



9TH-12TH GRADE

Objective:

- YAs will learn about different types of puppets and how they are used
- YAs will reflect on WHY puppets are used and what makes them an effective tool

Materials Needed:

- Photographs/videos of different types of puppets

What is a Puppet?

A puppet is an object, often resembling a human, animal or mythical creature, that is animated or manipulated by a person called a puppeteer. The puppeteer uses movements of their hands, arms, or control devices such as rods or strings to move the body, head, limbs, and in some cases the mouth and eyes of the puppet. Puppets have been used for centuries by many cultures around the world as a form of art-making and entertainment.

There are several different types of puppets.

- **Marionette puppets** are controlled by a series of strings





- **Shadow puppets** are created when cutouts are backlit and their silhouettes projected onto a screen



- **Hand Puppets** are simply controlled by one of the puppeteer's hands





- **Human arm puppets** involve two puppeteers—one operates the puppet’s head and one of its hands, while the other operates the puppet’s other hand



These are only a few types of puppets! What other kinds of puppets have you seen?

Reflection Activity:

Think about puppets you’ve seen being used in TV shows, movies, plays, parades, or elsewhere and consider the following questions. You can turn to a partner and discuss them, or if you’re alone, you can write down your responses.

- Who do you see puppets interacting with? Other puppets? Humans? You, the viewer?
- What do you notice about the puppets?
- Why would someone choose to use a puppet instead of just a human actor or a prop?
- What does a puppet uniquely bring to the experience of watching something?

Practical Activity:

Imagine you are going to give a presentation to your class using a puppet of your choice to teach a moral lesson. (If you actually have a puppet or the materials to make one, you can do this for real!)

- What materials would you use to create this puppet ?
- How would you go about constructing the puppet ?



- What moral lesson would you teach the class ?
- How would you go about teaching this moral lesson to the class using the puppet? How would the puppet help you make your point and engage your classmates?

6TH-8TH GRADE

Objective:

- YAs will learn about different types of puppets and how they are used
- YAs will reflect on the theme of Community through puppets

Materials Needed:

- Laptop
- Access to videos & Movies

What is a Puppet?

A puppet is an object, often resembling a human, animal or mythical creature, that is brought to life by a person called a puppeteer. The puppeteer uses movements of their hands, arms, or control devices such as rods or strings to move the body, head, arms, legs, and other parts of the puppet.

There are several different types of puppets.

- **Marionette puppets** are controlled by a series of strings





- **Shadow puppets** are created when cutouts are backlit and their silhouettes projected onto a screen



- **Hand Puppets** are simply controlled by one of the puppeteer's hands





- **Human arm puppets** involve two puppeteers—one operates the puppet’s head and one of its hands, while the other operates the puppet’s other hand. A place where human arm puppets & full body puppets are in abundance are on 123 Sesame Street.



These are only a few types of puppets! What other kinds of puppets have you seen?

Reflection Question:

Think about a show, play, or movie that uses puppets as characters (for example Sesame Street, Between the Lions, or the Big Comfy Couch) and how the puppets interact with one another. Consider these following questions:

- Based on how the puppets interact with each other, how do we know who they are to each other?
 - In Between the Lion’s Den, the lions are a family that interact with each other and various humans, why do we (as the audience) go along with their story?
 - Who are the different characters of Sesame Street? Who are the gang?
 - What do we learn about friendship in Sesame Street? Where do they all come from & live? How similar or different are the various characters
- Notes: If you are unfamiliar with any of these examples and/or do not have access to videos of them, think about these questions through the lens of another show, movie, or play that uses puppets that you’re familiar with.



Activity:

Imagine you are tasked with creating the newest gang of puppets for a television show. After determining who your television audience is (kids, adults, teenagers?), create a community of puppets for the show.

- What would your puppets be? Humans? Animals? Other creatures?
- Would they live in a neighborhood together, be a family of animals/people together, or are they some other type of community?
- Why is the community necessary for these puppets? Why can't they just exist on their own?
- How do they get along with one another ?

Once you've created your community of puppets, share out with the class and exchange ideas. How do your puppet communities compare to the communities you actually live in? How might you add to your puppet community to help it reflect your community in real life?

4TH-5TH GRADE

Objective:

- YAs will learn about different types of puppets and how they are used
- YAs will create their own puppets using household craft supplies
- YAs will experiment with communicating with each other through puppets

Materials Needed:

- Craft materials (scissors, glue, pipe cleaners, markers, colored pencils)
- Brown paper bags

What is a Puppet?

A puppet is an object, often made to look like a human, animal or magical creature, that is brought to life by a person called a puppeteer. The puppeteer uses movements of their hands, arms, or tools such as rods or strings to move the body, head, arms, legs, and other parts of the puppet.



There are several different types of puppets.

- **Marionette puppets** are controlled by a series of strings



- **Shadow puppets** are created when cutouts are backlit and their silhouettes projected onto a screen





- **Hand Puppets** are simply controlled by one of the puppeteer's hands



- **Human arm puppets** involve two puppeteers—one operates the puppet's head and one of its hands, while the other operates the puppet's other hand





- Brown bag puppets (similar to **Human Arm Puppets**) but made out of brown paper bags.



Reflection Activity:

These are only a few types of puppets! What other kinds of puppets have you seen? What do you like or not like about the puppets you've seen? Why?

Practical Activity:

As you've seen above, some puppets are created using complicated machinery, but many puppets can be created from anything you might find in your home or at school. Today we will be focusing on brown paper bag puppets, here is an instructional video for how to [begin creating your own puppet](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-L6oFGXGoVw&feature=youtu.be). (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-L6oFGXGoVw&feature=youtu.be>) Have fun!

Consider these things after making your puppet:

- How does it feel to move your puppet?
- What type of creature is your puppet? Is it a person? An animal? Something else?
- How did you meet your puppet ?
- Does your puppet speak? If so, what does its voice sound like?



Try talking to your classmates, teachers, family members, or friends as your puppet!
How does it feel? How is it different from talking to them as your normal self?

Amelia Hefferon & Nyah Pierson
MYT Teaching Artist