

# Fantasy Theatre Factory

Presents



## Shadow Puppet Tales

Teacher Guidelines

*These Teacher Guidelines have been prepared in conjunction with Florida Sunshine State Standards.*



### A Message to Educators

How do juggling, puppets, clown, and theatre affect my students? What are the advantages of a live theatre production? Most importantly, how can I make this particular theatre experience an educational one as well?

Live performance, whether it's a play, a circus act or a puppet show not only provides positive entertainment-it jump-starts the imagination and stimulates creativity. This adds to the richness of art in general, unlimited even by the number of individuals in existence, since each individual's possibilities are endless. Encouraging imagination in children as early as possible solidifies their freedom to cultivate their creativity and discover their art.



### Why Tell Stories to children?

#### **Developing Aural Comprehension:**

Storytelling and reading out loud make it easier for children to understand and enjoy certain types of literature that they might never read themselves. Why is this? As educators, we know that children, good readers or poor, need to have their reading interests expanded. Children, like many adults, will continue to read the same kind of stories that they are currently accustomed to (i.e. horse stories or fairy tales etc.) Through storytelling and reading out loud to children we can introduce them to a wider variety of literature.

Storytelling can also help reduce the lag between the child's reading ability and their capacity to understand literature. For many children there is at least a three-year difference between what they can comprehend when listening and what they are capable of reading.

Thirdly, it makes reading seem easy and fun. Watching an adult read effortlessly or recite a story with amusement helps to make reading an enviable skill.





## Why Puppets?

From *Punch and Judy*, with roots in the 16<sup>th</sup> century Italian commedia dell'arte, to today's breathtaking *Lion King* on Broadway, puppets have always captivated audiences of all ages. The clever use of puppets in storytelling provides a visual guide to the world being created on stage, and helps the audience gladly accept it and join in the adventure being presented. Puppets have also been used to help shy children communicate otherwise difficult feelings and troubling situations.



## From: Why we are still enthralled by puppetry

*By Lucinda Everett*

'Liz Walker, a puppet work deviser from **Invisible Thread**, who made her name as co-founder of the now disbanded theatre company Faulty Optic, agrees that puppetry gives the audience "a greater role" to play.

"From the audience's point of view there's some incredible magic about knowing that you can see things being operated, you can see what they're made of, you know they're not the real thing but you're suspending your disbelief and going along with it. To become complicit in that magic is really satisfying."



## From: Puppets in Education

*By A Greensmith*

"Learning through play is fundamental to our children's education, helping them to develop the necessary skills in life. Puppets can stimulate children's imagination, encourage creative play and discovery and are a wonderful interactive way to introduce narrative to even the most reluctant reader. They can be a powerful way of bringing story time to life; puppets can provide a focus for role-play, encouraging the child's imagination and involvement in activities and can play a fundamental part in the recitation of stories and verse. In addition, hand puppets with workable mouths and tongues are an excellent motivational resource to inspire the teaching of phonics within literacy.

Any puppet can encourage the quietest of children to start talking. Puppets can break down barriers and provide an effective means to initiate communication. The child trusts the puppet and doesn't feel threatened by it, making it a perfect neutral medium through which they can discuss sensitive issues. The child can express thoughts, fears and feelings through the puppet that they might otherwise find difficult to voice to an adult."



## **6 Reasons Why Puppets Will Change Your Classroom Forever**

*By Sam Patterson and Cheryl Morris*

Puppets change the entire classroom by creating more possibilities for creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and curiosity. They give students a (sometimes silly) voice and put them in the role of creator. They can also be a co-teacher, a physical avatar, a learning partner, and even facilitate learning by subverting the ego.

### **The Benefits of Puppets in Class**

#### **1. Design Thinking**

Your students can build puppets. With a thoughtful approach to building a puppet, they can design their ultimate learning partner.

#### **2. Growth Mindset**

Puppet creation requires making mistakes. Your first puppet will always be very, very special. Students learn fairly quickly that what they see in their mind is not the same as what they can make with their hands.

