

Bits N Pieces'

Jack & the Beanstalk



Fee, Fie, Foe, Fun!

A Giant is loose in Cloudland. Jack climbs the magic beanstalk skyward. Marionettes, big and small, perform together on stage in this traditional Celtic music puppet play

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK.

Bits 'N Pieces' classic puppet fun includes storytelling, books and marionettes.



Study Guide

www.puppetworld.com

“Jack & the Beanstalk”

Presented by Bits ‘N Pieces PuppetWorld
An Educator’s Guide

On with the Show!

Spin the globe of the earth. Take a look. Everyplace where there are children, there are puppet shows. Puppets are something all cultures share. Everyone loves to laugh and hear a good story. Jerry Bickel presents his one-man puppet performance for you. He plays the parts, sings the song, brings the puppets to life and tells the story. He presents a musical marionette performance from the past for your audience today.



Jerry Bickel
Bits ‘N Pieces Puppet Theatre

Jack & the Beanstalk

Before the Show

For grades K thru 2

Read the synopsis and describe the show to your class.

For grades 3 to 5

Read the show synopsis out loud to your class.

Our story of

Jack & the Beanstalk



Act One

Jack is a poor farm boy. Where once his family had money, now he barely has dinner. When the old cow Milky White can no longer give milk, Jack's mother tells him to take the cow to market and sell it for food.

Going to market, a little man stops Jack and tells him he knew Jack's father. Jack lets the little man convince him to trade his cow for five magic beans that will bring him good luck. Innocent and excited, Jack hurries home to find Mama does not think he made a good trade for the cow. Angry at her son, she throws the beans over the fence. Jack's mother hurries them off to bed with no supper.

Act Two

The beans are truly magic! They grow a giant beanstalk into the air through the clouds and up to a castle in the sky. A giant lives there. The giant who has stolen Jack's family treasures. Jack takes back what belongs to him: a bag of gold, a magic harp and a chicken that lays golden eggs. Fee-Fi-Fo-Fum the giant arrives and chases Jack back down the beanstalk!

Jack arrives home with the giant climbing down the beanstalk right behind him. Jack calls for an ax. But before he can chop down the beanstalk, the giant plunges to his doom.

The first literary version of the tale appeared in England in the 1734 book *Round About our Coal-Fire: or Christmas Entertainments*.

Celtic Music

Celtic music is the traditional folk music of the Celts of Northern Europe. Celtic music is unique to the people just as French music and English music describe musics of specific geographic groups of people. Celtic music covers the traditional music found in Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Brittany (in France), Galicia (in Spain) and countries which have been influenced by them including the US and Canada. Musical instruments include the harp, flute, drum and penny whistle.



ABOUT MARIONETTES

What to Look for

Solo artist, puppeteer and storyteller Jerry Bickel uses marionettes to bring his story to life on stage. These marionettes are made of wood and plaster and fabric. Some of the marionettes are “French” with strings, and some marionettes are “Czech” with wires instead. A traditional classic marionette stage with full scenery and lighting compliments the performance. In addition to the performance Jerry also presents an illustrated demonstration of the marionette’s historical development. During the performance Jerry allows the audience to see the “manipulation technique” of the puppets and the “backstage” workings of the theatre.

Puppetry uses movement and sound effects to enhance the storytelling.

Six marionettes are animated on stage with dramatic action movement and precision.

During the puppetry demonstration the audience is invited to participate with words, sounds and movement.

Standards connected to the Performance

Language Arts: Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

Theater: Respond to a performance and share personal preferences about parts of the performance.

1. Identify characters in stories from various cultures.
2. Respond to a play by drawing and/or writing about a favorite aspect of it.
3. Write a summary of dramatic events after reading or watching a play.
4. Demonstrate how the use of movement and sound enhance the telling of a story.

Theater Etiquette Activity

This is a reflective exercise for your students. Read this section to them with discussion.

The Role of the Audience

- You are the audience - an important part of the performance. You help the performers by pretending and participating with them.
- Seeing a live show is not like watching TV or a movie. The performers are in the same room with you, and can see and hear you, the audience, and interact! What are some other differences? (No commercials, no eating, no lying down or running around...)
- Enter the performance space quietly and listen. Who might be giving instructions?
- The performers need you to watch and listen quietly. Talking to friends disturbs the performers and other members of the audience.
- Your job is to pretend along with the performers. They like it when you laugh if something is funny. They also like to hear you clap at the end of a performance when they bow.
- After the bows the audience stays seated. Who might give instructions on how to leave?

