

Abiyoyo Drama

By David Ruggiero

Adapted from the Story, *Abiyoyo* by Pete Seeger

(All Children off stage)

Narrator (Teacher): Once upon a time, there was a little boy who played the ukelele.

(Little boy walks in with ukelele)

Around town he'd go, *(Students say "Strum Strum")*

The grown-ups would say "Take that thing out of here!" Not only that. The boy's father got in trouble. The boy's father was a magician. He had a magic wand.

(Father walks in with magic wand)

He'd go *(Students play the flexatone and vibraslap together followed by the bell tree.)*

and make things disappear. But he played too many tricks on people. He'd come up to someone about to drink a nice cold glass of something

(Girl walks out and sits down with a pretend glass in hand) He'd go *(Students play the flexatone and vibraslap together followed by the bell tree.)*

The glass disappears.

(Girl pretends to drop the water and glass.)

(Workers enter and pretend to saw wood)

Someone doing a hard job of work, *(Students play the guiro.)*

up comes the father with the magic wand. *(Father walks in with wand)* He'd go *(Students play the flexatone and vibraslap together followed by the bell tree.)*

No saw.

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He'd come up to someone about to sit down after a hard day's work.

(Laborer walks in and attempts to sit – Student crouches to a sitting position pretending to sit in a chair.) He'd go (Students play the flexatone and vibraslap together followed by the bell tree.)

(The laborer falls on the floor – Student plops over.)

No chair.

(The boy enters and stands next to father.)

(People enter and walk up to father. People point.)

People said to the father, "You get out of here, too. Take your magic wand and your tricks, and you and your son just git!" The boy and his father were ostracized. That means they made 'em live on the edge of town.

(The boy and father walk away with their heads down.)

Now in this town they used to tell stories. The old people used to tell stories about the giants that lived in the old days. They used to tell about a giant called Abiyoyo. They said he was as tall as a tree and could eat people up. Of course, nobody believed the story, but they told it anyway.

(The father and son pretend to go to sleep and stay that way.)

One day, one day, the sun rose blood red over the hill. The first people got up and looked out the window.

(People look out an imaginary window)

They saw a great big shadow in front of the sun.

(People look scared.)

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They could feel the whole ground shake.

(Students play footsteps on the drums.)

Women screamed!

(Girls look like they are screaming without sound.)

Strong men fainted.

(Boys wiggle down and look like they fainted.)

“Run for your lives! Abiyoyo’s coming!”

(Abiyoyo enters from back of room.)

(Students play footsteps on the drums.)

He comes up to a sheep pasture and tries to grab a whole sheep.

(Abiyoyo pretends to try and grab a sheep.)

The sheep run. *(Students play a scatter pattern on the glockenspiels, and other students “baa” like a sheep.)*

(Abiyoyo spins around slowly.)

He comes to a cow pasture and tries to grab a whole cow.

(Abiyoyo pretends to try and grab a cow.)

The cows run. *(Students play a scatter pattern on the glockenspiels, and other students “moo” like a cow.)*

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(Abiyoyo spins around slowly.)

Men yelled. “Grab your most precious possessions and run! Run!”

(Everyone scatters and Abiyoyo walks around slowly. Students play a scatter pattern on the glockenspiels while other students play footsteps on the drums.)

Just then, the boy and his father woke up.

(The boy and Father wake up.)

The boy said, “Hey paw, what’s coming over the fields?”

(Students play footsteps on the drums quietly.)

The father replied, “Why son, that’s Abiyoyo. Oh, if only I could get him to lie down, I could make him disappear.”

The boy said in a firm voice, “Come with me, Paw.” The boy grabs his father’s hand. The father gets his magic wand. The boy gets his ukulele, and they both run across the fields.

(The boy grabs his father by one hand and pretends to get his ukulele, and the Father pretends to get his magic wand, and they both pretend to run across the fields.)

Meanwhile, people are yelling, “Abiyoyo’s hungry! Don’t go near that giant, or you could be lunch!”

(Abiyoyo walks to center stage. Others sit in a circle around the giant. One person points to each of Abiyoyo’s features with a long pointer stick or ruler as the narrator speaks.)

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There was Abiyoyo! He had long fingernails 'cause he never cut 'em.
(Student with the pointer, points to the fingernails.)

He had slobbery teeth 'cause he didn't wash 'em, *(Abiyoyo shows his teeth and the student with the pointer points to the teeth.),*

matted hair 'cause he didn't comb it. *(The student with the pointer points to the hair.)*

He had stink'en feet cause he never washed 'em. *(The student with the pointer, points to the feet, puts a disgusted look on his or her face and waves a hand back and forth across his or her nose.)*

He raised up his claws... *(Abiyoyo raises both hands as if to attack.)*

Just then, the boy whips out his ukulele.

(The boy pretends to play his ukulele.) (Students play the Abiyoyo Arrangement.)

Well, you know, the giant had never heard a song about himself before.

(Abiyoyo starts to grin)

A foolish grin spread over his face. And the giant began to dance.

(The boy pretends to play his ukulele.) (Students play the Abiyoyo Arrangement.)

As Abiyoyo dances, the giant gets more and more off balance, so the boy played faster and faster. Soon the tempo was too much for Abiyoyo. The giant got out of breath. He became dizzy. He staggered and fell down flat on the ground.

(Abiyoyo breathes heavy and falls to the ground.)

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Up steps the father. He waves his magic wand, *(Students play the flexatone and vibraslap together followed by the bell tree.)*

And Abiyoyo disappeared.

(Abiyoyo walks off.)

People looked out their windows.

(People look out the windows)

With glee they yelled, “He’s gone! Abiyoyo’s disappeared!”

(People run across the fields and hi-five the boy and his father.)

At that moment, the people realized that everyone has value in the community, and all contribute in their own way, so they said to the father and the little boy, “Come back to town. Bring your darn ukulele. We don’t care anymore.”, and everyone lived in harmony from that day forward.

(Students play the Abiyoyo Arrangement. The other students pretend to dance, and freeze at the end of the song.)

The end.