

GARAM AND CUKA: SUSU AND MADU

Plays for Young People

Three Short Plays

by

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Plays for Young People

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Cast

(In Order of Appearance)

NARRATOR 1

NARRATOR 2

TAUFIQ

TAUFIQ'S DAD

ZULKIFLI

VENDOR 1

VENDOR 2

POLICE 1

POLICE 2

FARMER

SOLDIER 1

SOLDIERS

DOCTORS

PATIENTS

MBOK JAMU

TEACHER

GARAM AND CUKA: SUSU AND MADU

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Short Plays and Acts

Act 1: Play 1: GARAM- The Test

Act 2: Play 2: CUKA- The Bully

Act 3: Play 3: SUSU AND MADU- The Good Friend

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Production Notes

Costume and Set Notes

Set Notes

This play does not require any specialized staging; it can be performed on a bare stage. The costumes are straightforward, linking to the description of the character in the stage directions.

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Additional Notes

Playwright's Notes

These plays have been written for children to perform, drawing inspiration from Indonesian culture and beliefs. Indonesian references and words have been translated into English and pronunciation can be found online or from native speakers.

Garam is the first part of three short plays, which together are called: *Garam and Cuka: Susu and Madu (Salt and Vinegar: Honey and Milk)*. Each play is linked through theme, character, structure and symbolism. The intention is to produce plays for young people which have beneficial morals and ideas whilst giving the audience and participants fun and entertaining scripts to work from and experience. In the tradition of comic theatre, these plays are written in strict versification, mainly in rhyming couplets and iambic pentameter, to give the action a sense of pace, comedy and vitality.

Teachers and workers will need to guide their student groups through the lines and actions taking place on stage, as well as the poetic nature of the dialogue, especially if the students are learning English as an additional language. I would recommend that, before reading and performing this play, young people should learn something about poetic rhythm and the differences between prose and verse.

About the Playwright

Novid Shaid is an English Language, Literature and Drama teacher from the UK.

He shares short stories and poetry on his website: www.novid.co.uk. His first published work is the supernatural thriller novel, *The Hidden Ones*. His other published works include: *Short Stories Volume 1*; two poetry collections: *The Prophet's Time In Rhyme* and *Awakenings*, and the short story collection: *The Journey Overboard*. His first play is: *The War, the Lift and the Separatists*. His works are available on Amazon.

GARAM AND CUKA: SUSU AND MADU

Short Plays for Young People

PLAY 1: ACT 1: GARAM- THE TEST

(The setting begins in Taufik's bedroom: a typical teenage boy's hideout. At the rise of the curtain (at the beginning), Taufik lies on his bed, staring at the ceiling, looking hopeless and despairing.

(Enter Narrators 1/2, who come downstage, stage right/stage left.)

NARRATOR 1: Once there was a boy: his name Taufik,
His final school tests were happening this week,
And as you've probably now just realized

(Taufiq suddenly faces the audience with a look of terror and interrupts the narrator, but his line fits into the flow of the narrator's line. The interruption should be seamless.)

TAUFIQ: I'm worried if a fail I'm gonna die!

(He turns back and the narrator carries on.)

NARRATOR 2: For poor Taufiq, he surely had to pass
The pressure stalked him like a snake in the grass.
But his father made his warning severer

(Enter Taufiq's Dad, centre stage, looking strict and serious, dressed in a suit. Like Taufik, his line should seamlessly follow from Narrator 1)

- TAUFIQ'S DAD** If you don't pass, I'll feed you to the *beraung*¹! (*EXITS*)
- NARRATOR 1:** So Taufiq had to figure out a plan
To save him from the anger of his dad
He hadn't spent much time in studying
Instead he'd played his PS4 like a king
So now he needed help in this difficulty
(Taufiq's jumps up and faces the audience)
- TAUFIQ:** I know, I'll ask my good friend, Zulkifli!
(Zulkifli appears on stage and meets Taufiq; they give each other a high-five and a funny handshake that teenage boys like to do.)
- NARRATOR 2:** So Taufiq and Zulkifli went on the street
They walked past street vendors and police officers on their beat
(Taufiq and Zulkifli walk along the stage as if they are walking along a street market. Street vendors² appear on the stage, shouting and selling their products -cakes/sweets- to passers-by while the POLICE 1 and POLICE 2 keep an eye on them. Taufiq and Zulkifli stop to watch and listen to the vendors.)
- VENDOR 1:** Get these lovely cakes and lovely sweets!
- VENDOR 2:** *(Competing with VENDOR 1.)* No these are better, much sweeter, lovely treats!
- VENDOR 1:** *(Angrily.)* Don't eat his stuff, you'll have *diare*³ for weeks!
- VENDOR 2:** *(Replying and pointing to VENDOR 1.)* His sweets are horrid like his ugly cheeks!
(POLICE 2 blows a whistle furiously and pointing at VENDOR 1/2.)
- POLICE 1:** *(Looking at the Vendors menacingly, pointing at their mouths and showing his baton.)* Hey! Stop your fighting or I'll thrash your silly beaks!
(All exit except Taufiq and Zulkfli.)

¹ *Beraung*: Indonesian for bears (*beraung* rhymes with *severer*).

² Street vendor: *pedagang* in Indonesian.

³ *Diare*: Indonesian for diarrhea- bowel infection.

TAUFIQ: *(Turning to Zulkifli, sounding worried.)*
Zulkifli, my friend! You have to help me!
I've got my tests and my chances aren't so healthy!
I did not study or revise for this
And if my dad finds out I'll be finished!
(Zulkifli suddenly lights up with answer.)

ZULKIFLI: Don't worry, *teman*⁴, I think I have the answer,
I know someone who can save you from disaster!

TAUFIQ: Please tell me, *teman*! Who is this saviour?

ZULKIFLI: There is a *mbok jamu*⁵ from my area
She is amazing like a special healer
She lives in the jungle and the people respect her
People visit her even the police inspector
Believe me *teman*, she is your only chance
Give her some money and she will make you advance

(As Narrator 1 begins, Zulkifli and Taufiq begin to walk around, as if they are trekking in a nearby jungle)

NARRATOR 1: So Zulkifli led Taufiq into the jungle
They had to climb through bushes, which made them stumble
As their journey to the *mbok jamu* progressed
They met some residents of the jungle crest

NARRATOR 2: First they saw a singing *petani*⁶
He was picking plants, with a bag around his tummy

⁴ *Teman*: Indonesian for friend.

⁵ *Mbok jamu*: Indonesian- herbal medicine seller

⁶ *Petani*: Indonesian for farmer

- FARMER:** Hello young men, what brings you here so early?
- ZULKIFLI:** We've come to see the mbok jamu Mr *Petani*.
- FARMER:** Okay, best wishes for you, my dear young friends!
I hope you reach whatever you intend!
- TAUFIQ:** What are you doing there with all those plants?
- FARMER:** I am picking all these crops so I can have a chance.
If I pick up all my crops and plan ahead
I can make really sure my family is fed
If I did not perform all this work before
I would fail in life and be really poor.
(The farmer moves off and exits; Taufiq stands for a while thinking about what the farmer said.)
- TAUFIQ:** That was weird Zulkifli, what a mystery!
It seems as if that message was just for me.
(Zulkifli carries on trekking through the jungle while Taufiq follows him.)
- NARRATOR 1:** The boys continued on and Taufiq stretched his shoulders
And just then they saw a group of training soldiers.
(Five soldiers enter and perform their training routine, the captain leads the exercise, shouting a line and then the rest of group shout the same line after him. Taufiq and Zulkifli watch them.)
- SOLDIER 1:** We are soldiers we are strong!
- SOLDIERS:** *(Repeating.)* We are soldiers we are strong!
- SOLDIER 1:** We work hard to get along!
- SOLDIERS:** *(Repeating.)* We work hard to get along!
- SOLDIER 1:** We train hard to be the best!

- SOLDIERS:** *(Repeating.)* We train hard to be the best!
- SOLDIER 1:** We are ready for any test!
- SOLDIERS:** *(Repeating.)* We are ready for any test!
- SOLDIER 1:** If you want your life to be!
- SOLDIERS:** *(Repeating.)* If you want your life to be!
- SOLDIER 1:** A wonderful and nice journey!
- SOLDIERS:** *(Repeating.)* A wonderful and nice journey!
- SOLDIER 1:** Do some good things every day!
- SOLDIERS:** *(Repeating.)* Do some good things every day!
- SOLDIER 1:** Don't be lazy; don't betray!
- SOLDIERS:** *(Repeating.)* Don't be lazy, don't betray!
- (Soldiers march off and exit.)*
- TAUFIQ:** *(Worried by what the soldiers sang.)*
Zulkifli, things are getting stranger!
It seems as if the world knows I am in danger!
- NARRATOR 2:** The boys kept moving until they saw some doctors
Giving medicines to people in this sector.
(Doctors appear with stethoscopes and syringes, treating a variety of people who live in the jungle. Zulkifli and Taufiq approach them.)
- DOCTOR 1:** *(To the patient, giving medicine with a spoon.)*
Don't worry please just take one sip of this
- PATIENT:** *(Complaining)* Oh my god it smells like old rubbish!
- DOCTOR 1:** Please take it, it will help you; don't you worry!
- PATIENT:** Okay, okay, just give now, please hurry!
(Taufiq and Zulkifli approach the doctors)
- TAUFIQ:** *(Calling out to the doctors.)*

Hello doctors, what are you doing?