Standards for Theater Etiquette

1. Demonstrate appropriate audience behavior at a live performance.
2. Exhibit appropriate audience etiquette and response.
3. Exhibit the behavior necessary to establish audience etiquette, response, and constructive criticism.
4. Demonstrate effective audience etiquette and constructive criticism for a live performance.
5. Exhibit proper audience etiquette, give constructive criticism, and defend personal responses.
6. Describe the difference in responsibilities between being an audience member at live or recorded performances.

Language Arts Activity - Reading

Check out different versions of the fairytale from your library and read the stories to, or with, your class. Compare and Contrast the different versions of the stories.

Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to, or with, your class. Compare and Contrast the different versions of the stories.

After the show

Language Arts Activity – Reading

Use a Venn Diagram to compare and contrast the book and the performance.

Use one of the stories or books from the activity above.

1. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.
2. Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).
3. Compare the differences between reading a story and seeing it as a play.

Language Arts Activity – Writing

Ask you students to write a different ending to one of the stories in the performance.

Alternately, For grades K through 2, students can draw a picture, write as a group or do shared writing.

Encourage you students to answer specific questions like:

What would have happened if Jack had not traded for the beans?

How would the story have ended if the Giant had not fallenn down the beanstalk?

Why did the cow returning home help the story's happy ending?

1. Write narratives in which they recount a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events, include details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide a sense of closure.
2. Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).

Storytelling Activities

Theater Concepts and Vocabulary

- The storyteller and audience agree to “suspend disbelief”, to pretend together that the action of the performance is real and is happening for the first time. This agreement means the audience members accept the use of theater conventions such as:
 - Audience participation - the storyteller talks directly to, and interacts with, the audience. The audience is invited to help act out parts of the story.
 - The storyteller plays multiple characters and uses many voices.
 - The storyteller sings to provide information, move the action forward and set a mood.
 - The storyteller uses mime movements to suggest props and scenery.

Storytelling Games

Go over the stories from the show with your students. Pick one of the stories (or pick one episode). Be sure to have a beginning, middle, and end.

1. Ask the students to form a circle and let the first child begin telling the story. At a prearranged signal from you, the next child in the circle must take up the story. Keep going until everyone has a turn and the story is told.
2. Turn a favorite fairy tale into a “fractured fairy tale”. Example- Make Goldilocks a beauty queen and the three bears farmers.
3. Find an interesting item or photo and invent a story about it.

4. Pretend to be an animal or person living in an imagined place.
5. Read and dramatize stories with similar themes to show developing knowledge of, and respect for, cultural differences.
6. Act out a character learned about in another content area.
7. Demonstrate how the use of movement and sound enhance the telling of a story.

Puppet Theater Activity

Simple Czech Marionette

These puppets are really simple stick puppets with one rod. Print the pictures on 110# Card Stock. Have the children color the characters, cut out and attach a drinking straw to the back of each puppet. The straws stick “up” out of the head. The straws go all the way down to the toes, but you attach the straw with tape up behind the nose. The scenery is folded like a picture book so it stands upright. The puppets are performed in front of the scenery. When the show is over the puppet can be “attached” to the stage by sliding the puppet over the set between the cardboard and the straw. As further development, a “real” stage can be made from a shoebox or cereal carton. A Diorama could have a set of performing puppets. Students could create their own puppets and performance based on a book read in class.

Make your own simple puppets and use them to tell your favorite fairytales.

Explore these activities with the puppets. Have fun!

- Present “Jack and the Beanstalk”. Have each student become his or her favorite character. Pretend the characters are meeting each other in the woods for the first time.
- Have your students act out a scene from the story. Have the students make other puppets as needed.
- Use desk lamps to light your stage. Make it bright, make it dim, make it flash, make it dark.
- Add sound effects and animal noises..

Great resource for making simple stick puppets

“DIY - How to make Stick Puppets” - YouTube

www.youtube.com/watch?v=zU3O7CahPg4

“10 Super Fun Puppet Crafts For Your Kids” - MomJunction

www.momjunction.com/articles/super-fun-puppet-crafts-kids_0075121/

1. Create and/or collect appropriate props and costumes and use them to help tell a story.
2. Create sound and lighting effects to suggest the mood of a story.

