

Squanto's Squash (Participation Version)

By Carol Montgomery

Performance Time = almost 6 minutes

Readability = grade 4.5 (substituting "Nat" for "Narrator" lowers readability two grades)

Cast List (7-10+ with optional chorus)*:

Narrator 1	Chorus/Audience
Narrator 2	Narrator 3
Narrator 4	Voice
Pilgrim 1	Pilgrim 2
Captain Standish	Samoset
Squanto	

* Note: This could easily be performed with 2 strong narrators instead of 4. The "Voice" could actually be a Pilgrim.

TIP: For clarity of the characters for an audience, use simple signs on non-narrators.

Vocabulary:

encyclopedia	Plymouth	stunned	Algonquin
mysterious	plague	kidnapped	informed
Massasoit	Tisquantum	Englishmen	warriors
interpreting	eventually	agreement	directions
excellent	remember	otherwise	medicine
interpret(ing)	thankfulness	abundance	including
persevere	Samoset	Standish	Squanto



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Narrator 1: Now don't get me wrong; I'm not trying to change history or anything. I just want the facts straight.

Narrator 2: What facts? What in the world are you talking about?

Narrator 1: Well, according to the World Book Encyclopedia volume 16, page 639 (copyright 1960), and I quote:

(*voice of authority*) "Squash is the name given to three groups of pumpkin plants."

Narrator 2: Who cares?

Narrator 1: I care because today we're sharing "Squanto's Squash."

Narrator 2: Do I get to eat it?

Narrator 1: No, just listen. And every time you hear the words "Squanto" or "squash" cheer, okay?

Narrator 2: Gotcha. But, the rest of these guys better join me. (*gestures to audience*)

Narrator 1: What do you say audience? Will you cheer when you hear the words "Squanto" or "squash"?

Chorus/Audience: Hooray!

Narrator 2: (*to audience*) Okay, every time I cheer, you cheer.

Narrator 1: Great! You've probably heard of the Pilgrims. They had a terrible first winter in Plymouth. It was bitter cold.

Narrator 3: They were weak from three months at sea. Many became sick and about half their number died—51 to be exact.

Narrator 4: But, they didn't give up when things got hard.

Narrator 3: They worked hard and prayed.

Voice: For squash?

Narrator 2 & Chorus: (*with audience*) Hooray!

Narrator 3: One day the men were meeting in the common house when they heard a shout,

Voice: Indian coming!

Captain Standish: What? You must mean Indians.

Pilgrim 1: No, there's just one. He's tall, strong, and here now!

Samoset: *(deep voice)* Welcome!

Narrator 1: Everyone was stunned because he spoke English.

Narrator 3: One Pilgrim man answered,

Pilgrim 2: Welcome.

Samoset: I am Samoset, a visiting chief of the Algonquin tribe.

Captain Standish: What can you tell us about the Indians around here?

Samoset: Hmmm... This is Patuxet land. They hated the white man. They would squash...

Narrator 2 & Chorus: *(with audience)* Hooray!

Samoset: ...the white man like a bug between their fingers.

Pilgrim 1: Oh, no!

Captain Standish: We'll keep that in mind.

Samoset: No need; a mysterious plague showed up four years ago and the whole tribe died—except one...Squanto.

Narrator 2 & Chorus: *(with audience)* Hooray!

Samoset: Squanto...

Narrator 2 & Chorus: *(with audience)* Hooray!

Samoset: was kidnapped as a slave, but returned a few months ago to his empty village. He misses his people. I will bring him next time. He, too, speaks English.

Pilgrim 2: We will welcome him, also.

Narrator 3: Samoset told stories until it was dark, then informed the Pilgrims,

Samoset: I will stay the night.

Narrator 4: Captain Standish was not thrilled with the idea. How did he know they could trust Samoset? He thought to himself,

Captain Standish: (*quietly*) We will keep a watch over you then.

Narrator 3: In the morning Samoset left with gifts for his chief friend, Massasoit: a knife, a bracelet, and a ring.

Pilgrim 2: I wonder when we'll see him again?

Pilgrim 1: Maybe when he brings Squanto.