#### **3. Sharable Media**

Privacy concerns are ever-present, especially for elementary and middle school teachers. Students should be creators to show both content mastery and content-specific skills, but when they create their videos, it's ethically hard to share them to give students an authentic, real-world audience. With the puppets as physical avatars for students, videos become sharable so that students get the benefit of a wider audience and feedback while still being protected.

#### **4. Puppet as Co-Teacher**

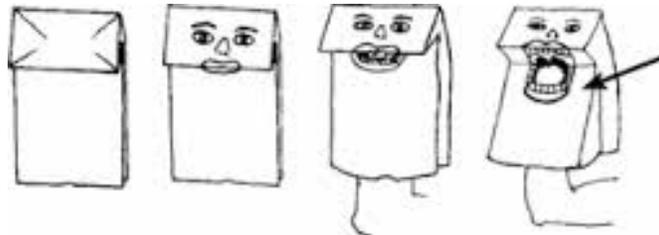
When you make a video to introduce a topic or app, use a puppet. The attention that your students pay is different. I enjoy letting the puppet kick off a lesson, and then I help in the room.

#### **5. Writing With a Puppet**

When students write plays, foremost in many of their minds is how they will look, how they will sound, and how others will respond to them. Writing for the puppet allows them to be far more silly, as well as take risks with accents, characters, and plots that they wouldn't try if they were required to act it out live. Not only does it help them learn the content as well as writing skills and dialogue formatting, but they also learn important lessons in collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creativity.

#### **6. Making Learning Less Threatening**

We take risks all the time in learning -- and sharing out is the worst. Using a puppet transforms getting caught in the headlights into shining in the spotlight. Students share with less risk, and the puppet makes the situation a lot more like a performance.

