

Guided Puppet Movement Exploration

Timing

5-10 minutes

Space

Sitting at desks or tables

Additional supports

Visit

TeachwithArtsConnection.org



Do this warm up to prepare your students to use puppetry to...

- 1) **inspire** story action in their play. 2) **express** character traits & emotions
- 3) **explore** how characters react to setting details 4) **create** soundscapes

1. Set up the game

Explain the game before you pass out the puppets!

Sample Script

- We are going to move our puppets in all kinds of ways, but we are not getting up from our seats.
- How do we hold our puppets so that they are safe & so everyone can see your character?
- Let's all start with our puppets standing on our desk (*Pass out puppets. Check/ remind about puppet safety before starting*)

2. Offer puppetry movement prompts

Everyone responds to each prompt in unison. Have fun responding to prompts with your puppet along with your kids!

Sample Script

- Let's all make our puppets look in different directions
Like they're 1. crossing the street 2. nervous 3. sneaky 4. searching
- Let's all make our puppets move slowly
Like they're 1. stuck in the mud 2. being cautious 3. feeling tired
- Let's all make our puppets move quickly
Like they're 1. running from something scary 2. using their powers of super speed to clean their desk!

Tips

- Challenge kids to channel their movement ideas into their puppet within the space defined by their desk.
- Each puppeteer will interpret the movement prompts differently. Notice and describe the variety of choices being made!

Guided Puppet Movement Exploration

3. Encourage kids to offer prompts

Once you have modelled a few prompts, kids will start offering ideas for how to move, and examples of when the puppet might move that way. Have everyone try their peers' ideas in unison!

Sample Script

- Let's all make our puppets (walk, stroll, jump, stomp, scamper)
- Like they are _____ (use ideas offered by kids)
- Let's all make our puppets lay down.... wake up
- Like they are _____ (use ideas offered by kids)
- Let's all make our puppets float, fly or climb..... fall down
- Like they are _____ (use ideas offered by kids)

Tips

- Encourage kids to make a connection between play and story making by amplifying the ideas that they offer. Kids may have ideas for movement as well as ideas for "like they are..." examples. Ditch your script and follow their interests!
- Be prepared with your own ideas for why the puppets would move that way, just in case your students are not ready to offer their ideas yet. Keep modelling that connection between play and story until they are ready!

4. End with a puppet turn and talk

Eventually there will be too many ideas to continue in unison. That is a good time to transition into pairs or small groups to make sure everyone's voice gets heard.

Sample Script

- Let's all make our puppets turn and talk to another character(s)
- Like they are excited to see each other and go on an adventure.

Guided Puppet Movement Exploration

Adapt the prompts to relate to the story strategy that you will be modelling and that students will be integrating in to their puppet play.

Puppet action | Story action

Use a wide variety of verbs to prompt exploration of puppet action and inspire story ideas.

Sample Script

- Let's all make our puppets stomp
Like they are monsters, feeling furious, wearing big clown shoes.
- Let's all make our puppets fly, soar, glide, flutter, flap
Like they have a jet pack, wings, a super powers
- Let's all make our puppets hop, bounce, leap
Like they are a bunny rabbit, in hot lava, avoiding a puddle

For more verbs and context ideas see

- [The Action Vocabulary Resource](#)

Express Character Traits & Emotions

Use this warm up to explore how puppet movement can express who characters are and how they feel.

Sample Script

- Let's all make our puppets stand proud and confident like the character Chrysanthemum.
- Let's all make our puppets skip to school like they are excited for the first day of school
- Let's all make our puppets droop and feel sad like someone has made fun of our name.

For more character traits see

- [Character Trait Vocabulary Resource](#)

For more emotions vocabulary see

- [Advanced Emotion Vocabulary Resource](#)

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Show, Use & Revise Story Setting Details

Use this warm up to explore how characters react to and move through different settings.

Sample Script

- Let's all make our puppets walk
Like they are in sticky thick mud, in hot lava! in crunchy snow!
- Let's all make our puppets float
Like they are on a cloud, in outer space, in an ocean full of waves!
- Let's all make our puppets climb
Like they are up the stairs, up a slippery hill, a tall tree (*have them fall after each climb!*)

More fun setting ideas

Amusement park, candy shop, playground, party, the beach, swamp, jungle, arctic, mountains, the desert

Create a Soundscape

Use this warm up to explore vocal expression and sound effects as well as puppet movement.

Sample Script

- Let's all make our puppets walk in the snow
Let's make the sound of the snow crunching
- Let's all make our puppets splash in a big puddle
Let's make the sound of the splashing
- Let's all make our puppets get swept up in a tornado!
Let's make the sound of the wind
- Let's all make our puppets get zapped by lightning!
Let's make the sound of the electricity
- Let's all make our puppets turn and tell a friend about how they are feeling after all of these adventures!

For sound effect ideas see

- the [Soundscape Library](#)