

Father Sky and Mother Earth



Now that we have learned more about the Diné and their storytelling, we are going to experience the Navajo tale of “Father Sky and Mother Earth” through a class reader’s theater. Reader’s theater scripts are simpler than a play because you don’t memorize your parts; you read from your script. There are many variations within types of reader’s theater scripts. This particular reader’s theater script adds a sound crew to emphasize actions, emotions, names or other elements within the script. Like most reader’s theaters, storytellers (narrators) cue the actions or dialogue to move the script forward.

No matter which part you have, whether speaking or playing an instrument, you will need to track the script carefully, listen intently, and respond at the correct time.



Let's review the correct pronunciation of a few Navajo words that will be used in "Father Sky and Mother Earth" that we will be reading today.

Hózhó náhásdlíí - Beauty has come again

Diné - Navajo people

Yá át'ééh - It is good

Nizhoní - Something that is beautiful, or good

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REFLECTIONS:

- What were some of your favorite parts of participating in this reader's theatre?
- How was the experience of working together to share the story in a theatrical way different from just reading the story aloud?
- What new lessons did you discover that are shared through the telling of this story?
- What other stories from your own culture might be fun to write and present in a reader's theatre format? Why would you choose that story?