

Three Sisters Play

This is a short “play” that your students can “perform” as a narrator reads the story. The actions are fairly self-explanatory, and it should not take more than 10 minutes to complete.

Create “Name Tags” with the following characters’ names on them. An 8x10 piece of paper with two holes in the corners and an 18 inch piece of yarn will work well.

Mother Earth

Father Sun

Grandmother Rain

Grandfather Wind

Sister Corn

Sister Squash

Sister Bean

Narrator

Read through the story first as a class, so that everyone knows what the basic movements will be. Discuss with your class what the movements of the Wind might be, or how the Sun might look “shining down” on the Three Sisters.

Students may also create posters of their favorite character or of their favorite sequence.

Discuss with your class why these three vegetables would have proven to be so special to the Native American diet and to their way of life.

Play: The Story of the Three Sisters

The Three Sisters are daughters of Mother Earth and Father Sun.

Grandmother Rain and Grandfather Wind also live with them.

Sister Corn is the oldest sister. She stands tall and proud. Her yellow silken hair flows in the breeze. She wears a soft green cloak to keep the chill off at night when the moon is high and the dew sneaks into the garden. Sister Corn loves being the tallest in her family. She knows she is strong enough to hold and care for her younger sisters.

The youngest sister is Sister Bean, dressed from head to toe in green. Sister Bean looks up to her older Sister corn, and loves her very much. She likes to stay right by her and cling onto her arms and legs. Even though Sister Bean is the youngest, she has a special talent. She has learned how to make good food. She knows her older sister needs a lot of food to grow tall and strong, so she makes as many nutritious treats for Sister Corn as she can.

Once in a while, Sister Corn would like Sister Bean to stop holding onto her so she could just stand all by herself.

Once in a while, Sister Bean wishes she could run around the garden like her Sister Squash.

And every once in a while, when she stops playing for a minute, Sister Squash looks up at her older sister and thinks, "Oh, what would it be like to be so very tall and be able to see far and wide?"

But most of the time, these Three Sisters are very content to be who they are, and they live happily in their garden -

Sister Corn is proud to protect her little Sister Bean, and Sister Bean is proud to feed her older sister. And while Sister Squash is having fun running around the garden, she is proud to know that she helps them both by making sure no weeds come into their garden home.

With Mother Earth supporting them, Father Sun shining down on them, and Grandmother Rain and Grandfather Wind giving them wholesome water and air, the Three Sisters grow and blossom into beautiful young women.

This is the way of the garden spirits. With earth, air, water and sun, our corn, beans and squash grow, giving us food for our own families and helping us grow strong. When we are thankful for their gifts and take good care of them in return, we receive their fruits in bountiful plenty year after year.