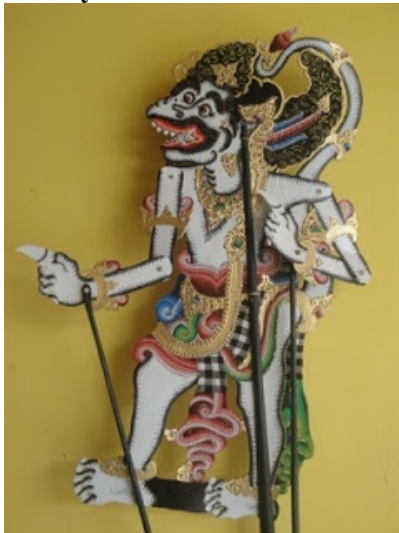
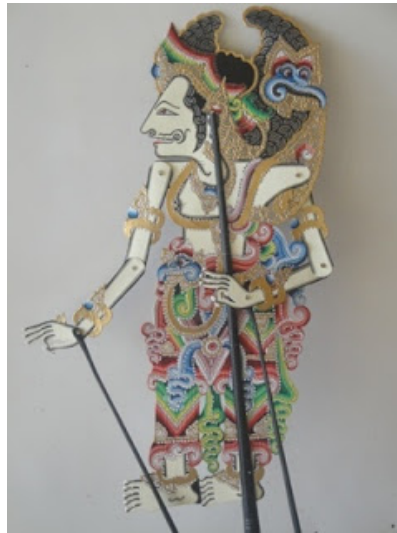


Balinese Shadow Puppets are an artistic narrative tradition used to perform epic adventure stories such as the *Ramayana*. These performances are considered magical because the puppets become and bring to life the characters they represent. Also, events that take place during a performance might happen in real life! During a shadow puppet performance the audience actually sees the shadows of the puppets as the shadow puppet master manipulates them, hence the name “shadow puppet”. The *Ramayana* is an adventure tale like *Star Wars*, *Shrek*, or *Frozen* because it center on journeys to find something, or help someone. This is a moral story that teaches qualities like friendship, compassion, loyalty, bravery and wisdom. The *Ramayana* illustrates conflict between good and evil and how friendship and magic can overcome obstacles. The *Ramayana* has similar main characters as these adventure stories: a heroine, or Princess; a hero, good guy, or Prince; a sidekick or brave friend (like Kristoff in *Frozen*); and a bad guy or villain.

Ramayana Characters:



Hanuman
(Monkey warrior and sidekick)



Rama (Prince and hero)



Ravana
(Demon King and bad guy/villain)



Sita (Princess and heroine)

Questions related to the characters of the Ramayana:

How might you identify each of these characters based off their physical traits?

- Which character looks like an animal or a person, and why?
- Does one character look scarier than the others, and why?
- What are the characters wearing, can you identify them based on their clothing?

- What are your favorite adventure stories and why? (Example: *Shrek*, *Star Wars*, *Frozen*)
- What are the main characters in these adventure stories?
- Which character is your favorite, and why?

Story Synopsis of the Ramayana:

This adventure tale begins with three friends, a prince named **Rama** who is a wise ruler and has supernatural abilities. The second friend is a compassionate and intelligent princess named **Sita**. The third friend is Rama's brother, **Lakshmana** who is brave and loyal. Rama and Lakshmana first met Sita while journeying in the forest and instantly became close friends; when Rama was crowned king, Lakshmana and Sita helped him rule the land.

However, one day a greedy ruler named **Ravana**, the demon king from another land, seizes the kingdom and exiles Rama into the wilderness for fourteen years. Lakshmana and Sita choose to join Rama and together they live in the forest. Because of her compassionate nature Sita has been entrusted with a magical deer that she takes with her everywhere. One day Ravana learns of this magical deer and cannot rest until he has captured it for himself.

While Sita is out walking in the forest Ravana approaches, disguised as a stranger. Ravana tricks Sita and seizes the deer; Sita tries to save it but Ravana captures her as well and carries them back to the palace in his kingdom. When Rama and Lakshmana learn of Sita's capture they set out to rescue her. Along the way they travel through the woods, which is the land of the Monkey King **Hanuman**. Hanuman is a super monkey with magical powers; he can fly and fight evil. Because he is also an enemy of Ravana, Hanuman decides to help them; he gathers his army of monkeys and together they all journey through the woods to find Sita and the magic deer.

(To be continued...)

Creative activity to connect with the story:

- Pick a section from the Ramayana narrative you just heard and draw a scene from it.
- Or)
- Imagine a scene or event that takes place after the story ended, and draw that scene.

For example:

Rama and Hanuman meeting and journeying through the woods, Sita escaping from Ravana, Hanuman sneaking through the palace in search of Sita, or Rama and Lakshmana fighting Ravana.

As you draw a scene from this story, imagine a possible dialogue or interaction between two or three of the central characters: Rama, Sita, Hanuman, or Ravana. ☺





