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Integrating migrant children in schools through artistic expression



Module 2: Global Stories Theme 2C: Performing Our Stories

Prepared by Bath Spa University

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Theme 2C Focus : Performing Our Stories

Theme 2C explores and represents global stories using puppetry skills and Forum Theatre through its focus on:

- ▣ Creation
- ▣ Performance
- ▣ Evaluation

Learning Resources & Materials

Materials:

- ▶ Paper and pens. sticks, spoons, fabric, paper, tape, string, cardboard, old socks and gloves, magazines and newspaper, scissors, box of props, thin plastic sheets (polythene), coloured paper/foil. Tables and chairs
- ▶ Build a props and costume box: fabric, costume, random objects such as envelope, piece of jewellery, watch, photo, items of clothing such as a scarf or a hat, a small box, old glasses, a key etc.

Resources:

Additional weblinks provide exemplification and support

See global puppetry examples in Theme 2B.
Here are more contemporary puppets & performers:

Acknowledgement
ACTA: Maria
Schejbal, Grodzki
Theatre, Poland

<https://www.acta-bristol.com/puppetry-workshops-by-maria-schejbal-of-grodzki-theatre-poland/>



Acknowledgement
Box Tale Soup, UK
<https://www.boxtalesoup.co.uk/>



Three Ways School & BSU, UK: Puppetry
Performances <http://www.threeways.co.uk/>

All Levels: Performing with Puppets

Some simple rules of puppetry which will help:

Focus your eyes on the puppet, not the audience

Find the movement that reflects the energy and personality of puppet

Make sure any words spoken match the action of the puppet.

Use props to help tell the story

Use a table as a stage for the puppets

Black gloves and black clothes can help keep the puppet to the fore



Acknowledgement: Puppet Place

Watch Video:

***Green Ginger Intronauts
Puppet Performance***

<http://www.puppetplace.org/>

All Levels: Performing with Puppets

- ▶ It is possible to bring anything to life. Watch this video and have a go yourself.

<https://youtu.be/kf8aDZuhWuY>

- ▶ The puppeteer animates some everyday objects: a coat, spoon, pan. What works well? What less so?
- ▶ Make up a simple story for one and then two everyday objects.

Sock puppet CC BY 3.0

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sock-puppet.jpg>

Animation video acknowledgement: Geraldine Hill Male BSU



Level 1 Learning Activities:

Make a puppet out of things you can find:

- ▶ Old socks and gloves
- ▶ Cuttings from magazines
- ▶ Draw around your hand and cut it out
- ▶ Join paper body parts together with string.
- ▶ Cardboard
- ▶ Spoons - draw a face on a spoon
- ▶ Try mixing them up! Add extra detail.

Acknowledgement: Geraldine Hill Male BSU



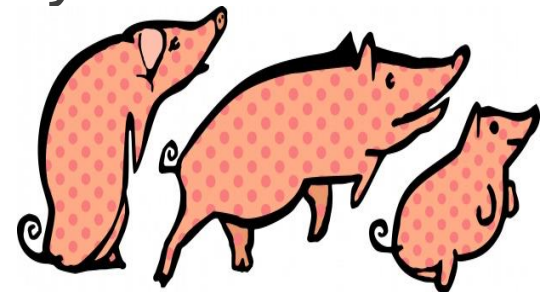
Level 1 Learning Activities

The Three Little Pigs and the Big Bad Wolf Story

- ▶ *The first pig built a house of straw. The second pig built a house of wood. The third pig built a house of bricks.*
- ▶ *One day the Big Bad Wolf was hungry. He blew down the first pig's house. The little pig ran to his brother's house.*
- ▶ *The wolf was still hungry. He blew down the second pig's house. The two pigs ran to their brother's house.*
- ▶ *The wolf was still hungry. He went to the third pig's house. He blew and blew, but the house didn't fall down.*
- ▶ *He climbed on to the roof and jumped down the chimney. He fell into the fire! Ooowwww! He climbed up the chimney very fast and ran away. The three little pigs lived happily ever after.*

Pig cartoon (CC PD)

<https://www.publicdomainpictures.net/en/view-image.php?image=198363&picture=pigs>



Design and make puppets to tell the story.

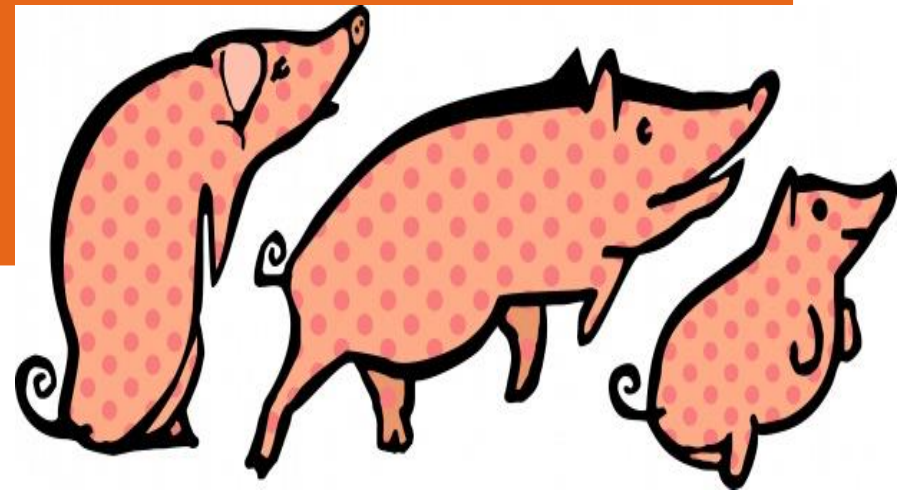
- **Use ideas from Theme 2B - Finger or Rod puppets**
- **Add music, words and props.**

Try considering some different outcomes:

- ***What would happen if the wolf had blown the third little pig's house down?***
- ***Or had not been able to blow down the first little pig's house?***

Pig cartoon (CC PD)

<https://www.publicdomainpictures.net/en/view-image.php?image=198363&picture=pigs>



Level 1 & 2: Create a Newspaper Puppet



1. Get some newspaper and roll into columns
2. Assemble two of the columns to make a body and the arms
3. Add the legs
4. Add a head.
5. Then tape up or fix with string - a lot of tape and string -to make very strong and secure

acknowledgement: Geraldine Hill Male BSU



Add a face and costume.... Experiment!

- ▶ Watch these video clips and have a go at making your own puppet:
- ▶ <http://artescommunity.eu/paper-puppets-in-action/>
- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJ5-Tsf65CA&feature=youtu.be>
- ▶ This kind of a simple puppet is best animated on a table by 3 people. One person operates the head and one arm, the second takes care of another arm and holds the body and the third is responsible for moving feet.
- ▶ A simplified animation with 2 people is also possible.
- ▶ Experiment - make animals, people, fantasy creatures. Perform with them!

Acknowledgement: Geraldine Hill Male, BSU



Level 2: Now make up your own story

- ▶ Choose a story from your own culture or make up a new one.
Possible themes or titles :

- **Our Dream Journey**
- **The Magic Mountain**
- **A Strange New Space**
- **The Incredible Birds**

Mountain (CC PD):

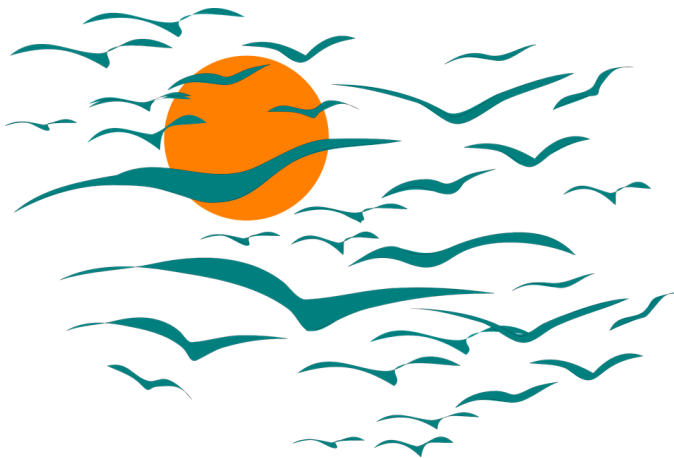
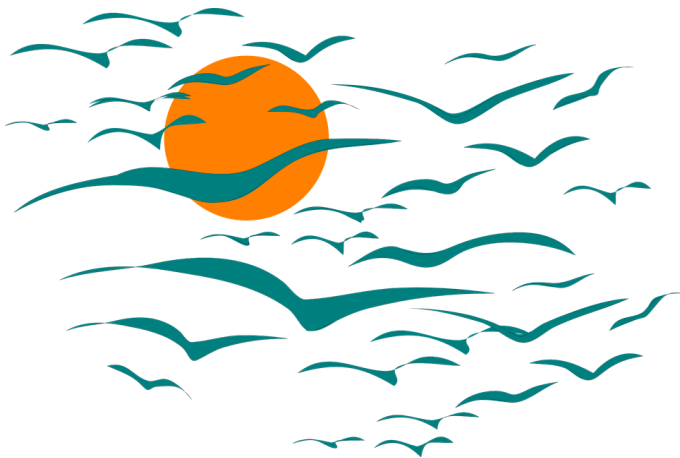
<https://pixabay.com/en/landscape-sunrise-hills-road-sky-308960/>



Level 2 continued:

- ▶ Tell the story to the group. In groups of 4/6, chose one story and act it out without words. Then add words and music.
- ▶ Design and make puppets for the story
- ▶ Create set, find props and rehearse.
- ▶ Chose two different places where you want to change the story.
- ▶ Perform both versions and discuss the difference

sunset glow (CC PD): <https://pixabay.com/en/sunset-glow-sun-birds-flying-311974/>