Bibliography

Making Puppets Come Alive

by Larry Engler and Carol Fijan

Puppets

by Bil Baird

Stop the Flap!

by Pegg Callahan



About the performing artist Jerry Bickel



Puppeteer and Founder of Bits 'N Pieces Theatre

An earnest puppeteer since childhood, Jerry received the Distinguished Career Award in Youth Theatre from the Florida Theatre Conference in 1998. He has written and produced eleven giant puppet musicals and dozens of smaller traditional puppet productions.. Bits 'N Pieces Puppet Theatre has made 16 international tours to Asia and Europe. In addition to leading the Bits N Pieces GIANT Puppet Theatre he is the solo performer at PuppetWorld in Tampa and tours traditional puppet productions across the county. He is currently the North American Councilor for the World Puppet Carnival.

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Check out his web site at
www.puppetworld.com

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Jack and the Beanstalk performed by Bits N Pieces Puppet Theatre

Bits 'N Pieces programs are presented with the assistance of the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners, Arts Council of Hillsborough County, Florida Division of Cultural Affairs, Department of State, Florida Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, and you.



The History of “Jack and the Beanstalk”

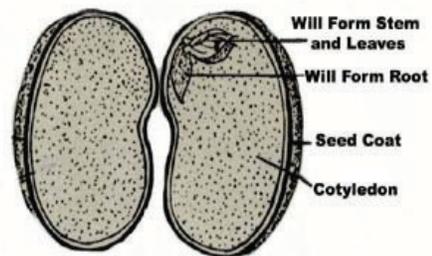
The desire to climb up into the sky is as old as mankind. Early stories of the Tower of Babel and Jacob’s Ladder are known far and wide. Many variations of the tale’s themes exist in different countries. Asia has a story about a branch planted by Buddha that grows skyward rapidly when planted. The English version of “Jack” is the best known variation. It has also been popular in north-central Europe, Finland and Norway, but not Russia. The journey has been told in Spain and Romania and even by the American Indian tribes stretching from Nova Scotia to British Columbia.

Questions to ask before the show...

1. What will the characters look like? Have the students draw their ideas.
2. What is music? Can music tell the emotions of the singer? Think of a happy song. Think of a sad song. Without the words is the song still happy or sad?
3. Who is Engelbert Humperdinck? Have you ever heard of him? There might be two! Do you expect the story to be scary or funny?

Questions to ask after the show...

1. What did you like best about the show? What did you like the least?
2. Do you have to listen carefully to the words to understand the story?
3. Which character is your favorite? Why?
4. What was the mood of the show? Happy, scary, sad?



Bean Cut in Half

Grow your own Beanstalk

Grow Lima or Pinto beans as a class project. Sprout them in a jar and plant them, or grow them in the jar against the glass with blotter paper. Identify the seed, seed coat, stem, leaves, blooms and beans. Keep a daily record of the plants’ progress (ex: date planted, sprouted, height, etc.)

Fee-Fi-Fo-Fum!

Explain that some words have no meanings but are sounds of expression. Have the students make up simple sing-song poems with the Giant’s favorite words. Use different voices: deep and scary, high and witch-y, normal and heroic. Fee Fie Foh Fum! Puppet shows are really fun!

Other Puppet Ideas for the Classroom

Science

Make simple paper cut out puppets and present the water cycle. Show it rain, fill the lake, sink into the ground, feed the plants, evaporate and begin again.

Literature

Make puppets to act out a scene from a book you are currently reading. Use shadow puppets cut from cardboard and projected with an overhead projector.

Cultures

Investigate the puppets traditionally seen by children of a specific country. Find paintings and pictures of their puppets. Make a show from one of their traditional stories.

History

Make a show based on past history of what's happening in the news today. Make a cardboard box puppet stage that looks like a television screen or an old history book.

Art

Study famous paintings and make puppets of the figures. Tie to March with the World Day of Puppetry or April with America's Day of Puppetry.

Music

Team up with the music teacher to write a show. Compose songs about "Who you are" and "What you want" or "How I'll get in the Way". Video tape for class enjoyment.

Vocabulary

Art-

The use of a variety of means to express ideas, entertain and enlighten.

Blocking-

The movement of characters on the stage as planned by the director.

Composer-

The artist who creates original music.

Dance-

The expressive use of the body to convey a story, emotion and or pleasing visual effect.

Marionette-

A string puppet operated from overhead.

Music-

The art of making sound tell a story or have a meaning.

Puppet-

An inanimate object made to seem alive by the puppeteer who performs the show.

Script-

The written dialogue and stage action description of the play

This program is sponsored in part by the Hillsborough County Public Schools, Arts Council of Hillsborough County, Hillsborough County Board of Commissioners, Florida State Division of Cultural Affairs, Florida Arts Council, National Endowment for the Arts, and You!

