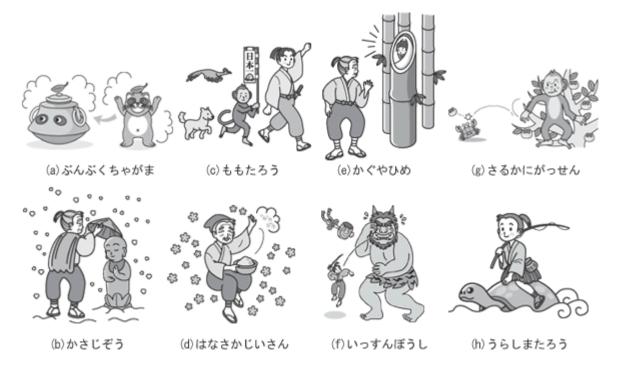
There are many Japanese folktales you could use to make skits. Here are some famous folktales. Match the Japanese and English titles!

- 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)



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

はいゃく 配役is the word for 'cast', and the hero or heroine of a play is 主人公. The supporting players わきやく are 脇 役, and sometimes there is a ナレーター. The play has a plot, あらすじ, and the performers, 役者, must learn their lines, せりふ. To stage a play you use 衣装, costumes and 立どうく 小道具, props. When 役者 perform, they 演技する. If they perform well, we say 演技が上手; if not, 演技が下手. And if the play is really successful, they アンコールを受ける, get an encore!

topuldat 昔話のことば Folktale 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: むかし、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: むかし、むかし、<u>あるむら</u>に<u>やさしいおじ</u> <u>いさん</u>がいました。

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