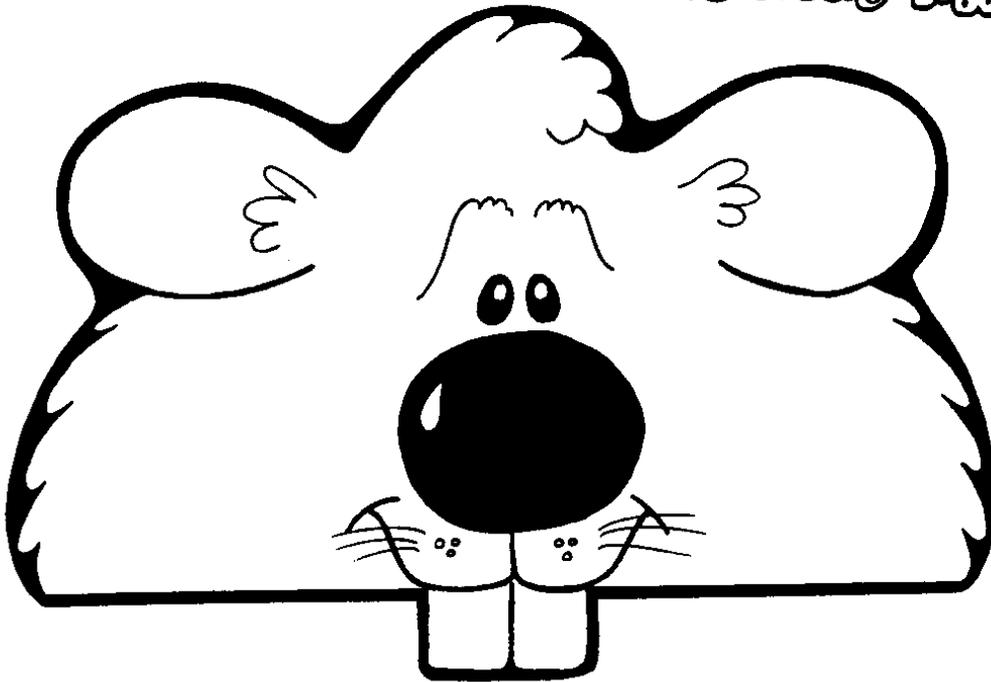




**Activity: Paper Bag Puppets**

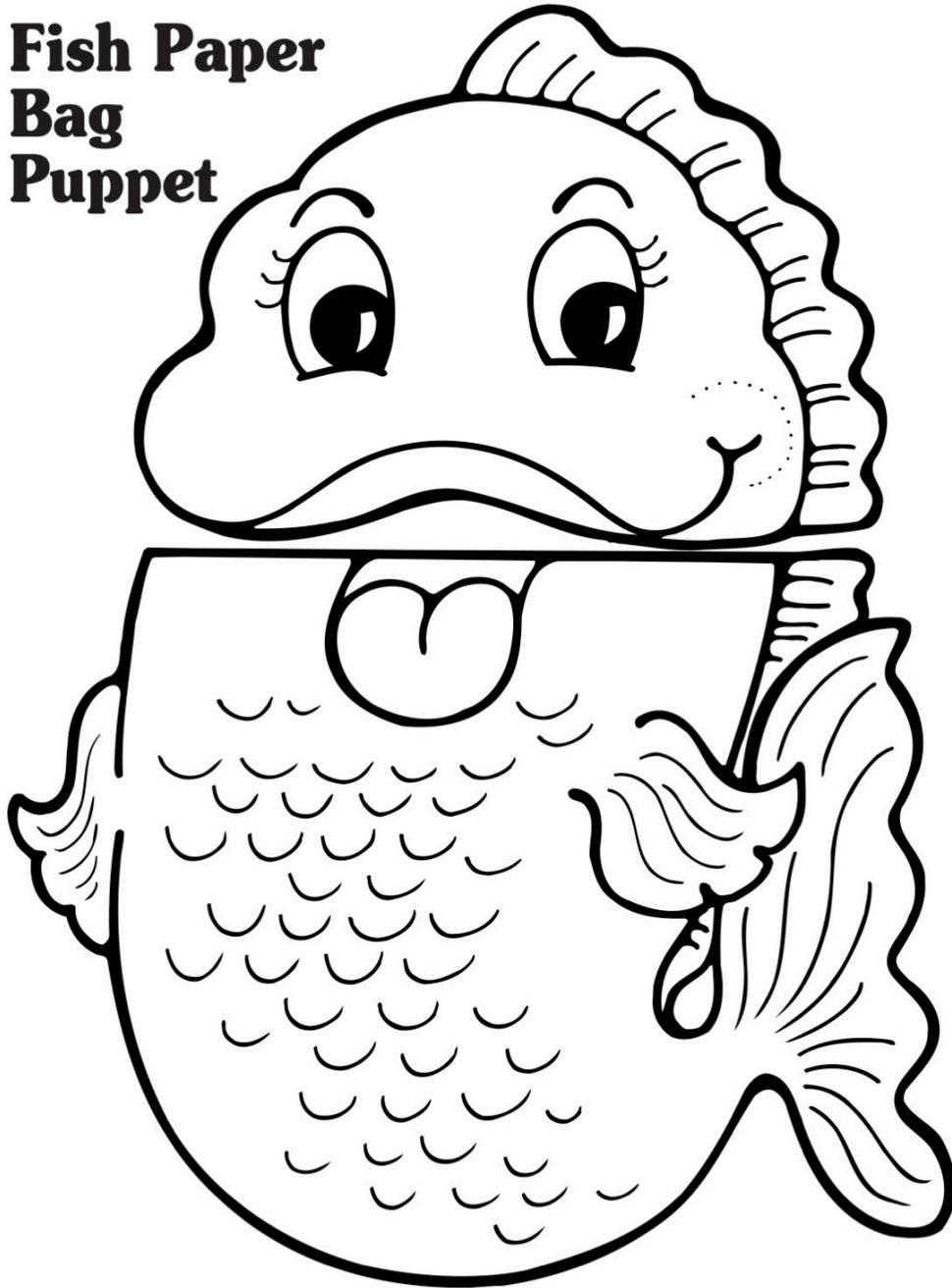
1. **Collect:** Collect paper bags from previous purchases or find a pack in a discount store.
2. **Color:** Have your students color the following animals, then
3. **Cut:** cut them out and glue them onto the paper bag.

“Groundhog Puppet”



\*Reproduce head portion of Groundhog onto brown or tan construction paper. Mount on folded flap of paper sack as shown.

