

LANTERN FESTIVAL – IDEAS FOR PERFORMANCE

1. Festive backdrop



Students can paint a backdrop for their performance on a bed sheet. This photo shows an example from one of the author's class plays.

2. Fortuneteller's Trigrams



Although the play's fortuneteller scene is not a key component of the Lantern Festival story, students can construct this prop (hand-held cardboard diagram) for the character to consult.

Students also may enjoy researching the background of the Eight Trigrams (Bagua), which has origins from the *I Ching*, or Book of Changes, and has significance for and applications within astronomy, astrology, geography, anatomy, feng shui, and the martial arts.

3. Paper lanterns



Students can hang red paper lanterns to decorate the stage or classroom for their performance, creating a holiday atmosphere. The play's scene with the Palace Girls also involves lanterns as props. These can be purchased year-round at Asian stores and markets. Also, many websites provide instructions for creating Chinese lanterns from hongbao, the small red envelopes/packets that are popular during Chinese New Year.

4. Vendor booth



Students can construct vendor booths out of cardboard for the street-market scene of the play and can be creative with their decorating details.