
Full Circle



Characters

DOTTY SPOTSWORTH – a circle expert

Amazon Indian myth

AMAZON NARRATOR

IAE – Amazon hero [say: ee-AH-ay]

KUAT – Iae's brother, also a hero
[say: KOO-at]

URUBUTSIN – king of the birds
[say: yoo-ROO-but-sin]

Zuni American Indian myth

ZUNI NARRATOR [say: ZOO-nee]

COYOTE

EAGLE

African myth

AFRICAN NARRATOR

4 HELPERS

Japanese myth

OLD MAN – the Moon

RABBIT

MONKEY

FOX

1 HELPER

Maori myth

MAORI NARRATOR

RONA

MAORI MOON

Estonian folktale

ESTONIAN NARRATOR

3 HELPERS

PUPPETEER 1 – controls FARMER puppet

PUPPETEER 2 – controls SON and FARMHAND puppets

Inuit people of Greenland myth

INUIT NARRATOR [say: INN-yoo-it]

1 HELPER

Aborigine Australian myth

ABORIGINE NARRATOR

BAHLOO – the Moon

4 OR MORE GIRLS

A GROUP OF PEOPLE

WAHN – the crow

Tibetan myth

TIBETAN NARRATOR

LEADER – a monkey

3 MORE MONKEYS

Setting

The performance space is a big circle, marked out with chalk or rope. This can be indoors or outdoors. Leave two aisles to allow performers to enter and exit. The performers sit or stand at the back of the audience. A long strip of blue cloth is in the centre of the circle. This is used in all of the myths.

Full Circle

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 DOTTY SPOTSWORTH *enters and stands centre stage. She wears clothes and jewellery that are covered in circles or spots. She carries a book, also covered with circles. She moves around, addressing different parts of the audience.*

DOTTY: Hello. My name is Dotty Spotsworth and I am an expert on circles. I just love round things. No beginning, no end, no ugly angles and corners. Just full, complete, perfect circles.

My life's work [*holding up her book*] is to write a full, complete, perfect list of everything circular in the world, from steering wheels to ferris wheels, from buttons to balloons, from biscuits to breakfast bowls, from the smallest stone to the Earth itself.

But the Moon—now there's a riddle, a puzzle, a mystery. Some nights, I stand there and look up at the starry sky and there it is—this big, shining ball. Round and full and a perfect circle. Aha—I think! On the list it goes.

But other nights, I look up and see nothing more than a fingernail—a scrape, a sliver in the sky.

The question is—do I add the Moon to the list of full, complete, perfect circles?

To answer this question, I undertook a study tour of this wonderful, round world of ours to find out about the Moon.

The first people I spoke to were Amazon Indians living in Brazil. This is what they told me about the Moon.

[DOTTY *exits. The AMAZON NARRATOR enters and stands at the centre of the circle.*]

AMAZON: At the beginning of time the Amazons could not see any light. So many birds filled the skies that they blocked out the sunlight. It was always night-time. Until two brothers, Iae and Kuat—

[IAE and KUAT *enter.*]

AMAZON: decided to do something about it.

[*The AMAZON NARRATOR sits down at the edge of the circle.*]