# Fish Paper Bag Puppet



**Sunshine State Standards Addressed:**

**Kindergarten**

*TH.K.S.1.In.b Participate in play-acting*

*TH.K.S.1.Pa.b Interact with others*

**Grade 1**

*TH.1.S.1.Pa.b Participate in pretend activities*



**From: Puppets Talk, Children Listen**  
**How puppets are effective teaching aids for kids**  
*By Christie Belfiore*

'Puppets are perfect for grabbing their attention because they are safe, fun, and a natural progression from educational cartoons they likely watch at home. "My students are very excited when I use puppets. They love watching them and acting out scenarios of everyday life," explains Cancelli who teaches a busy classroom full of two- and three-year-olds. "Finger puppets, particularly, are the most effective for my children because they have such tiny hands. By putting puppets on their fingers, they are able to transform their fingers into anything they want," she adds. Puppets are also effective for teaching storytelling and the arts. Cancelli explains enthusiastically that puppets "are amazing as a visual aid for singing and dancing, they help children to be inventive and artistic, and they allow for children's visions and inspirations to come to life."

For kindergarten children, puppets are simple and effective tools for delivering information. "Often times, [my students] quote things I have said in lessons, or things their parents have said at home. The puppets allow them to project things that they observe and relate to in their lives," explains Cancelli. When puppets are incorporated with play-based learning, children retain knowledge more effectively. The puppets then become tools for sharing or retelling what they have learned and observed.'

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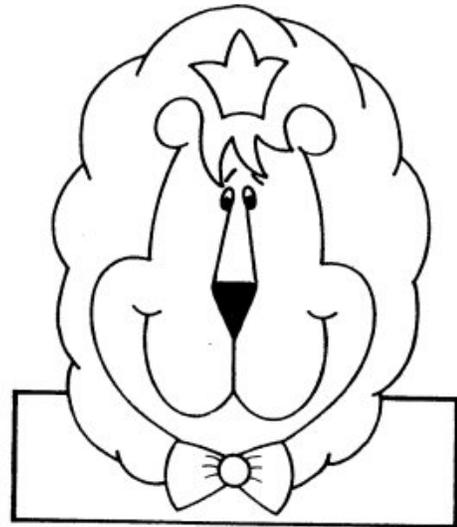
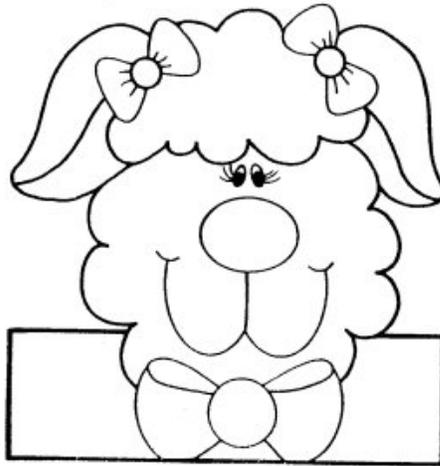
'Children in latter grades can use puppets in a more profound way. Puppets can help break down barriers and encourage students to discuss very difficult issues such as bullying, abuse, drugs, and cultural and physical differences, to name a few. Many students are very uncomfortable with deeply personal topics and puppets can be used to lighten the mood. Cancelli says puppets "allow kids to express issues or concerns with a 'mask' on," hiding behind the puppets, but still talking about the issues on hand—literally and figuratively. Puppets can empower students and assure them that they *can* discuss difficult issues without being centred out or put on the spot. Cancelli adds, "Puppets also act as an outlet because students can use them to express things that may pain them, or share things without feeling vulnerable."





