

Here are 2 scenes from THE BRIDGE HOME re-written by the author as if it were a play script, so that they can be easily read aloud in an interactive manner by students. A few stage directions have been included, in case the scene is acted out, but the scenes could also just be read aloud as a sort of "reader's theater" format.

The first scene is taken from the chapter entitled "Laughter" (scheduled for the second week of #GRA19) pages 36-37.

To encourage more participation, a student could play Arul, who is present in the scene, but does not speak. Arul could show emotion silently, which is part of acting, for sure. So, characters present include:

Viji

Rukku

Muthu

Kutti

Arul (silent)

The second scene is taken from the chapter entitled "The Blue Hills" (scheduled for the third week of #GRA19) pages 68-69. To increase participation, Viji's inner voice and Viji's dialogue may be read separately, so characters include:

Viji i (Viji's inner voice)

Viji (dialogue)

Sridar

Muthu

Kumar

Arul

LAUGHTER

(The children - VIJI, RUKKU, ARUL and MUTHU are at the bridge, as is the dog, KUTTI. VIJI is wringing out her clothes and towel and weighting them down with stones to dry in the sun. ARUL is helping her, while MUTHU sits a few feet away, stroking KUTTI's head. RUKKU is sitting with him at first but then she gets up and walks over to VIJI).

RUKKU: Hungry.

VIJI: Sorry. Don't have anything. We'll go find something.

RUKKU: No banana?

VIJI: No, sorry.

RUKKU: Papaya?

VIJI: No.

RUKKU: Guava?

VIJI: No. No pomegranate, no jackfruit, no oranges, no sapotas, no sweet limes. No nothing.

RUKKU (with increasing annoyance, getting faster and louder with each repetition): No, no, no. No, no, no.

(ARUL looks worried. MUTHU takes in the situation and stops stroking KUTTI).

MUTHU (sings out the word, turning it into a game) : No, no, no. (pauses, then continues). Let's sing together, Rukku! (sings louder than before, making each repetition a little longer, until he is almost yodeling). No-no-nooo!

KUTTI (lifting his nose and letting out a musical howl): Wooo.

RUKKU (imitating Muthu): Nooo! (Pauses, laughs, claps her hands). Nooo - nooo - nooo.

(KUTTI and MUTHU joins her, yodeling away. ARUL who has been watching silently all this while, although reacting to the scene, grins or laughs together with MUTHU and RUKKU, as KUTTI continues to howl, musically).

THE BLUE HILLS

A few students act as children from the rival gang. When the scene opens, we see VIJI, ARUL, and MUTHU working to collect things to recycle from the trash dump. Another group of children, including SRIDAR and KUMAR are also working on the trash dump. When the scene opens, the other kids are a few feet away from VIJI, ARUL AND MUTHU.

VIJI's inner voice: A group of boys were already at work on the mound. Muthu and Arul ignored them and picked spots and got busy, but as soon as I reached for a bottle, one of the boys approached me.

(SRIDAR moves right in front of VIJI)

SRIDAR: What do you think you're doing here?

VIJI: What does it look like I'm doing? Enjoying the view?

(MUTHU stops working and looks at VIJI).

SRIDAR: You have to give me a third of whatever you collect here.

VIJI: Who made you the tax collector?

(MUTHU rushes over to VIJI as SRIDAR spits at her).

MUTHU: Stop that! Leave my sister alone!

(Now all the other children are taking notice of the fight. ARUL and KUMAR wade through the trash and make their way toward VIJI and MUTHU).

SRIDAR: Who are you to tell me what to do?

KUMAR (Coming up behind Sridar and pulling him away from Muthu and Viji): Stop it, Sridar! I won't let you stay with us if you start fights.

(SRIDAR steps away sullen faced. ARUL is now at VIJI's side).

ARUL: How are you, Kumar?

KUMAR: Look, this is our place. It's okay for you to come here, but you can't bring along every new kid in the city.

ARUL: Enough here for us all to share.

MUTHU (grinning and waving his stick in an expansive gesture as he speaks): Yes. Just look at this wealth spreading from sea to shore! Grey Gold, I call it.

ARUL: We never acted like we owned the Himalayas and I showed you where it was.

(KUMAR scowls but doesn't argue. The children move apart and go back to work).