



Lesson: Let's make Puppets!

Artform: Drama

Skill Level: Medium

Teaching Artist: Nanci Dorau

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

To learn about the artistic world of Theater puppetry.

- The student will discuss and learn about different kinds of puppets.
- The student will make his/her own sock puppet (s) and creatively make up a story to showcase their puppets.
- The student will watch YouTube videos about different kinds of puppets.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Puppetry is the act of doing theater with a puppet. Puppets are objects that are doll-like and can be a person, animal or thing that will tell a story with our help. If we use puppets, we are called a Puppeteer. Puppets were first used to entertain children and adults in Ancient India and Greece. There are many types of puppets. Here are a few:

A. **Marionette** – A doll-like puppet suspended by strings attached to a handle and made to move with Puppeteer's hand.

B. **Finger Puppets** – Little puppets that fit over our fingers. Wiggle your fingers to make them move.

C. **Hand Puppets** – Larger puppets with a hole in the bottom to fit over our hands like a glove.

D. **Ventriloquist's Dummy** – A child sized puppet, made to have the person place their hand inside to make the mouth move. The Ventriloquist uses his voice with little or no movement of his mouth to make the puppet speak.

E. **Toy Theater** – A tiny theater (maybe the size of a microwave oven) made for puppets that can be cardboard or paper and are glued to a stick or hang from a string.

F. **Sock Puppets** – These puppets are made from socks that you wear on your feet. I hope you will try to make a Sock Puppet today to tell a story.

MATERIALS

- Computer
- Internet with parental supervision
- Old clean socks that you are approved to use
- Markers

- Favorite book to read
- Any decorations for your sock puppet, like yarn for hair, googly eyes, red lips made of paper.
- Glue or needle and thread.

ACTIVITIES

Make your own sock puppet and have a puppet show!

1. Ask mom or dad for an old, clean sock you can use for the activity! White color is the best so you can draw on it, any style.
2. Choose what you want to make your puppet look like, an animal or a person?
3. Put the sock on your hand and bring your fingers and thumb together to make a mouth.
4. What face details do you want? Ears, nose, eyes, mouth, lips, eyebrows? You can draw the face with a marker, sew or glue paper, ribbons, googly eyes, etc. to the sock. How about some hair? Use some yarn or ribbon to create some hair.
5. Does your puppet have a name?
6. Tell a story with your puppet. Of course, you must do the talking!
You could make 2 sock puppets, one for each hand and have a conversation!
What would your puppet say? Is he hungry? Does he want to read a story from a book?
Pick a favorite book and have your puppet tell the story. Remember to move his mouth as you read the book.
7. If you want to make a puppet theater, you can use a big cardboard box, or just stand behind a table or counter. Think of what kind of scenery you could use for the puppet stage. A house, trees, lamp post, or flowers.
8. Encourage the student to be creative in his/her design of the puppet, the set design and the storytelling. Well known fairy tales are great for beginners too!

YouTube videos about puppetry.

1. "The Sound of Music-The Lonely Goatherd" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vtg9t08ktU>
2. "Lambchop's Play Along Sing Along" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NoHWczCOiHE>
3. "All Performances Darci Lynne – The winner America's Got Talent, 2017"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yFf5VaYLTNQ>

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR INCLUDING ALL CHILDREN

If the student uses a wheelchair, you can push them through the movements given. If there is an activity that involves using the hands and this is difficult for the student, use the 'hand over hand' (your hand on top of theirs) or 'hand under hand' (your hand under their hand) technique to guide them through the activity. Students with visual impairment will need the directions and information read to them. Those with hearing impairment may need to use American Sign Language. Lifepoint.com is a wonderful website to learn ASL. Check it out! Those students who are nonverbal may use their speaking devices. Let the student be creative in their own way and encourage them to do the activity only to the best of their own ability. Remember "there is no

disability in the Arts” and there is no wrong answer with these lesson plans. Have fun with these activities!

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