**Activity: Finger Puppets**

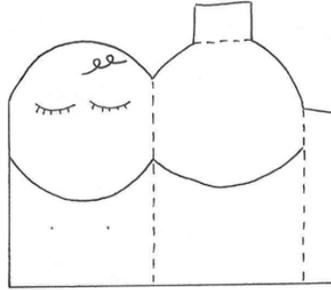
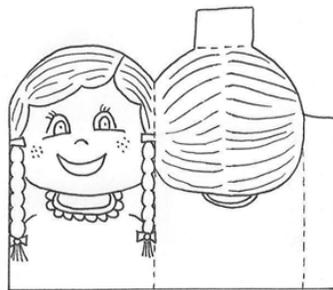
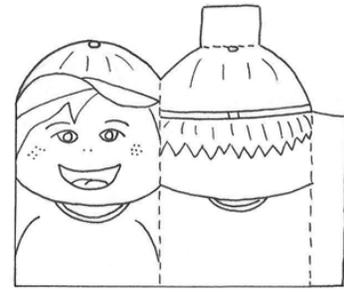
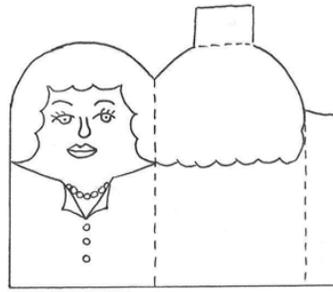
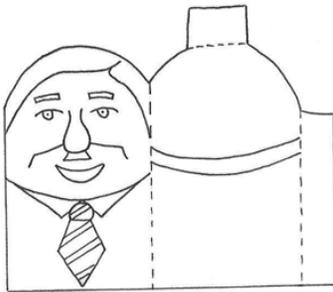
1. Color and cut out each finger puppet.
2. Glue or tape the tabs together so that the puppet fits around your finger.





**Activity: Finger Puppets**

The following pattern for finger puppets can be colored, cut and folded to create finger puppets that can sit on the fingers instead of putting the fingers through them like the finger puppets on the previous page.



**Sunshine State Standards Addressed:**

Kindergarten

*TH.K.S.2.In.a Imitate movements and expressions of familiar story characters*

*TH.K.F.3.In.a Demonstrate cooperative dramatic play behaviors.*





## About Fantasy Theatre Factory



Fantasy Theatre Factory (FTF) is a professional *touring* theatre created in New York in 1977 by Ed Allen and Mimi Schultz, performing artists and teachers. FTF is currently headed by Producing Artistic Director Larry Fields. FTF presents theatre for diverse family audiences. FTF's 16 touring educational shows appeal to pre-school, elementary, family, adult and senior audiences. FTF shows cover themes of: Children's Literature, Reading, Ecology, Social Service, Black history, Bullying Prevention, Dance, English, and Music. FTF performs in rural and inner-city schools, theatres, parks, hospitals, community centers, and more. In this manner, Fantasy Theatre Factory presents more than 300 Florida programs reaching over 130,000 people each year. Fantasy Theatre Factory's mission is to make more quality theatre programs available to more people.

Learn more by visiting FTF's website @

[www.ftfshows.com](http://www.ftfshows.com)

Also Check out FTF on Social Media @

[www.facebook.com/ftfshows](https://www.facebook.com/ftfshows), [www.twitter.com/ftfshows](https://www.twitter.com/ftfshows)  
[www.instagram.com/ftfshows](https://www.instagram.com/ftfshows)



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## Teacher Evaluation

Fantasy Theatre Factory is always evolving and growing, and we count on feedback from you, teachers, administrators, and students to help us move in directions where there is need. We would especially like to know which elements of the program were of value, interest, and significance to you and your students.

What do your students remember most about the performance? Are there other books/stories that you would like to see offered through our In-school programs for future years?

Please take a moment to fill in this evaluation sheet:

School \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

Name,  
Position \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about us?

\_\_\_\_\_

Your Comments:

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*Thank you for taking the time to fill out this form. Furthermore, we welcome letters, essays, and drawings from your students. Please enclose them and return to:*

**Fantasy Theatre Factory**  
6103 NW 7th Avenue  
Miami, FL 33127  
**(305) 284-8800**

# Fantasy Theatre Factory



## Shadow Puppet Tales

We love fan mail! Let us know your favorite part and how much you enjoyed the show. You can even draw a picture. We cannot wait to hear from you!

Dear Fantasy Theatre Factory,

Your Friend,

School:

Teacher:

Show:

Date: