

## MOON STORY – IDEAS FOR PERFORMANCE

### 1. Backdrop for first scene



Students can paint a background image with mountains for the play's scene about the archer Hou Yi.

### 2. Moon Lady backdrop



One of the play's three stories about the Chinese Moon Festival includes Chang'e and her rabbit on the moon. This backdrop was created by a class who performed the play at Oak Hill Middle School.

### 3. Rabbit costume



Year-round, a rabbit-ears headband can be purchased from costume stores and sometimes party-favor stores. This item is especially popular before Easter (March), when it appears wherever Easter candy and baskets are sold.

### 4. Wu Gang, the woodcutter



Students can construct the play's osmanthus tree from cardboard, with colored tissue paper for the trunk and leaves. The character Wu Gang also needs an axe to chop the magical tree.

5. Moon cakes



(photo from flickr.com/photos/misbehave)

The Moon Festival, or Mid-Autumn Festival, is celebrated on the fifteenth day of the eighth month according to the Chinese calendar, which usually falls in mid- to late September. If the play is performed around that time, moon cakes can be purchased from Asian markets/bakeries and offered to the audience at the end of the performance. The sweet paste filling is thick and rich, so typically moon cakes are sliced into wedges and served with tea.