

Theatre for Young Audiences by Joanna Kraus



[The Dragon Hammer and The Tale of Oniroku](#)

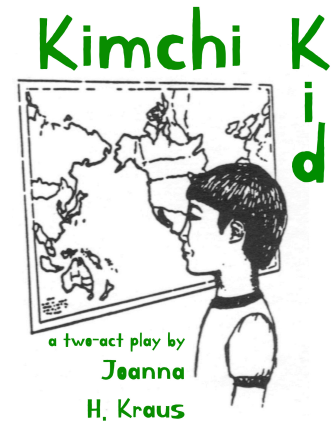
The Dragon Hammer comes from an old fairy tale, "The Mallet of Wealth," from the town of Ongyang in the southern section of Korea. Bang-Su, a poor boy, hunting for firewood, discovers the goblins' magic hammer. When it brings Bang-Su boots, he rushes home to wish for rice. Lazy Chang-Gil, overhears the tale and decides to get his own hammer. Enraged goblins stretch his tongue. A chastened Chang-Gil uses the tongue to replace a broken bridge. Seeing his repentance, Bang-Su wishes the

painful punishment away. A changed Chang-Gil offers to help the villagers rebuild.

The Tale of Oniroku comes from an old folk tale, "The Carpenter and Oniroku," from the prefecture of Iwate in the northeast section of Japan. When the village bridge breaks, the villagers beg Taro, the carpenter, to repair it. But a river ogre interferes, insisting only he can do it in exchange for Taro's eyes, otherwise, threatening disaster. The bridge is built. The ogre gloats. Horrified, Taro pleads for time. The ogre agrees that if Taro can guess his name in one week, he won't snatch out his eyes. At the last possible moment, Taro discovers it.

[Kimchi Kid](#)

When Hak Soo, a nine-year old Korean boy, arrives at a New York airport, he's frightened by the excited crowd of black and white faces, cameras flashing. Seven-year old Min-Ji, also adopted, but to another couple grips his hand, until she's snatched away. Does Hak Soo belong to Korea, where he's despised because his father was American, or to his new home where children call him names? Hak Soo wants none of the strange food his adoptive mother offers or the stuffed bear she tries to give him. When a clash with a bully escalates to a broken school window, he wants to return to Korea even if he has to walk. His new parents and their Korean friend try to help, and a sympathetic classmate points out that it is the same in both languages. Eventually, it's Hak Soo who explains what adoption means, and he's reunited with Min Ji. The hard-won bonding of a family comes through love and respect, and Hak Soo's ability to welcome two homes in his heart.



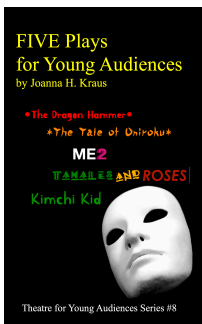
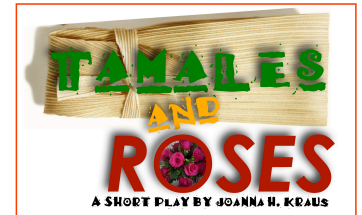
[Me2](#)

Two girls, raised in opposite parts of the country, accidentally meet in an upscale California mall. Madison and Emily, both eighth graders, realize that not only do they look exactly alike and have the same birthday, but they have too many similarities for it to be pure coincidence. Drew, Madison's friend, insists that they must be twins. Overriding Madison's father's objections, they pursue an answer and are thrilled to discover that, yes, they are identical twins, who were separated at birth. They vow to be friends forever and plan to visit over

spring break. But there is one significant difference between them. Emily is in an Honors Math class and Madison is barely getting by. Madison's crucial city-wide high school placement test is imminent, and she's desperate. Madison pressures Emily to take the math section in her place arguing, "No one can tell us apart." Emily calls it cheating. Madison calls her 'Selfish,' and Emily storms out. When Drew sees Emily crying he confronts Madison and is shocked by the situation. "Could you live with that lie?" he asks Madison. "Do you want to lose your twin, your one and only sister?" Ashamed, Madison apologizes to her twin, followed by a hint of reconciliation. An ideal play for High School competitions and festivals. It could also play convincingly and easily for an online presentation. A Teacher's Guide is included with the rental of the Production Script. **NEW**

Tamales and Roses

When a flower girl gets stage fright and can't start the wedding procession, she's convinced no one will forgive her. But her Hispanic family demonstrates their understanding and unceasing love. The 30-minute bi-lingual participation play, adds music and dancing and is geared to a K-2 audience, but can play for older children and families. **NEW**



Five Theatre for Young Audiences Plays Volume 8 Plays for Young Audiences Series

All five of the plays listed above are contained in this one volume. These plays speak to young hearts and minds whether they are in school, in the home, or in the work force. These plays are about life and honor, about love and family, about the gifts of culture from around the world and right here at home. Written by Award Winner, Joanna H. Kraus over a span of nearly 50 years, her prolific career boasts many more plays, plus fiction novels, that deal with the timeless issues still facing our citizens and our society: Bullying, Adoption, Blended Families, Being Decent, Kind, and Loving, Tolerance, the Nature of Truth, Parenting, and Coming of Age. **NEW**

A Musical for Adults by Joanna Kraus (with C. Michael Perry)

SOFIA: A Musical Inspired by a Southwest Legend

Set late 19th century (1881-1895), SOFIA is about the biggest land fraud in United States history and the Latina young woman who is duped by an unscrupulous, albeit charming, rogue. James Addison Reeves is always looking for an angle. When he seizes on the idea that an "old" Spanish Land Grant could make him rich, he sets things in motion to make the biggest land-grab in U.S. history. He dupes Sofia, a poor illiterate Latina Californian ranch servant, into thinking that she's actually Dona Sofia, the long-lost daughter of Spanish nobles, and heiress to the Territory of Arizona. He turns her into a Baroness. He forges, hides, and then amazingly finds these documents in Spain, Mexico and California and works to convince the Court of Private Land Claims that the nearly two hundred documents are legitimate. Sofia his ward, becomes his wife. For years they are feted like royalty wherever they go. Everything is in line to keep them both wealthy. Then, one day a newspaper editor spots an obscure flaw and Reavis makes a gross mistake. A sharp attorney who is also not having any of what Reavis is serving up. Suspicious, Sofia begs for answers but gets none. At court, she removes her lace mantilla as Reavis is arrested still insisting that Sofia is every inch a baroness. **NEW**