Answers to Crossword Puzzle:
1. String/Shadow
2. Finger
3. Shadow
4. Giant
5. Rod

Types of Puppets

Word Scramble Clues

NAHD

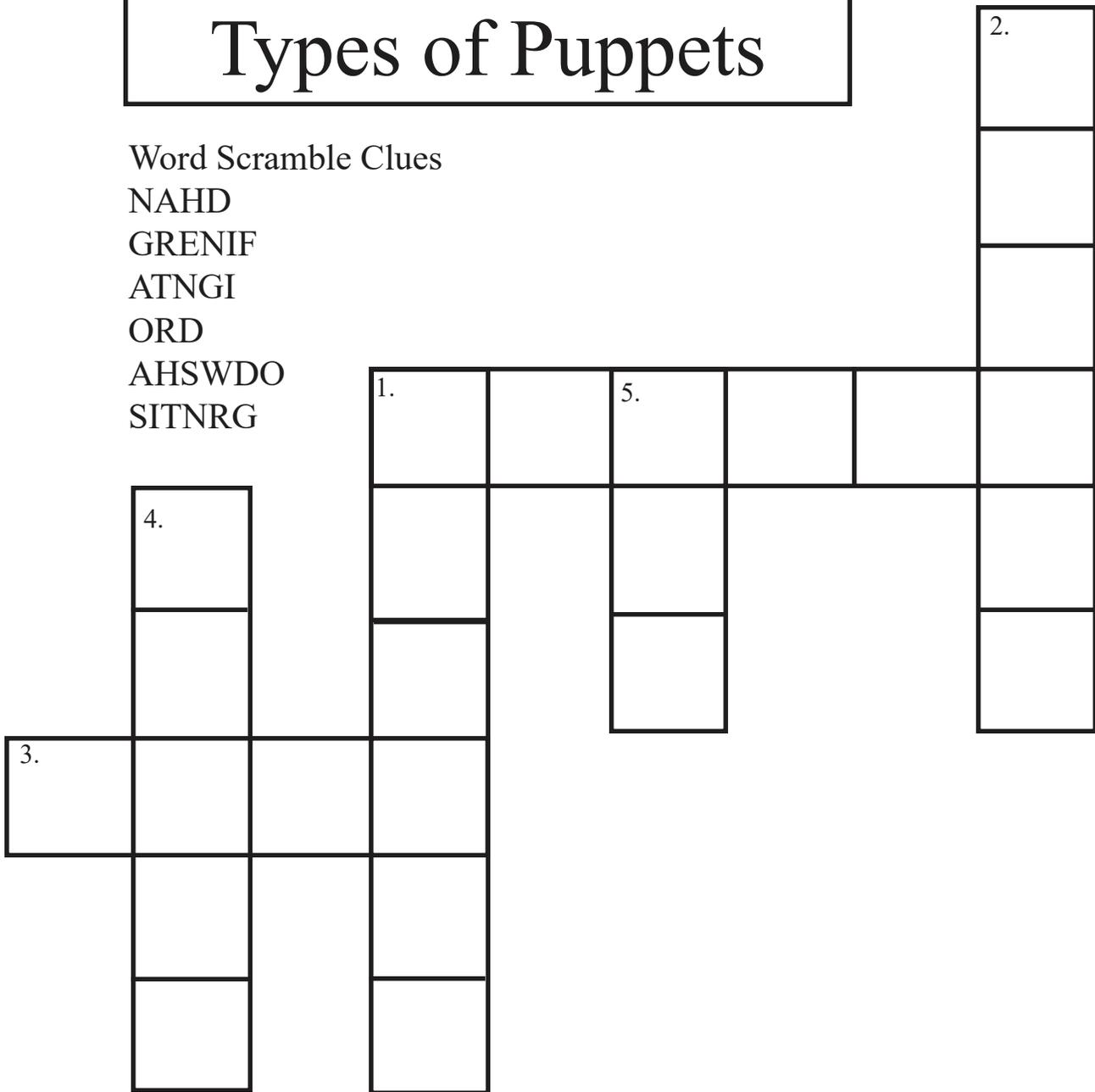
GRENIF

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Clues

ACROSS

- 1.) These puppets are worked from above and very good for flying. In France say "Marionette".
- 3.) Mr. Punch is one of these. It attaches to your arm.

DOWN

- 1.) Even with a bright stage light you can't see this puppet, you just see it's _____.
- 2.) You can put five of these puppets on one hand.
- 4.) Bits 'N Pieces' one and only, really big puppet.
- 5.) These European and Javanese puppets are worked from underneath with sticks.