Narrator 2 & Chorus: (*with audience*) Hooray!

Narrator 4: The next Thursday Samoset returned with his friend, Tisquantum, also called Squanto.

Narrator 2 & Chorus: (*with audience*) Hooray!

Squanto: Welcome, Englishmen. Do not be afraid of Chief Massasoit and his 60 warriors here. I expect we will have a peace treaty soon with Chief Samoset interpreting.

Narrator 1: A peace treaty was agreed upon and eventually lasted 40 years! But, when Chief Massasoit and his warriors left after the agreement, one man stayed...

Narrator 4: Squanto.

Narrator 2 & Chorus: (*with audience*) Hooray!

Narrator 4: He didn't give up because it was hard with his people gone.

Narrator 3: He saw the Pilgrims needed his help to survive.

Squanto: I will teach you how to catch eels. First, you squash...

Narrator 2 & Chorus: (*with audience*) Hooray!

Squanto: That is, mash the eels out of the mud with your bare feet and catch them with your hands. Then you wash them and cook them.

Narrator 3: The Pilgrims followed the directions and thought,

Pilgrim 1: Fat and sweet!

Pilgrim 2: Excellent eating.

Squanto: I will also teach you the right way to plant corn—four to five kernels in a mound and three little fish all around!

Pilgrim 2: Why the fish?

Squanto: To enrich the soil. But, remember to guard against the wolves for two weeks. Otherwise, they'll steal the fish.

Narrator 4: Squanto...

Narrator 2 & Chorus: (*with audience*) Hooray!

Narrator 4: That is, Tisquantum helped every way he could—teaching the Pilgrims how to stalk deer, make maple syrup from maple sap, and plant pumpkins among the corn.

Pilgrim 1: We call the pumpkins planted with the corn Squanto's squash.

Narrator 2 & Chorus: (*with audience*) Hooray!

Pilgrim 2: (*smiles*) Pumpkins with ears!

Squanto: I must teach you to find herbs for food and medicine.

Narrator 1: So, he did. He also taught the Pilgrims how to hunt beaver in order to trade the fur pelts.

Squanto: I will guide you and interpret for you as you trade with the other tribes.

Captain Standish: You're all right, Squanto.

Narrator 2 & Chorus: (*with audience*) Hooray!

Pilgrim 1: He's more than all right.

Pilgrim 2: He's a super hero!

Narrator 4: And so the Pilgrims were bursting with thankfulness—not only to God for the abundance of food they now had, including squash...

Narrator 2 & Chorus: (*with audience*) Hooray!

Narrator 4: But also for their new super hero friend God used to help them persevere...

Squanto: Tisquantum, Squanto.

Narrator 2 & Chorus: (*with audience*) Hooray!

Samoset: My friend.

Narrator 3: The End



Squanto's Squash (Short Version)

By Carol Montgomery

Performance Duration = about 3 1/2 minutes

Readability = grade 4.5 (2.6 substituting the word reader for narrator)

Cast (7-9)*:

Narrator 1	Narrator 2
Narrator 3	Voice
Pilgrim 1	Pilgrim 2
Captain Standish	Samoset
Squanto	

* Note: There is no audience participation in this shortened version. This could easily be performed with 2 strong narrators instead of 3. The "Voice" could actually be a Pilgrim.

TIP: For clarity of the characters for an audience, use simple signs on non-narrators.

Vocabulary

Plymouth	stunned	Algonquin	persevere
mysterious	plague	kidnapped	informed
Massasoit	Tisquantum	Englishmen	warriors
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excellent	remember	otherwise	medicine
interpret	thankfulness	abundance	Patuxet



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Narrator 1: You've probably heard of the Pilgrims. They had a terrible first winter in Plymouth. It was bitter cold.

Narrator 2: They were weak from three months at sea. Many became sick and about half their number died—51 to be exact.

Narrator 3: But, they didn't give up when things got hard.

Narrator 1: They worked hard and prayed.

Narrator 2: One day the men were meeting in the common house when they heard a shout,

Voice: Indian coming!

Captain Standish: What? You must mean Indians.

