

Ames Public Library @HOME Activities

Puppets!

Making and playing with puppets helps children use their imagination, be creative, and have fun. Puppetry is also a great avenue for children to use everyday objects in new ways, a cardboard box could become a puppet theatre, and an empty egg carton can be transformed into a fierce fire breathing dragon!

See a related video on the Library's YouTube Channel at <http://bit.ly/APLvideos>.

Books and Media:

Title	Author / Performer	Call Number
<i>5-Minute Stories</i>	(Random House)	E SES
<i>The Storytelling Handbook: A Young People's Collection of Unusual Tales and Helpful Hints on How to Tell Them</i>	Pellowski, Anne	J 372.6 PEL
<i>Storytelling with Puppets</i>	Bonnet, Robert	J 507.8 BON
<i>The Parent's Guide to Play</i>	(Firefly books)	649.5 PAR 2006
<i>Wool Toys & Friends</i>	Sharp, Laurie	746.0463 SHA
<i>Amazingly Easy Puppet Plays</i>	Anderson, Dee	J 791.5 AND
<i>Make Your Own Puppets & Puppet Theatres</i>	Carreiro, Carolyn	J 791.5 CAR
<i>I Can Make Puppets</i>	Wallace, Mary	J 791.5 WAL
<i>The Most Excellent Book of How to Be a Puppeteer</i>	Lade, Roger	J 791.53 LAD
<i>Ashley Bryan's Puppets: Making Something From Everything</i>	Bryan, Ashley	J 811 BRY
<i>A Is for Alligator: Draw and Tell Tales from A-Z</i>	De las Casas, Dianne	J PC 027.62 DEL
<i>Making Toys for Infants and Toddlers: Using Ordinary Stuff for Extraordinary Play</i>	Miller, Linda G.	J PC 745.5924 MIL
<i>On Stage</i>	Bany-Winters, Lisa	Bridges downloadable e-book

Websites:

URL	Notes
https://www.wikihow.com/Make-Puppets	<i>This wiki show to how to make six simple puppets</i>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BHw-4UOc40	Kenneth Wingard's DIY Shadow Puppet Theater and simple shadow puppets
https://www.puppeteers.org/	

Vocabulary:

Animation: Bringing something to life through movement and action.

Applause: Approval, encouragement, or praise expressed by clapping.

Audience: The people who come to watch the show.

Character: The way a puppet behaves.

Full-body puppet: A puppet worn over the puppeteer's head and body like a costume.

Hand puppet: A puppet that fits over the hand, and is manipulated by the hand.

Lip synch: Synchronizing the movement of a puppet's mouth with spoken words. A puppet with a movable mouth is also called a lip synch puppet.

Marionette: A puppet that is controlled by strings, connecting rods or paddles to moving body parts.

Neutral mask: A white, featureless face covering to neutralize the actor's own face.

Props: All the extra objects that are used during a show.

Puppet: A model of almost anything, person, animal or creature brought to life by a human in front of an audience.

Puppeteer: The person who gives the puppet movement that brings the puppet to life.

Rehearsing: Practicing. A dress rehearsal usually means a rehearsal where all the characters are in the final costumes that they will be wearing on stage for the performance.

Script: All the words and actions that the puppets perform during the show.

Shadow puppet: Puppet shapes that block the light and cast a shadow.

Theatre: A structure where performances and shows can be presented.

Ventriloquist – A person who creates the illusion that their voice is coming from elsewhere.

Take Away Kit: Puppets

Bag Contents:

- 1 Hand puppet
- 3 Fabric markers

Your kit has a hand puppet (this is the type of puppet that fits over your hand). If you wish, you can decorate your puppet with the markers provided or use decorating supplies that you may have at home.

Once you have decorated your puppet, get comfortable with your puppet, and practice by trying different hand movements. Try to keep your puppet hand flexible, and your shoulders comfortable to ease tension in these areas. You could also write a story or script that features your puppet. You can also try and create a puppet theatre, or a puppet stage from cardboard boxes and other items you have around your home. Remember to always check with an adult for help using sharp implements like scissors.

When you are ready, put on a show for friends and family, puppet shows are a great way to use your imagination, be creative, and dramatic. Experiment with different scripts, and props. Have fun!

Source: The most excellent book of how to be a puppeteer with easy step-by-step instructions for a brilliant performance by Roger Lade (J 791.53 LAD). Puppet mania! by John Kennedy (J 7915 KEN). Make your own puppets & puppet theatre by Carolyn Carreiro J 791.5 CAR.