

ZUNI DRAGONFLY'S TALE PUPPET SHOW

Dragonfly

*(Enters, circling, humming
"Oh what a beautiful day")*

Oh! Hello, boys and girls. I'm enjoying this beautiful summer sun and these corn tassels. Do you know who I am? That's right! I'm a dragonfly, and I want to tell you the Zuni storytellers' tale of how I came to be.

Look, here come the Corn Maidens!

Corn Maidens

(Enter, move across stage)

Dragonfly

(Moving back and forth)

Many lifetimes ago, some people called the A'shiwi lived on top of a hill in the village of Ha'Wi'koo. These two powerful spirits watched over the people. The Corn Maidens sent warm spring winds to melt the snow, and summer rains to help the corn grow.

The A'shiwi worked hard to grow corn and squash and melons. They had more food than they could eat. They then stored it away for the winter, and the Corn Maidens blessed them.

Corn Maidens

(Bow heads, then exit)

Dragonfly

One day the chief was watching some children having a mud fight. The children were throwing gobs of mud at each other. The chief had an idea.

Look, here come the chief and the elders.

Chief and Elders

(Enter)

**PUT DRAGONFLY IN
BASE****Chief**

(Looking right and left)

We must show our neighbors that we are great and powerful. Let's invite them to a big battle, such as the children play. But instead of bows and arrows we will use bread and dough for our weapons. Our neighbors will be jealous when they see that we have so much food we can waste it in play.

Elders

(Nodding heads)

You have a good idea. Let's do it! We'll get ready for the party.

Chief and Elders

(Exit)

Boy and Sister

(Enter)

Dragonfly

The boy and his sister were playing while their parents were getting ready for the big feast.

Corn Maidens

(Enter with blanket and move toward boy and sister)

(In unison) There is a great commotion in the village of Ha'Wi'koo. The people are preparing for a big feast, and they've invited their neighbors. Let's go see what is happening. We will go dressed like ragged, old beggars, so the people won't know who we are.

Boy

Look sister. Here are two poor, old grandmothers. They look hungry. No one has invited them to come in and sit and eat. Let's give them some of our corn cakes.

PICK UP BREAD

Chief and Elders

(Enter)

Chief

(Moves quickly toward boy)

Give me that food! Do not waste good food on these lazy beggars. Just like the coyotes they are looking for an easy meal. Now, let our games begin!

Chief and Elders

(Exit throwing bread))

Corn Maidens

How can this be? Our people are wasting this good food. We are sad when we see how they treat the gifts we have given them. It is time to teach our people a lesson. Soon there will be no food in the village of Ha'Wi'koo.

Boy and Sister and Corn Maidens

(Exit)

REMOVE BLANKET

PUT ON MOUSE

Dragonfly

Look, the invited guest left in disgust and armies of mice, called by the Corn Maidens are taking away the food.

Mouse *(Runs across 3 times with food, exits).*

Sing "3 blind mice"

Dragonfly

When the A'shiwi looked the next morning, their storerooms were half full.

Elders

(Enter)

Chief

Who cares if our food is gone? We can always grow more.

Elders

(Nod in agreement)

Chief and Elders

(Exit)

***LOWER THE WINTER
SCENE***

Dragonfly

Winter came. It was long and cold. The warm winds came late that year, and there was no rain. Their corn plants turned yellow and dried up in the fields. Then winter returned, and snow fell on the dead corn plants. The storerooms were empty. The people had no food to eat.

Chief and Elders

(Enter wearing blanket)

Chief

What can we do? Our people are cold and hungry. Our priests have sung their most sacred chants and danced their most powerful dances. But the Corn Maidens have forgotten us. Our storerooms are empty. My people are starving. We must go to our neighbors for help.

(shouts)

People of Ha'Wi'koo, gather up your warmest robes and blankets. We must leave the village tonight!

Chief and Elders

(Exit. Remove blanket)

Boy and Sister

(Sleeping on stage)

Dragonfly

When the people left, they forgot about the boy and his little sister sleeping in their house.

Boy

(Waking up)

Oh, I am so hungry; all I can do is sleep. Where is everyone? The village is as silent as the snow.

Boy
(Leaves stage, agitated, and returns)

Everyone has left the village. We are here alone.

Boy
(Thinking out loud)

I am so afraid—but I will think of something. First I will build a fire. Then I will gather a dried corn plant from the field and make a toy for my little sister. And maybe she will forget how scared and hungry she is. I know! I'll make a butterfly. I'll use a dry cornstalk for the body and cornhusks for the wings.

Boy
(Exits, returns with toy. Wakes up sister. Gives her the toy)

Little sister, everyone has left the village. We are alone. But look! I have made you this beautiful butterfly. It doesn't look much like a butterfly, but I hope it will make you happy.

Dragonfly

Then the boy heard the sound of his sister laughing for the first time since the old ones had left. The little girl touched the corn stock toy's wings and said, "You have funny wings. I am going to call you Being-That-Flies." She played with the toy all day. Before the boy went to sleep that night he said to the Being-That-Flies, please fly away and find us something to eat.

Then I moved my wings a little bit and found out I could fly.

Dragonfly *(Flies to butterfly corn toy, touches it, then flies away)*

Boy, Sister, Butterfly Corn Toy *(Exit)*

RAISE WINTER SCENE

Corn Maidens *(Enter)*

Dragonfly
(Approaches Corn Maidens)

Corn Maidens, do you remember the two little children who offered you corncakes when you dressed up like old beggars and came to Ha'Wi'koo? The children are alone and hungry. All the people are starving. They left the village and forgot to take the boy and his sister. The children need corn to eat. Will you help them?

Corn Maidens

Yes, we will gladly help the little ones! We remember how kind they were to us. Take them food from our storehouse!

Dragonfly

(Excited flies away humming)

Corn Maidens
(Exit)

PLACE BASKET ON STAGE

Boy and Sister
(Enter)

Boy
(Sees corn, excited looks for toy)

Look at this corn! Where is our Being-That-Flies? Maybe he flew away and brought us this food. I know what we'll do! We will plant some of this corn so we can have food next winter. And we'll thank the Corn Maidens for blessing us.

Dragonfly

The children planted the corn, and that night rain fell over Ha'Wi'koo. A warm wind blew and melted the snow. Little plants began to grow, and soon the fields were filled with corn.

Chief and Elders
(Enter)

Dragonfly

Then the A'shiwi returned. They were surprised when they saw all the corn.

Chief

The Corn Maidens have again blessed our village. But look! Here are the two children who tried to help the old beggars. And I told them not to help the poor. I did not want to share our food with poor old people. I was too proud.

Elders

These children have been blessed! The Corn Maidens have brought them gifts.

Chief

We have learned from these children! From now on we will be thankful for our blessings. We will not waste our food. And we will share it with each other and our neighbors and the poor. Then maybe the Corn Maidens will bless us all.

Chief, Elders, Boy, Sister, and Basket
(Exit)

Dragonfly
(Hovers, humming "Hush

Little Baby”)

Corn Maidens

(Enter)

Dragonfly

After that the people of Ha’Wi’koo were kind and generous like the boy and his sister. And their fields were filled with many ears of corn for the years to come.

As for me, at first little sister touched my funny wings and called me Being-That-Flies. Now everyone calls me Dragonfly. My home is among the corn tassels. In early summer, when the corn begins to bloom, I come back. I spend my summer days flying from one corn tassel to the next, humming and being happy. For that’s what a Dragonfly likes to do!

***BOBS UP AND DOWN
WITH JOY***

Dragonfly

(Flies away, humming

“Leaving on a Jet Plane”)

Corn Maidens

(Exit)

THE END