



SAMPLE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

Build skills and provide inspiration on how to use the Power of Puppetry in any setting. Designed for any adult who works with children.

Hands on activity is one of the most effective ways of learning, particularly when led with a guiding question, interspersed by relevant discussion and driven by children's inquiry and exploration. Drama by its nature promotes leadership, team works, self-confidence, art creation hones project management skills, lateral thinking and imagination.

A DOZEN PUPPET IDEAS FOR YOUNG LEARNERS

Puppetry is a powerful medium for learning and it's strength as an empathetic friend or a conduit for expression is amazing. This workshop shares lots of fun puppet ideas that are easily adaptable for various student's abilities and available resources and time. Participants will be able to make a couple of puppets and try improvisation and characterization games. From shadow and paper puppets to 'found object Reggio approach' puppets there is lots of opportunity and 'do – tomorrow' projects. Supplies/handouts provided.

HOW TO USE PUPPETS TO FULL POTENTIAL

Lots of classrooms and playrooms have puppets or even a puppet stage, but sometimes they lie unused and unappreciated. Other times the puppets are overused and become part of a puppet scrum. This session discusses how to set up meaningful puppet playing activities for children. It also provides training on how, when and why the teacher/leader would use a puppet themselves to be spokesperson or mediator. Participants will learn some manipulation tips, have fun playing improvisation drama games and gain confidence in their using a puppet.

LET THE IDEAS FLY! BIRD PUPPETS INSPIRE MATH TO MUSIC

Get going with classroom ready puppet workshop plans on Bird themes. Wendy lends her enthusiasm and experiences to ideas for all elementary grades – from Kindergarten exploration of the micro-magic of feathers to a story-study on Leadership for grade six to Classical music inspired by birds. Participants will see loads of puppets samples from a variety of materials, hear stories, see how puppet lessons are crafted as well as make and move their own take – home puppets.

EXTRUDED PLASTIC SHADOW PUPPETS

A fun way to look at the plastic in our lives; extruded plastic shapes make fantastical shadow puppets and projected backgrounds. Explore the possibilities and then recycle! As Mother used to say “The fun is in the making, not in the Keeping”

In this hands-on shadow puppet workshop, participants will create and present a quick shadow puppet play-let. Challenged with using only sharpie markers, bamboo skewers and plastic ‘garbage’ they will make a fantastical puppet and setting and pick some background music.

ROD PUPPETS FILLED WITH HOPE

Create a puppet filled with hope! Participants generate pictures, poems and other writings that make a connection to their own thoughts on hope; it can be a self-portrait puppet or a puppet of a real or imaginary person. In the creation of these documents there is an excellent chance for reflection, conversation and debate on the meaning and application of hope. However the documents are merely representations of the ideas that we live and so next they are shredded to make the brain stuffing for this endearing rod puppet, made from a sock, with buttons, yarn and colourful fabric. (No sewing is required)

BUNRAKU PUPPETRY

The intriguing culture of the Bunraku Theatre of Japan, from the purpose of Vicks mentholatum to the teamwork of the zukai (puppeteers) will be introduced through stories and video. Participants will have a chance to operate a Bunraku style puppet – learning some of the techniques for futi (commonplace gestures) and hata (striking poses). I will demonstrate several student accessible Bunraku style puppets to make and participants will make and play a simple paper and straw Bunraku style puppet to take home.

SHADOW PUPPET PROJECTS

Playing with light and shadows while learning scientific principles, art & design, team work and more, shadow puppetry is wonderfully accessible for all grades, at all levels of competency. In this workshop I will share project ideas for grades k-6. Participants will make and ‘play’ a shadow puppet and see for themselves the simplicity, sophistication and satisfaction possible through this historic genre of puppetry.

‘TAKE OUT BOX’ PUPPETS ART + MATH

This fun conference session provides three ready to go workshop plans that use puppetry to explore Division 1 Math concepts: 2 and 3D geometry, story based problem solving and measurement. Participants will make one puppet and see how it follows though into the learning. The two other workshop plans will be demonstrated and discussed. Non-math and other division teachers can enjoy the art, drama and language arts links.