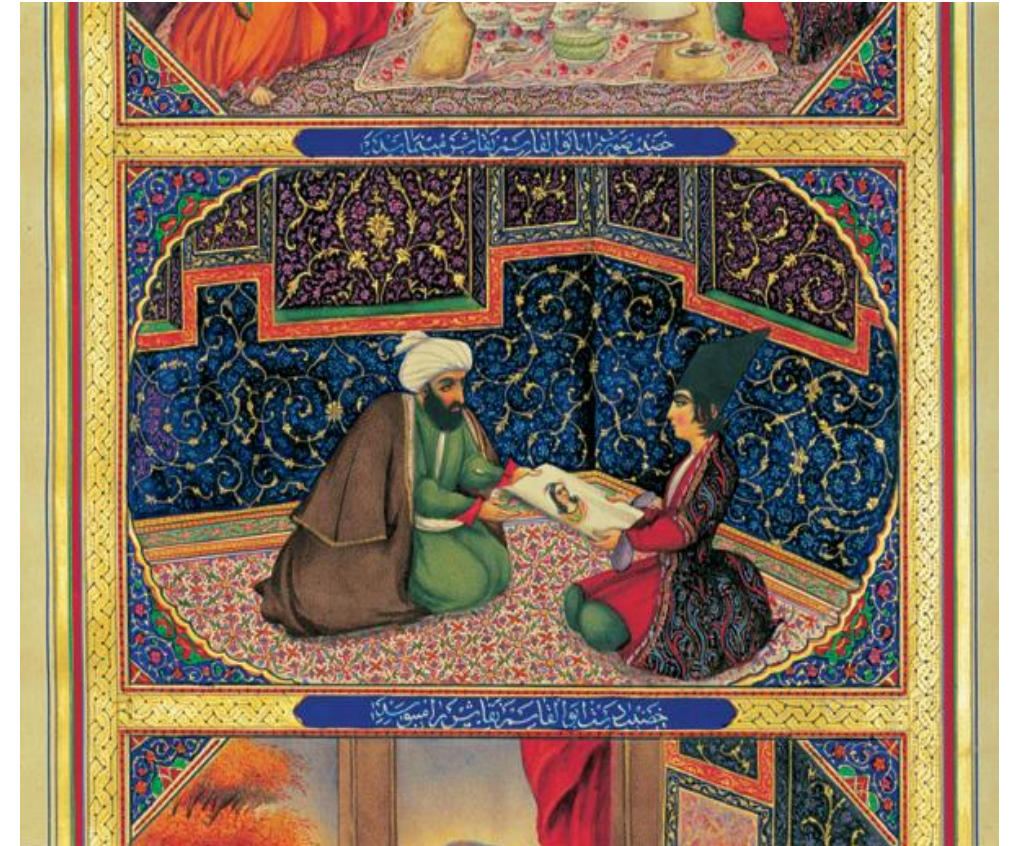


Level 2 Learning Activities: Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves

Watch this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vsHSLrrf4>

- Design and make the story's puppet characters.
- Add music, words and props.
- Try using some different outcomes - what would happen if:
- Ali Baba forgot the magic words?
- Or if Morgiana did not recognize the oil seller?



Scheherazade and the sultan by the Iranian painter [Sani ol molk](#) (CC PD)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scheherazade#/media/File:One_Thousand_and_One_Nights17.jpg

Level 2 continued:

In groups of 4/6, make up a story or chose one from your own culture which involves overcoming an obstacle.

Design and make puppets for the story

Have one person sit in front of the group facing away from them. The rest of the group stand behind with their puppets. The sitting person cannot see the people behind him/her. Tell the story in their own words. The actors then have to act out what the narrator is saying.

Create a set, find props, add music and rehearse.

Chose two different places where you want to change the story. Perform both versions and discuss the difference

Level 3 Learning Activities: Forum Theatre

- Create a puppet of yourself – use any method.
 - Introduce the group to your story using your puppet.
 - The audience members ask the puppets questions.
- Think of a problem you have had in the past.
 - Tell it to the audience: who-where-when-why-what (no names).

Discuss. What is the problem and how has it happened ?
What can be done? What are the options?

- Choose a few stories and act them out:
- The person whose story is being acted out is the director.
- The director tells the cast how to animate the story using puppets, music and props.



Puppet image CCBY40

<https://www.sketchport.com/drawing/4679282932580352/puppets>

Level 3 Learning Activities: Forum Theatre

- ▶ 2 puppets start a scene: a family meal, school-day, journey, conflict, celebration.
- ▶ An audience member shouts 'Freeze' & the puppets must freeze.
- ▶ The audience member replaces one of the acting puppets.
- ▶ Their puppet speaks/acts to start a completely new scenario.
- ▶ Repeat & continue.....

What's your story CCPD : <https://pixabay.com/en/chalkboard-story-blogging-believe-620316/>

The image shows three identical chalkboard panels arranged horizontally. Each panel has the text "WHAT'S YOUR STORY" written in white chalk. The text is written in a casual, slightly irregular font, with "WHAT'S YOUR" on the top line and "STORY" on the bottom line. The chalkboard background is dark blue or black, and the text is clearly visible against it.

Level 3 Learning Activities: Forum Theatre

WHAT IF?

3 or 4 participants stand at the front of the group with their puppets.

The audience suggests a “what if?” question. Eg:

- ▶ What if you missed the bus/train?
- ▶ What if someone stole your money?
- ▶ What if someone insulted a family member?
- ▶ Write down a list of possible ‘what if’ scenarios.

The puppets act out the scenario - what are their solutions?

Other volunteers act out alternate endings.

WHAT IF? WHAT IF? WHAT IF....????

Further Learning Resources:

More global examples of ways to make and use puppets

- ▶ The National Theatre shows you how to make a puppet
<https://youtu.be/pFEnZfS5IXQ>
- ▶ Rod Bennet's Punch and Judy is an example of a traditional English story : <https://youtu.be/TyLs06LpLSI>
- ▶ Jim Henson was a famous puppeteer who created The Muppets:
<https://youtu.be/AC440k6iByA>
- ▶ Bunraku puppets from Thailand : <https://youtu.be/1qcBSAwQVpw>
- ▶ Puppets from all over the world:
<https://www.cbsnews.com/pictures/puppets-of-the-world/7/>