

Puppet show

Scenery

Create a puppet show for the book 'The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch'. Think about what you could use around your house to make the scenery. You could use a box to create the backdrop and different colour paper to decorate and create a stage. Watch this link for inspiration:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vsiEtUkZOhg>

Puppets

You could make a...

- sock puppet
- paper bag puppet
- glove puppet
- String puppets



Sock puppet

Sock puppets are such fun. Choose a long stocking type of sock so the puppet will cover your arm. Sock puppets are ideal for the peek-a-boo villain. Peek-a-boo puppets can pop up all over the place for a tickle and the surprise element of the game.

What you will need:

- An old sock
- Googly eyes or black felt to cut out eyes
- Red felt for a tongue if you make a snake
- Needle and cotton
- Scissors
- Glue

Instructions:

- Choose a long sock that will cover the arm of the puppeteer.
- Cut out eyes and a tongue (maybe for a seagull).
- Glue or stitch the eyes and the tongue in place.
- Practise putting your hand inside the sock and pinching the end between your thumb and fingers. This is where you would want a mouth to be.
- Wiggle your hand and say a line (maybe one of the seagull's lines).

Paper bag puppet

Brown paper bags make wonderful puppets. The best type of packet has a bottom part to stand on when it is opened up. This flap at the bottom becomes the mouth of the puppet. Paper bag puppets decorate easily.

What you will need:

- A brown or white paper bag with a flat bottom
- Glue
- Scissors
- Stickers
- Marking pens
- Other creative waste items like cotton wool for beards or ribbon or wool
- Have a box or basket with all sorts of bits and pieces available to put onto the DIY paper bag puppet.



Instructions:

- Start by imagining the character you will make. It could be Hamish the cat.
- Cut out all the bits and pieces required to make your puppet.
- Use coloured paper, stickers and coloured pencils to create the features of the puppet
- Create arms and fit them into the fold on the side of the paper bag to look as if they are sticking out from the side of the puppet or draw them on the front of the packet.
- Don't forget to decorate the back of the puppet too. Cats need a tail.
- Practise slipping your hand into the packet and fitting your fingers into the flap to move it up and down like a mouth.
- Now your puppet can talk and be part of the conversation.

Glove puppets

Two versions of the same concept are possible. An old knitted glove or a fabric version of a glove puppet. The head of a glove puppet is operated with the middle three fingers of the hand while the two arms are moved by the thumb and baby finger. If you decide to use an old glove then cut off the thumb and little finger of the glove for your own thumb and finger to appear. You can create tiny finger puppets out of the pieces you cut off. The head of this puppet may be a circle of felt decorated to make the face of the puppet.



Alternatively, make a glove puppet by sewing fabric or felt together in the shape of a puppet head and two hands at either side. Decide on your character beforehand to use scraps and other creative bits and pieces for its features. Maybe you could make Mr or Mrs Grinling.

What you will need:

- Old glove or a glove puppet shape sewn together to fit your hand
- Your creative wastebasket with scraps of wool, felt, buttons, pompoms, googly eyes and cotton wool.
- Scissors
- Glue or needle and cotton



Instructions:

- Decide on the basic body and arms for the glove puppet.
- Cut out the mitt and sew round to make the arms and head shape or cut off the finger and thumb of a glove. Stitch a thread through the tips of the middle fingers of the old glove version to keep them together.
- Now that you have the basic shape of your glove puppet you can cut out a head with ears from felt to attach to either the knitted glove or to the cut-and-sew mitten.
- Use your creative waste materials to make eyes, ears, nose and a mouth.
- Make hair out of wool or cotton wool.
- Glue or stitch on the hair, eyes, ears, nose and mouth.
- Have fun creating the character you have chosen (Mr Grinling, Mrs Glinling, Hamish or the seagulls)

String Puppet

String puppets, or marionettes, are the most complicated of this range of DIY puppets. However, these step by step instructions and a couple of toilet rolls will make the task easier for you. You could take your string puppet for a walk in the park.

