

Squanto's Squash, Simplified (Participation Version)

By Carol Montgomery

Performance Time = almost 6 minutes

Readability = grade 2.6

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

Reader 1

Reader 2

Reader 3

Reader 4

Voice

Pilgrim 1

Pilgrim 2

Captain Standish

Samoset

Squanto

Chorus/Audience (Crowd)

* Note: This could easily be performed with 2 strong reader-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 (see next page)

Vocabulary for Squanto's Squash, Simplified (Participation Version):

according	herbs	stalk
against	hero	Standish
agreed	history	stayed
answered	Hooray	stories
around	including	super
authority	Indians	syrup
beaver	kernels	talking
became	kidnapped	Tasty
because	knife	taught
better	know	teach
between	lasted	thankfulness
bitter	listen	their
bracelet	maple	there's
bursting	Maybe	they
Captain	medicine	thought
catch	meeting	Thursday
change	misses	today
cheer	months	treaty
chief	morning	trying
Chorus	mound	village
coming	natives	visiting
common	needed	voice
could	peace	volume
crowd	pelts	watch
died	people	welcome
don't	Pilgrims	we'll
eels	planted	we're
empty	points	whole
Encyclopedia	prayed	winter
English	probably	wolves
enrich	pumpkins	wonder
every	quietly	words
fingers	quote	worked
friend	returned	world
given	Samoset	would
Gotcha	sharing	wrong
groups	sickness	years
guard	slave	your
guide	soil	You're
heard	Squanto	You've
helped	squash	

Squanto's Squash (Participation Version)

By Carol Montgomery

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

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

Reader 1: Well, according to the World Book Encyclopedia volume 16, page 639, and I quote:

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

Reader 2: Who cares?

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

Reader 2: Do I get to eat it?

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

Reader 2: Gotcha. But, the rest of these guys better join me. *(points to crowd)*

Reader 1: *(to crowd)* What do you say? Will you cheer when you hear the words "Squanto" or "squash"?

Crowd: Hooray!

Reader 2: *(to crowd)* Okay, every time I cheer, you cheer.

Reader 1: Great! You've probably heard of the Pilgrims. They had a very hard first winter. It was bitter cold.

Reader 3: They were weak from three months at sea. Many became sick. About half of them died.

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

Reader 3: They worked hard and prayed.

Voice: For squash?

Reader 2 & Chorus: *(with crowd)* Hooray!

Squanto's Squash, Simplified

Reader 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 natives, Indians.

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

Samoset: (*deep voice*) Welcome!

Reader 1: He spoke in English.

Reader 3: One Pilgrim man answered...

Pilgrim 2: Welcome.

Samoset: I am Samoset, a visiting chief.

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

Samoset: Hmm... They hated the white man. They would squash...

Reader 2 & Chorus: (*with crowd*) 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 sickness showed up four years ago. The whole tribe died. One man lived—Squanto.

Reader 2 & Chorus: (*with crowd*) Hooray!

Samoset: Squanto...

Reader 2 & Chorus: (*with crowd*) Hooray!

Samoset: was kidnapped as a slave. He 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.

Squanto's Squash, Simplified

Reader 3: Samoset told stories until it was dark. After dark he told the Pilgrims...

Samoset: I will stay the night.

Reader 4: Captain Standish was not happy. He did not know if they could trust Samoset. He thought...

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

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

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

Pilgrim 1: Maybe when he brings Squanto.

Reader 2 & Chorus: (*with crowd*) Hooray!

Reader 4: The next Thursday Samoset returned with his friend Squanto.

Reader 2 & Chorus: (*with crowd*) Hooray!

Squanto: Welcome. Do not be afraid of us. We will have a peace treaty soon.

Reader 1: A peace treaty was agreed upon. It lasted 40 years! But, when the chief and natives left, one man stayed...

Reader 4: Squanto.

Reader 2 & Chorus: (*with crowd*) Hooray!

Reader 4: He did not give up.

Reader 3: He saw the Pilgrims needed his help to live.

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

Reader 2 & Chorus: (*with crowd*) 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.

Reader 3: The Pilgrims did what he said. They thought...

Squanto's Squash, Simplified

Pilgrim 1: Fat and sweet!

Pilgrim 2: Tasty!

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

Pilgrim 2: Why the fish?

Squanto: To enrich the soil. But, you must guard against the wolves for two weeks. They can steal the fish.

Reader 4: Squanto...

Reader 2 & Chorus: (*with crowd*) Hooray!

Reader 4: Squanto helped every way he could. He taught the Pilgrims how to stalk deer. He taught them how to make maple syrup from maple sap. And he taught them how to plant pumpkins among the corn.

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

Reader 2 & Chorus: (*with crowd*) Hooray!

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

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

Reader 1: So, he did. He also taught the Pilgrims how to hunt beaver. Then they could trade the fur pelts.

Squanto: I will guide you and help you as you trade with other tribes.

Captain Standish: You're all right, Squanto.

Reader 2 & Chorus: (*with crowd*) Hooray!

Pilgrim 1: He's more than all right.

Pilgrim 2: He's a super hero!

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

Squanto's Squash, Simplified

Reader 2 & Chorus: (*with crowd*) Hooray!

Reader 4: But also for their new super hero friend...

Squanto: Squanto.

Reader 2 & Chorus: (*with crowd*) Hooray!

Samoset: My friend.

Reader 3: The End



Squanto's Squash, Simplified (Short Version)

By Carol Montgomery

Performance Duration = about 3 1/2 minutes

Readability = grade 2.5

Cast (7-9)*:

Reader 1

Reader 2

Reader 3

Captain Standish

Squanto

Pilgrim 1

Pilgrim 2

Voice

Samoset

* Note: This could easily be performed with 2 strong reader-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 (see next page)

Vocabulary for Squanto's Squash, Simplified (Short Version):

against	live	Tasty
agreed	maple	taught
among	Maybe	thankfulness
answered	medicine	their
beaver	meeting	there's
between	misses	they'll
bitter	months	thought
bracelet	morning	Thursday
bursting	mound	treaty
Captain	natives	two
chief	needed	until
coming	night	village
common	only	visiting
could	other	voice
didn't	Otherwise,	wash
eels	Patuxet	watch
empty	peace	welcome
English	pelts	we'll
Englishmen	people	whole
enrich	Pilgrims	winter
every	planted	wolves
fingers	pumpkins	wonder
food	quietly	worked
four	Reader	would
friends	remember	years
guard	returned	your
guide	right	You're
half	Samoset	
hated	showed	
heard	sickness	
helped	soil	
herbs	Squanto's	
hero	squash	
Hmmm	stalk	
Indians	Standish	
kernels	stayed	
kidnapped	stories	
knife	strong	
know	super	
lasted	syrup	

Squanto's Squash (Short Version)

By Carol Montgomery

Reader 1: Have you heard of the Pilgrims? They had a very hard first winter. It was bitter cold.

Reader 2: They were weak from three months at sea. Many became sick. About half of them died.

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

Reader 1: They worked hard and prayed.

Reader 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 natives, Indians.

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

Samoset: *(deep voice)* Welcome!

Reader 1: He spoke English.

Reader 3: One Pilgrim man answered...

Pilgrim 2: Welcome.

Samoset: I am Samoset, a visiting chief.

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 sickness showed up four years ago. The whole tribe died. One man lived—Squanto. He was kidnapped as a slave. He 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.

Reader 3: Samoset told stories until it was dark. After dark he told the Pilgrims...

Samoset: I will stay the night.

Reader 1: Captain Standish was not happy. He did not know if they could trust Samoset. He thought...

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

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

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

Pilgrim 1: Maybe when he brings Squanto.

Reader 2: The next Thursday Samoset returned with his friend Squanto.

Squanto: Welcome, Englishmen. Do not be afraid of us. We will have a peace treaty soon.

Reader 1: A peace treaty was agreed upon. It lasted 40 years! But, when the chief and his friends left, one man stayed...

Reader 2: Squanto.

Reader 3: He didn't give up.

Reader 2: He saw the Pilgrims needed his help to live.

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. Next, you wash them and cook them.

Reader 1: The Pilgrims did what he said. They thought...

Pilgrim 1: Fat and sweet!

Pilgrim 2: Tasty!

Squanto: I will also teach you the right way to plant corn. Put four or 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.

Reader 3: Squanto helped every way he could. He taught the Pilgrims how to stalk deer. He taught them how to make maple syrup from maple sap. And, he taught them how to 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.

Reader 3: So, he did. He also taught the Pilgrims how to hunt beaver. Then they could trade the fur pelts.

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

Captain Standish: You're all right, Squanto.

Pilgrim 1: He's more than all right.

Pilgrim 2: He's a super hero!

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

Reader 2: But also for their new super hero friend...

Squanto: Squanto.

Samoset: My friend.

Reader 3: The End



Curriculum Links (Valid November, 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/daily/p/daily/p/daily/p028.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.