Pilgrim 1: No, there's just one. He's tall, strong, and here now!

Samoset: *(deep voice)* Welcome!

Narrator 1: Everyone was stunned because he spoke English.

Narrator 3: One Pilgrim man answered,

Pilgrim 2: Welcome.

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Captain Standish: What can you tell us about the Indians around here?

Samoset: Hmm... This is Patuxet land. They hated the white man. They would squash the white man like a bug between their fingers.

Pilgrim 1: Oh, no!

Captain Standish: We'll keep that in mind.

Samoset: No need; a mysterious plague showed up four years ago and the whole tribe died—except one...Squanto. He was kidnapped as a slave, but returned a few months ago to his empty village. He misses his people. I will bring him next time. He, too, speaks English.

Pilgrim 2: We will welcome him, also.

Narrator 3: Samoset told stories until it was dark, then informed the Pilgrims,

Samoset: I will stay the night.

Narrator 1: Captain Standish was not thrilled with the idea. How did he know they could trust Samoset? He thought to himself,

Captain Standish: (*quietly*) We will keep a watch over you then.

Narrator 3: In the morning Samoset left with gifts for his chief friend, Massasoit: a knife, a bracelet, and a ring.

Pilgrim 2: I wonder when we'll see him again?

Pilgrim 1: Maybe when he brings Squanto.

Narrator 2: The next Thursday Samoset returned with his friend, Tisquantum, also called Squanto.

Squanto: Welcome, Englishmen. Do not be afraid of Chief Massasoit and his 60 warriors here. I expect we will have a peace treaty soon with Chief Samoset interpreting.

Narrator 1: A peace treaty was agreed upon and eventually lasted 40 years! But, when Chief Massasoit and his warriors left after the agreement, one man stayed...

Narrator 2: Squanto.

Narrator 3: He didn't give up because it was hard with his people gone.

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Squanto: I will teach you how to catch eels. First, you squash the eels out of the mud with your bare feet and catch them with your hands. Then you wash them and cook them.

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Squanto: To enrich the soil. But, remember to guard against the wolves for two weeks. Otherwise, they'll steal the fish.

Narrator 3: Squanto, that is Tisquantum, helped every way he could—teaching the Pilgrims how to stalk deer, make maple syrup from maple sap, and plant pumpkins among the corn.

Pilgrim 1: We call the pumpkins planted with the corn Squanto's squash.

Pilgrim 2: (*smiles*) Pumpkins with ears!

Squanto: I must teach you to find herbs for food and medicine.

Narrator 3: So, he did. He also taught the Pilgrims how to hunt beaver in order to trade the fur pelts.

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Narrator 1: And so the Pilgrims were bursting with thankfulness—not only to God for the abundance of food they now had...

Narrator 2: But also for their new super hero friend God used to help them persevere...

Squanto: Tisquantum, Squanto.

Samoset: My friend.

Narrator 3: The End



Curriculum Links (Valid as of January 2017):

<http://learningtogive.org/lessons/unit72/lesson5.html>

Unusual lesson on “Squanto and His Philanthropic Contributions,” based on the needs the Pilgrim community. Practical applications to life—more than just eating a Thanksgiving dinner.

<http://www.plimoth.org/learn/just-kids>

An amazing **interactive site for students to investigate Pilgrims and the First Thanksgiving**. I didn't go to each page, but it looks like a great site with tons of information on Native Americans, Pilgrims, and Thanksgiving.

<http://www.educationworld.com/holidays/archives/thanksgiving.shtml>

Plenty of links to lots of Thanksgiving activities, including this one for grades K-12 on Thanksgiving placemats as a community-service project:

http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/dailyp/dailyp/dailyp028.shtml

<http://www.theteacherscorner.net/seasonal/thanksgiving/songs.php>

Silly Thanksgiving song lyrics to old familiar tunes. (I didn't try them all!) But, you could use the ideas and lyrics many ways. What about the students writing their own Thanksgiving songs or hymns?

You Tube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x3dXCL34aEA&feature=related>

Nice 3 min. video of Thanksgiving medley of traditional Thanksgiving hymns with the words over the photos.

