

Puppet Vocal Warm Up

to explore vocal expression, character traits & emotions

Timing

10 minutes

(including passing out puppets)

Additional supports

Visit

TeachwithArtsConnection.org



1. Set up:

Sample script (less than a minute)

- **Share the plan-** In this game, we're going to say the same words over and over. We'll try it first with our own voices & bodies and then we'll do it with our puppets!
- **Practice the phrase-** The words are, "Where did that portal take me?" Let's try it together! "Where did that portal take me?"

Tip

- **Model the phrase in neutral voice for clarity**, but don't be surprised if the kids add expression the very first time they say it! That is ok!

2. Play with our own bodies & voices:

Sample script (3 minutes)

- **Prompt for expression-** This time let's say it like we are thrilled! Show thrilled in your body!
- **Cue the kids-** Let's say it together! "Where did that portal take me?"
- **Describe-** "I notice that some of you were jumping up and down and many of you were smiling! I heard that some people made their voices very high."
- **Repeat** with the other prompts that you will use with the puppets! (options for this portal example: terrified, confused, annoyed)

Tip

- **Kids may have ideas for expressive prompts that you can use as well!**

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3. How do we hold our puppets?

Before you hand out puppets, have an explicit conversation with the kids about how puppets should be handled and used. Generate criteria by asking the kids for advice for how to hold your puppet. Chart responses!

Sample Script (3 minutes)

How should I hold my puppet so that...

- ...it won't break?
- ...my body is safe? The bodies around me are safe?
- ...I can easily move the puppet?
- ...the audience can see my puppet? (see tip)

Tip

- Only introduce awareness of audience if/when they will be presenting. The first time kids play with their puppet they need time to hold it so that **they** can see it. Audience is not important if they're using their puppets to play and generate stories.

4. Play with puppet voices!

Sample Script (3 minutes)

- **Prompt for expression-** Make your puppet say, "Where did that portal take me?" like they are thrilled!
- **Cue puppets-** Say it together. "Where did that portal take me?"
- **Describe-** "I see puppets looking side to side! Some of the puppets started laughing and cheering!"
- **Repeat** with the other prompts that you will use! (Good options for this portal example: terrified, confused, annoyed)

Tip

- **Kids may have ideas for expressive prompts to use as well!**
- **Kids may spontaneously start adding additional puppet dialogue.** That is great! The whole purpose of this warm up is to prepare them to use their puppet voices to create story! Allow time for it!