

Puppets in the Classroom

Ideas from the Curriculum Library



Use a Puppet as your Educational Assistant

Students can help you interview the puppet for this important job.

Use your new classroom assistant to:

- Help introduce daily activities
- Tell jokes related to teachable subject
- Provide fun learning challenges
- Encourage students to write letters to the puppet
- Write weekly letters to the class congratulating them on their learning
- Use as a classroom management tool
- Introduce stories
- Reinforce learning objectives and assess outcomes

The Great Puppet Challenge - Name that Puppeteer

Student teams of 3 are challenged to stretch their puppeteering abilities by giving their puppets different voices & roles in order to disguise themselves (as puppeteer) from the audience. Give students adequate time to practice voices and design a script for a brief conversation on a pre-selected topic (ex., *my packed lunch is always the worst!*). The audience tries to guess which student was the puppeteer. Points are given to the team that best disguises their voices.

Puppets can Inspire Incredible Writing!

Puppets can inspire a wide range of writing from the students. Consider some of the following in addition to writing the good old fashioned puppet play:

- **Informational Text:** Have students write a class book or blog post identifying tips for puppeteers
- Include templates for writing simple screenplays in the writing centre
- Design posters advertising puppet plays
- Design tickets and operate a box office
- Write reviews of the plays and include these in a class newsletter
- Write letters or poetry for the puppet to share with the class

Want More on Puppets?

Check out one of our books on puppets or take a look at some websites we thought you might like:

Books

10-minute puppets / by Noel MacNeal

<http://voyager.library.uvic.ca/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=2966207>

I can make puppets / written and photographed by Mary Wallace

<http://voyager.library.uvic.ca/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=633627>

Puppet plays plus : using stock characters to entertain and teach early literacy / Laurel L.

Iakovakis <http://voyager.library.uvic.ca/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=2605660>

On the Web

How to Make Puppets – Excellent how-to wiki to inspire your elementary puppeteers:

<http://www.wikihow.com/Make-Puppets>

Puppet Tips for Teachers: <http://wonderteacher.com/puppet-tips-for-teachers/>

Puppet Making Tutorials – great for older students: <http://www.projectpuppet.com/puppet-making-tutorials/>

Puppet as a Class Mascot: <http://wonderteacher.com/your-class-needs-a-puppet-mascot/>

Puppets with Phil Duchene:

<https://onlineacademiccommunity.uvic.ca/caroln/2015/04/13/puppets-with-phil-duchene-all-in-a-days-work/>

Tips for Manipulating Puppets: <http://www.legendsandlore.com/puppetmanipulation.html>

Tips on Improvisation and Play with Puppets: <http://lyndismith.com/2012/02/01/tips-on-improvisation-and-play-with-puppets/>

Writing Puppet Plays: <http://www.legendsandlore.com/puppetscript.html>

Notes:

