

Example text: Dramatic plays

The Magical Bird and the Tortoise (from Thailand)

Based on the play by Edel Wignell

CAST:

Garuda

Tortoise

Tortoise's relations and neighbours (2 or 3)

Storyteller

Act 1

(noise of wings swooping and fading away)

STORYTELLER: Long ago, there was a magical bird called Garuda. He had beautiful feathers of many colours that flashed in the sun. (noise of wings swooping and fading away)

GARUDA: I'm so hungry this morning. I'll fly over the lake and find something to eat for breakfast.

STORYTELLER: As he flew, he looked down and saw a tortoise swimming near the edge of the lake. When the tortoise saw Garuda descending from the sky, he guessed that the bird was hungry. Quickly he made a plan.

TORTOISE: Good morning Garuda. It's a lovely morning, why don't we have a race?

STORYTELLER: Garuda was surprised, for it was the first time he had been challenged to a race.

TORTOISE: Let's see who's faster – a magical bird or a tortoise.

GARUDA: All right! I can wait to eat you.

TORTOISE: I'll be ready to start in half an hour.

STORYTELLER: Garuda flew away. Immediately the tortoise called to his relations and neighbours.

TORTOISE: Quick! Come and help me! (pause whilst much splashing) Relations and neighbours, I have challenged Garuda to a race. Will you help?

RELATIONS and NEIGHBOURS: Yes, we'll help. But what can we do?

TORTOISE: All of you swim out and space yourselves across the lake. Every time Garuda looks down, he'll see a tortoise swimming ahead.

RELATIONS and NEIGHBOURS: (laughing) We all look alike, so Garuda will think it's you. We'll always be ahead!

STORYTELLER: So the relations and neighbours set off and spaced themselves across the lake. (tortoises splashing) Soon Garuda flew back and shouted to the tortoise.

GARUDA: Are you ready for the race?

TORTOISE: Yes, I'm ready. Let's go!

STORYTELLER: (wings swooping continually) Garuda rose high into the air to catch a strong wind. A minute later, he swooped down. A tortoise saw him and called from the water.

TORTOISE RELATION: (splashing) Here I am – swimming just ahead.

STORYTELLER: Garuda flew on – faster and faster. Every time he swooped down, a tortoise called to him.

TORTOISE NEIGHBOUR: (splashing) Here I am – swimming just ahead.

STORYTELLER: At last, on the far side of the lake, Garuda knew he was beaten. He descended and shouted to the tortoise.