

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Student Workshops & Professional Development

Linking puppet experiences with education curricula has long been a feature of WP Puppet Theatre workshops for both student workshops and teacher professional development. Our practical puppet project ideas that connect with core and arts curricula allow teachers immediate implementation. Our student workshops incorporate both hands on creation and performance opportunities supporting multiple literacy learning areas.

Past participants said: “*Wow! Fabulous - lots of great ideas for the classroom that are practical and yet full of ‘adventure!’*” (teacher)

“*I enjoyed learning all the tekneaks of being a puppeteer. Thanks so much Wendy*” (student)

How to Book Professional Development and/or Student Workshops.

Contact W.P. Puppet Theatre to discuss integrating puppets into your classroom!

Student Workshops

African Folk Tale:

**GRADE 2
MATH/LANGUAGE ARTS**

Concept:

Read the story *Who's in Rabbit's House*. Discuss how to analyze the animal for its “most important feature” and how to break it into 3-D geometric parts (e.g. rectangular prisms, cubes, cones, etc). Show how to make these in paper and how to assemble them into an animal puppet. Work with the puppets — and tell the story.

Pioneers: Nature Puppets

**GRADE 4
SOCIAL STUDIES/LANGUAGE ARTS**

Concept:

The children will create characters from materials that pioneer children would have had to play with i.e.: twigs, rocks, straw, Pine cones, sheep's wool etc. They will make the characters that can tell the story of *If you're not from the Prairies*, and then act it out.

Trans Canada Trail: Shoe Puppets

**GRADE 5
SOCIAL STUDIES/MATH/L.A**

Concept:

Discuss the Trans Canada Trail — 15,000 km across Canada. Introduce 'shoe puppets' and the idea of matching faces and characterizations to the shoes. Discuss ideas of costume reflecting character and stereotyping and deductive observation. Do improvisation skits on meeting each other on the trail with our conversations reflecting where we're from.

Interpreting Feelings:

**GRADE 1–2
HEALTH/SCIENCE /L.A**

Concept:

Read the book – *My Many Colored Days* and discuss moods and emotions. Make shadow puppets incorporating colour, shape, music and animal representation of different feelings. The concepts of light and shade, transparency, opacity and silhouettes as well as colour mixing will come up.

"I hope when I'm an Astronaut"

**GRADE K–4
SCIENCE/L.A**

Concept:

The children will construct space ships from plastic bottles and shadow puppet astronauts — paying attention to construction and mechanical elements as well as shadow puppetry principles. We will discuss what the future might look like and after a mock press conference send the astronauts into space to space music. After we have had fun with the puppets we'll take them apart again so the bottles can be recycled.

Bunraku Puppetry

**GRADE 8
Social Studies**

Concept:

The fascinating history and traditions of Bunraku puppetry is explained through an illustrated power point presentation and video. Information is linked to the Japanese world view during the Edo and Meiji periods and leading questions ask students to relate this information to their subject studies. Students are then invited to learn manipulation techniques with Bunraku style puppets provided by WPTS and play with some drama improvisations.