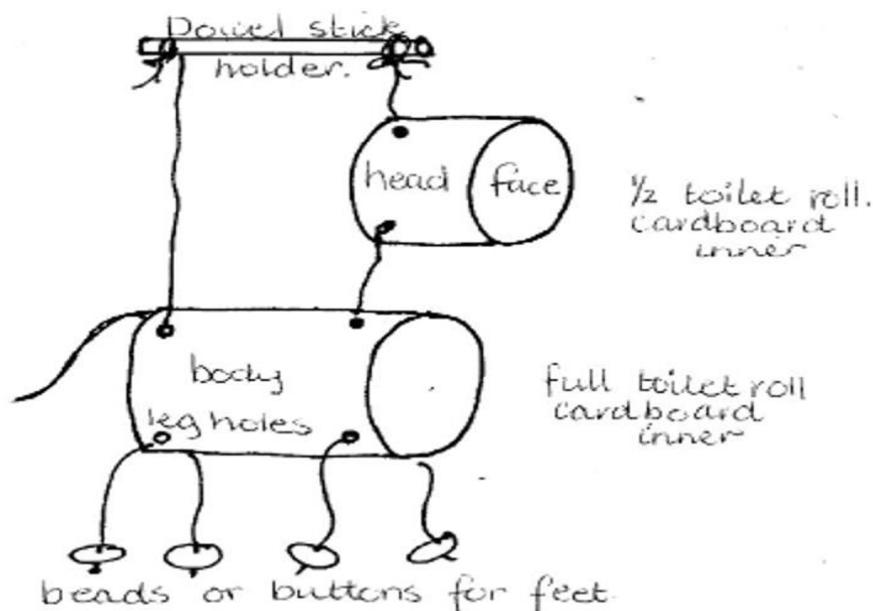
What you will need:

- Two toilet roll inners. Cut one in half for the head and leave the other for the body.
- One piece of dowel rod about 30cms long. An old ruler can also do the trick or use an old wooden coat-hanger.
- Plain paper to cover the toilet rolls, or paint.
- Scissors
- String and four big buttons or beads
- Glue
- Stickers or marking pens
- Your creative waste box of wool, googly eyes, felt scraps, cotton wool and pipe cleaners.

Instructions:

- Cut one toilet roll in half for the head section. Then, cover both pieces separately with paper or paint them the colour for the puppet character you have chosen to make.
- Decorate the body and head to suit the puppet you are making.
- Use your scissors to make four holes in the body roll for the legs on the underside of the roll.
- Remember, using pointed scissors is a job for an adult – get your adult to do this step.
- Make two holes in the top and bottom of the head section to join with a string for the neck. This will link with the rod to make the puppet's head move.

- Make two holes on the upper side of the body roll for the neck string and the tail end string linked to the control stick.
- Now create the puppet's finer features. Use your creative wastebasket for this activity.
- Cut four strings for the legs and attach a bead or big button on the end of each string for the feet of the puppet.
- Now you are ready to assemble your puppet. Push the four strings for the legs through the holes in the toilet roll and pull them through to make a knot on the end that will secure the legs in the toilet roll.
- The bead or big button on the end will give the string a bit of weight as the puppet 'walks' along.
- The hole in the end of the body has a string knotted at the end and pulled up to join onto the rod at the top.
- The head is joined with a string that acts as a neckpiece and goes through the roll to join onto the rod at the top.



Here's a list of suggestions that you could have in your creative waste basket:

- scrap paper and coloured card
- crayons and marker pens
- blunt-nosed scissors
- HB pencils and an eraser
- brown paper packets
- old magazines
- buttons and bows – bits and bobs from your sewing stash
- elastic
- stickers and stamps
- felt and scraps of fabric
- googly eyes
- pompoms
- wool and cotton wool.