DOCTOR 1: *(Replying.)* We're protecting all these people from diseases

Diseases which spread throughout this year's seasons

We're giving them protection nice and early

We come here to help these people yearly

Because we plan ahead and do good preparation

We save ourselves from a lot of aggravation! *(All exit.)*

TAUFIQ: *(With growing fear)*

Zulkifli, my friend, what is this mystery?

Everyone has a sign for me.

NARRATOR 1: Finally, after some pain and striving

The boys found some rest from their climbing

They found the dwelling place of the Mbok Jamu

Taufiq sighed in relief and Zulkifli too

ZULKIFLI: *(Shouting out to the Mbok Jamu.)*

Hello, Madam Mbok Jamu!

I have someone who needs some help from you!

(The Mbok Jamu appears, carrying her basket of herbal medicines.)

MBOK JAMU: Hello, young man, Mr Zulkifli!

Who is the one who needs some help from me?

TAUFIQ: *(Coming forward shyly- handing the money.)*

Please madam, my name is Taufiq

Your help, for a school test, is what I seek

Please can you give me some special drink

Which will make me pass and make me think!

(She studies Taufiq very carefully, then speaks.)

MBOK JAMU: Okay Mr Taufiq, I will certainly help you
Here's a drink which will assist you through
Your coming test and make you see things true
Take this drink just before your test
But make sure that you follow this request
Put in a sprinkle of Garam before you inject.
(The Mbok jamu hands taufiq a little flask. She exits.)

TAUFIQ: *(Calling to her as she leaves.)*
Oh thank you, thank you, madam Mbok Jamu
May the blessings of Allah always be with you!
(Taufiq and Zulkifli exit.)
(Narrator 1 and 2 come forward. It is the next day and the children are lining up for the test. Children enter with Taufiq waiting in line.)

NARRATOR 2: In school the following day, the children were in line
Taufiq prepared the drink with garam just in time
And now before the test he felt sublime.
(Taufiq takes the flask out of his bag, sprinkles some salt inside and then take a long drink. He feels really happy and confident as a result. The children all look anxious except for Taufiq. Then a teacher appears.)

TEACHER: Okay children, please come into the hall
The test is ready and you must not talk at all.
(The teacher and the children, including Taufiq exit.)

NARRATOR 1: So how did Taufiq perform in his school test?

NARRATOR 2: Did he fail or did he find success?

NARRATOR 1: Taufiq got his results, after two weeks.

NARRATOR 2: Did he celebrate or did he weep?

(Taufiq enters outside the Mbok Jamu's house, looking frustrated, with a piece of paper in his hand. He walks up and down, shouting out for the Mbok Jamu.)

TAUFIQ: Madam Mbok Jamu Please come and speak to me!
I took your drink but it didn't really help me!
I thought you said the drink will make me brainy
Instead I found this test so difficult and hazy!
By only a single mark, I passed the test!
I thought your drink will make be the very best.
(The Mbok Jamu appears, smiling sympathetically at Taufiq.)

MBOK JAMU: You passed the test, you avoided all the anguish
From your dad, the mission was accomplished.
I gave you a drink but it was not very special;
The only true ingredient was the garam.

TAUFIQ: *(Looking and sounding shocked.)*
Madam Mbok Jamu, I can't believe it!
You cheated me, you lied to me, deceiving!
I paid you good money, to make me pass the test
To make me great, to make me just the best!
(Taufiq listens to the Mbok jamu carefully.)

MBOK JAMU: Listen to me young man, please take this lesson
Today I will give you an important message
The garam, the pinch of salt was confidence
The garam was self-belief and assurance.
You passed because of this belief you had,
Your self-belief saved you from your dad
If you desire a higher grade than pass
You have to prepare much earlier in class
Just like it take me months to make my ingredients
You also have to work harder, with obedience
Revision and review are the best herbs and spices

Planning your time is of the best rices
Practising and avoiding distractions
This will improve your memory and actions
And then you need the garam, the pinch of salt
Self belief and confidence will save you from all faults.

(Now all the characters come onto the stage, as part of the finale, standing side by side, facing the audience.)

FINALE: FINAL POEM

TAUFIQ'S DAD: Thank you friends for watching this short play
ZULKIFLI: In which Taufiq learned a lesson to improve his ways
VENDOR 1: If you have a test at school or work
VENDOR 2: Make sure that you prepare and study first
POLICE 1: Don't leave your studying to the last minute
POLICE 2: Because you will definitely regret it
FARMER: Don't let distractions lead you far away
SOLDIER 1: Don't let your desires lead you astray
DOCTOR 1: Give time to your family, give time to your self
DOCTOR 2: Make time for studying, make time for your health
MBOK JAMU: Remember the salt of confidence and self-belief
TAUFIQ: Remember preparation brings relief
NARRATOR 1: Take care dear friends, we wish you a lovely journey
NARRATOR 2: In the future there will be more drama to see!

(ALL EXIT: CURTAIN)

