

Simple Latin Animal Plays

Created from *Ursus et Porcus* and *Tres Porculi* by Rose Williams

Kinetic or physical learning i.e. experiencing the target learning with movement of ears, eyes, tongue and body, is a great way to internalize a target language. In this story the participants act out the simple Latin tale. They need to learn only a few lines of dialogue.

Different sets of students can act out the plays – a dramatic contest is one possibility. My university students enjoy doing this, and have sometimes presented such plays to outside groups and done video recordings of them.

After the play's performance, there will be a question and answer session with the participants. (a new set of participants may be asked to assume the different roles and to present the plays.)

A backdrop shot of trees and grass to look like a forest is behind the 'stage.' Narrator stands at the side of the "stage."

Bear: 9 speeches Pig: 4 speeches Wolf: 4 speeches

Most of these can be pantomimed, if desired.

Ursus et Porcus

Characters: Narrator, Ursus, Porcus, Lupus

(Props needed: Bear, pig and wolf ears; placards saying Ursus, Porcus, Lupus; berries and acorns

Narrator: **Ursus in silvā ambulat.**

Ursus enters from behind the backdrop. He has some berries in his pocket to produce in a few minutes

Ursus: **Sum ursus. In silvā ambulō.**

Narrator: **Porcus in silvā ambulat.**

Porcus enters from behind backdrop, attired similarly to the bear -- Hat with ears and placard. He needs some acorns in his pocket to produce in a few minutes.

Porcus: **Sum porcus. In silvā ambulō.**

Narrator: **Ursus porcum videt. Porcus ursum videt.**

Ursus: **Porcum videō.**

Porcus: **Ursum videō.**

Narrator: **Porcus fugere temptat.** *Porcus turns to run*

Ursus: Ō, Nōlī fugere. Amīcum dēsīderō.

Porcus stops and pantomimes speech below.

Narrator: **Porcus dīcit ursum et porcum amīcōs nōn esse quod ursī porcōs edunt.**

Ursus: Nōn porcōs edō. Edō bācās. (*produces berries from pocket to show*)

Porcus: Bācāsne? Edō glandēs. (*produces acorns from pocket to show*)

Ursus: Amīcīne sumus?

Porcus: Amīcī sumus.

Narrator: **Ursus et porcus in silvā ambulant.**

Ursus et Porcus walk about half the length of the stage; stop suddenly

Narrator: **Ursus et porcus lupum vident.**

Lupus enters facing Ursus et Porcus, attired as they are with hat and placard

Narrator: **Lupus ursum et porcum videt. Porcus fugere temptat.**

Ursus: Nōlī fugere. Sum amīcus tuus. Cūrābō tē.

Lupus: Salvē, Urse. Estne porcus cēna tua? (*Rubs stomach*)

Ursus: Nōn porcum edō. Porcus est amīcus meus. Edō bācās.

Lupus: Porcus est cēna. Aut tua cēna aut mea.

Ursus: (*growling and showing claws*) Amīcus meus non est cēna tua.

(*putting a hand on Porcus' shoulder*)

Porcus amīcus meus est. Amīcum meum cūrābō.

Lupus: (*looking sheepish*) Tū es magnus et fortis. Dēsīderō amicum magnum et fortem.

Si edō bācās et glandēs, nōn porcum, sumne amīcus tuus?

Ursus: Amīcus es.

Lupus: Porce, sumne amīcus tuus?

Porcus: Amīcus meus es.

Narrator: **Ursus et Porcus et Lupus in silvā ambulant**

(The three link arms and slowly walk around the backdrop)

Trēs Porculī

Props needed: ears for pigs and wolf; stool for wolf to stand on; straw, twigs and brick to be handed to pigs.

Each pig has two lines; the wolf has the same two lines over and over. They pantomime the rest of the action while the narrator reads.

(Narrator stands at side of 'stage.')

Narrator:

Olim trēs porculī in silvā cum mātře habitant. Unō diē porculī exeunt quod fortūna petere volunt.

Prīmus porcus virum videt. Vir multum strāmentum portat.

Prīmus Porcus: Sīs, dā mihi strāmentum. Casam aedificābō.

Narrator : **Vir strāmentum porculō dat, et porculus casam strāmentī aedificat.**

Noctū lupus magnus et malus casam porculī videt.

Lupus: Porcule, porcule, admitte mē!

Prīmus Porcus: Nōlō, per capillōs mentī-men-men!

Lupus: Tum īnflābō et afflābō et dēflābō casam tuam.

Narrator: **Lupus īnflat et afflat et dēflat porculī casam. Porculum edit.**

Interim secundus porculus virum videt. Vir multa bacula portat.

Secundus Porcus: Sīs, dā mihi bacula. Casam aedificābō.

Narrator : **Vir bacula porculō dat, et porculus casam baculōrum aedificat.**

Noctū lupus magnus et malus casam porculī videt.

Lupus: Porcule, porcule, admitte mē!

Secundus Porcus: Nōlō, per capillōs mentī-men-men!

Lupus: Tum īnflābō et afflābō et dēflābō casam tuam.

Narrator: **Lupus īnflat et afflat et dēflat porculī casam. Porculum secundum cepit.** (*Drags pig to one side*)

Interim tertius porculus virum videt. Vir multōs laterēs portat.

Tertius Porcus: Sīs, dā mihi laterēs. Casam aedificābō.

Narrator : **Vir laterēs porculō dat, et porculus casam laterum aedificat. Noctū Noctū lupus magnus et malus casam porculī videt.**

Lupus: Porcule, porcule, admitte mē!

Tertius Porcus: Nōlō, per capillōs mentī-men-men!

Lupus: Tum īnflābō et afflābō et dēflābō casam tuam.

Narrator: **Lupus īnflat et afflat et dēflat, sed nōn potest dēflāre laterum casam porculī tertii.**

Lupus ascendit in tectō casae. Ab hōc locō casam intrāre potest.

(*Wolf ascends a small stool or ladder.*)

Porculus lupum in tectō audit. Porculus ignem in focō incendit, et aeneum completum aquā super ignem pōnit. *Pig pantomimes building a fire and filling a pot of water and placing it on the fire.*

Wolf jumps down "chimney."

PERPLUIT! Lupus in aquam calidam cadit.

(*Wolf pretends to fall; stretches out on the ground; Pig stands in victory pose with foot on his chest.*)

Lupus mortuus est, et porculus tertius semper beatē habitat.