The Beauty of Ramayana Ballet

WebQuest Description: this Webquest will have students to know more about Ramayana Ballet in Indonesia and recognize it as one of Indonesian arts and cultures.

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Curriculum: Art / Music
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Introduction

Ramayana Ballet tells about Shinta that were contested by Rama and Rahwana. This story was really well-known among Javanese people since long time ago, during the Hindus kingdoms. In Java, Ramayana is one of legends or a myth which was firstly in the form of oral-story told by parents to their children. Actually, story of Ramayana has another version even though the stories are almost the same. In Bali, the story of Ramayana is the story from their belief, Hindu. Shinta, Rama, and others are believed as their Gods and Goddesses. The most famous Ramayana Ballet performance is usually performed in front of Prambanan temple on certain schedules.

Tasks

Students are required to read the story of Ramayana in Java style or version below (or may watch a video of Ramayana Ballet performance on YouTube or other sources if it’s possible), then students should find the main characters of the story of Ramayana and analyze each character.

SYNOPSIS OF RAMAYANA BALLET

Introduction

Prabu Janaka, the King of Mantli Kingdom has a very beautiful princess named Dewi Shinta. A competition is conducted in order to decide who will be the right person to marry her. Rama Wijaya, The Prince of Ayodya Kingdom at last wins the competition. Prabu Rahwana, the ruler of Alengkadiara Kingdom is eager to marry Dewi Widowati but after knowing Dewi Shinta he changes his mind since he assumes that Dewi Shinta is the incarnation of Dewi Widowati whom he has been searching for a long time.

Dandaka Forest

Rama Wijaya along with his wife Shinta and accompanied by his younger brother Leksmana arrive in Dandaka Forest. Unfortunately they meet Rahwana - who adored Dewi Shinta. Rahwana becomes eager to possess her, and in order to realize his goal, Rahwana commutes one of his followers named Marica to a deer called Kijang Kencana so as to attract Shinta. Being interested in the beauty of the deer, Shinta asks Rama to capture it for her. Rama leaves Shinta accompanied by Leksmana and starts hunting for the deer. After waiting for a long time, Shinta becomes nervous as Rama has not returned yet. She asks Leksmana to look for Rama. Before leaving Shinta alone, Leksmana draws a magic circle on the ground just to protect her from any possible danger. As soon as Rahwana notices that Shinta has been left alone, he tries to kidnap her but fails because of the magic circle which protects her life. Then he changes himself to an old Brahmana.

Shinta feels pity for the old Brahmana and leaves the magic circle. As a result Rahwana takes her and flies away to Alengkia Kingdom. Running after the Deer

Rama shoots the deer with the bow and arrow, but the deer converts to a giant. A battle breaks out between Rama and the giant. The giant is shot to death by Rama's arrow. Later Leksmana arrives and requests Rama to return to Shinta's place.

The Kidnap of Shinta

On the way to Alengka, Rahwana meets a garuda bird called Jatayu. They fight each other since Jatayu knows that Rahwana kidnapped Dewi Shinta - the princess of Prabu Janaka, his friend. Unfortunately Jatayu was defeated by Rahwana in his efforts to release her from Rahwana. Finding out that Shinta is not in her place, Rama and Leksmana decide to search for her. On the way they meet Jatayu who is seriously wounded. At first Rama thinks that Jatayu has kidnapped Shinta so he decides to kill him but Leksmana prevents him from doing so. Jatayu explains what has happened to Shinta before he dies of his wounds.

A moment later, a white monkey named Hanuman arrives. He is delegated by his uncle, Sugriwa to look for two heroes who are able to kill Subali. Subali is a sacred man and has taken Dewi Tara, Sugriwa's beloved woman. At last Rama decides to help Sugriwa.

Argasoka Garden

Kiskendo Cave

Dewi Tara and her son are chatting when suddenly Sugriwa arrives and attacks Subali. Then Sugriwa helped by Rama defeats Subali. Sugriwa takes Dewi Tara with him again.

For Rama's kindness, Sugriwa decides to help him in searching for Dewi Shinta. For this purpose Sugriwa delegates Hanoman to find and investigate the Alengka Kingdom. Argasoka Garden

Rahwana's niece, Trijata is comforting Shinta in the garden. Rahwana arrives to ask Shinta's willingness to be his wife. Shinta refuses and this makes him angry and he tries to kill her but Trijata prevents this and tells him to be patient. Trijata promises to look after Shinta. Shinta feels so sad, but suddenly she hears a beautiful song sung by Hanoman, the white monkey. Hanoman tells her that he is sent by Rama to help her escape. After he explains his purpose, Hanoman he attempts to find out the total power of the Alengka army. Then he destroy the garden.

Indrakit, Rahwana's son successfully captures Hanoman but Kumbokarno prevents him and is thrown out of the kingdom. Hanoman is sentenced to death by burning but instead Hanoman is able to set himself free and burn the kingdom with the fire from his body. As soon as he burns the Kingdom, Hanoman comes to Rama and explains what has happened. Rama then goes to Alengka along with his monkey's army. He attacks the Kingdom and places the Alengka's army in a difficult position because Indrakit - the leader of the army is killed.

Since the army doesn't have a leader Rahwana orders Kumbokarno to be the leader of the army and fights for the Alengka Kingdom. But then Kumbokarno is killed by Rama's heirloom arrow. Rahwana takes over the army and starts to attack Rama and his soldiers. Rama also kills him at last. His corpse is put under the mountain of Sumawana carried by Hanoman.

Rama Meets Shinta

After the death of Rahwana, Hanoman takes Shinta to meet Rama. But Rama refuses her because he thinks that she is not pure anymore. Shinta is disappointed and to prove her faithfulness to her husband she jumps into a fire and burns herself. Because of her holiness and God's help she is not burnt. That makes Rama happy and he finally accepts her to be his wife again.
Process

1. Make a group consists 2 or 3 people.
2. Read the story of Ramayana/watch a video of Ramayana Ballet performance (Java style) on You Tube or other sources.
3. Find the main characters.
4. Analyze the characters.
5. The results will be presented in front of the class. Make the presentation as creative as you can. (the form of the task can be Power Point Presentation or Wall Magazine depending on the students creativity).
6. Students will also deliver their opinion about the story of Ramayana related to Indonesian culture and how they keep the culture still exist.

Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category and Score</th>
<th>Beginning</th>
<th>Developing</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Content</td>
<td>very few and almost all are not related to the content that is required</td>
<td>few parts are delivered but it is related to the content that is required</td>
<td>almost all of the parts are delivered and it is related to the content that is required</td>
<td>all of the parts are delivered and it is related to the content that is required</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaking</td>
<td>nothing is spoken clearly at all and the audience cannot understand</td>
<td>few parts is spoken clearly but still the audience cannot understand</td>
<td>some of parts is spoken clearly and the audience understand</td>
<td>all of the parts is spoken clearly and the audience understand</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation Design</td>
<td>the PPT or wall design have poor design.</td>
<td>the PPT or wall magazine have design but the design is boring</td>
<td>the PPT or wall magazine have design and good</td>
<td>the PPT or wall magazine have design and really interesting</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Understanding</td>
<td>students cannot answer the question about the content</td>
<td>students only understand and answer little information about the content</td>
<td>students understand and answer questions only about some parts of the content</td>
<td>students understand and answer all the parts of the content completely</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Score</td>
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<td>100%</td>
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</table>

Conclusion

By reading the story and understand it, students are expected to learn more about Javanese culture. The story of Ramayana is one of the cultures in Indonesia which is introduced through performance called Ramayana Ballet Performance. Hopefully, students can retell it to their friends as Indonesian culture, so the story of Ramayana can be reintroduced to Indonesian people, especially to the young people that always prefer to the western culture. So that finally Ramayana Ballet Performance can be well-known in the whole world.

Teacher Page

Standards

Credits

Other