

# Show the Story Setting Strategy

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### Timing

10 minutes

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### Space

Kids should be able to see the sample puppet play and they should not have their puppets in their hands for this activity.

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### Additional supports

Visit  
[TeachwithArtsConnection.org](http://TeachwithArtsConnection.org)



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### If your students have not made setting backdrops...

introduce this strategy in an early play session to give kids permission to create a world for their puppets play in out of object in your classroom.

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## 1. Model the strategy

Model playing a brief puppet story using the puppets that your class has made and a setting created about of objects in your classroom.

### Suggestions for settings made out of classroom objects ...

- Drape a sweatshirt over two water bottles to make a cave
- Create a forest out of standing markers
- Make a treasure chest out of a pencil box

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## 2. Reflect on the strategy

### Questions

- What was the setting for my puppet story?
- How did I make my setting? What did I use?
- Are there other kinds of settings I could make using my sweatshirt, water bottles, markers and a pencil box?

Set up one more setting that the kids suggest using your objects!

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## 3. Clarify what the kids can and cannot use

If there is something in the class you do not want the kids to make into a puppet theater, let them know before they start! Expect them to get creative and use everything they can.

### Example

- You can make a setting today using anything from your table or the tool shelf. Do not take objects from other tables, the block area, the library, my desk or the cubbies.

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## 4. Challenge the kids to try it!

Encourage kids to create a story setting with their partner(s) to play in with their puppets.

# Use the Story Setting Strategy

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### Timing

10 minutes

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### Space

Kids should be able to see the sample puppet play and they should not have their puppets in their hands for this activity.

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### Additional supports

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### If your students have made story settings

Model this strategy for using setting details to inspire story making.

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## 1. Model the strategy

Play a brief puppet story for your class, in which your puppet character interacts with and is affected by the details in your setting.

### Script Outline

- **Ground the story in the setting-** One day I went to the forest and climbed up the tallest tree I could find!
- **Use the setting to inspire problems-** But then I fell out of the tree and into the sticky mud! I had to pull and pull and finally I got unstuck! Just then a bad guy came, “I’m going to get you!”
- **Use the setting to inspire solutions-** So, I pushed the bad guy into the mud! While he was stuck I ran away, “You’ll never catch me!”

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### Tips

- Use character voices and sound effects
- Use puppet movement and vocal expression to express how your characters feel about what is happening and what they are doing in your setting.

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## 2. Reflect on the strategy

### Questions

- What was the setting for my story?
- What did my character do in the setting?
- Did the setting cause any problems for my character?
- Did the setting help my character solve any problems?

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## 3. Challenge the kids to try it!

Pass out the backdrops and have the kids work with their partners to discuss their ideas or just start playing them!

### Prompts

- What could your characters do in the setting you made?
- What kinds of problems could happen in your setting?
- How could your setting help solve your problems?

# Revise the Story Setting Strategy

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### Timing

10 minutes

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### Space

Kids should be able to see the sample puppet play and they should not have their puppets in their hands for this activity.

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### Prep

You will need to have art making supplies on hand for this strategy

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### Additional supports

Visit  
[TeachwithArtsConnection.org](http://TeachwithArtsConnection.org)



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### If your students have made story settings

Model this strategy revising and developing your story through art making.

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## 1. Model realizing you need to revise

Begin to play a brief puppet story for your class that you have to stop because you do not have a prop or special effect that you need.

### Examples/ Options

- In your story, the witch is stealing shoes from the princess, so you need a shoe puppet.
  - The story problem is that no matter where your characters try to picnic there is a thunderstorm, so you need a rain cloud puppet.
  - At the end of your story the alien needs to go home, so you need a spaceship puppet
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## 2. Model making what you need

Put your puppet play on hold to *quickly* make the puppet that you need for your story using the supplies that will be available for the kids today. This does not need to be a complicated or beautifully made puppet

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## 3. Model your revised story

Return to playing your story using the new puppet that you made.

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## 4. Invite the kids to try it

### Set up the revision studio

- If you discover that you need a new puppet you can go to the revision studio and make what you need. (show them where the materials are set up)
  - You can use (show each tool and material)
  - Keep the tools and materials in the revision area and clean up when you are done. That way the revision studio will be ready for other kids to use when they need it.
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### Tip-

- Some groups get so into this activity that this session becomes an art making day. If needed, expand the revision studio to accommodate overwhelming interest!

