. When <sup>やくしゃ</sup>役者 perform, they <sup>えんぎ</sup>演技する. If they perform well, we say <sup>えんぎ</sup>演技が<sup>じょうず</sup>上手; if not, <sup>えんぎ</sup>演技が<sup>へた</sup>下手. And if the play is really successful, they <sup>う</sup>アンコールを受ける, get an encore!

### <sup>むかしばなし</sup>昔話のことば Folk tale expressions/words

Here are some words and expressions often heard in Japanese folktales. The narrator of a skit can use them in a Japanese narration, or include them as keywords in an English narration. In Issue 38 we mentioned an expression frequently used to begin a folktale: <sup>むかし</sup>むかし、<sup>むかし</sup>むかし、(place) に (person) がいました。'Once upon a time in.... there was ....'

Some characters that typically appear in folktales are:

- やさしいおじいさん／おばあさん kind old man/woman
- いじわるなおじいさん／おばあさん mean old man/woman
- しょうじきなおじいさん／おばあさん honest old man/woman
- よくばりじいさん／よくばりばあさん greedy old man/woman
- おひめさま princess, maiden
- とのさま lord

So narrators can begin a skit with a sentence such as: <sup>むかし</sup>むかし、<sup>むかし</sup>むかし、あるむらにやさしいおじいさんがいました。

And if the story ends happily, they can say: <sup>めでたし</sup>めでたし、<sup>めでたし</sup>めでたし 'And they all lived happily ever after.!'