

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.



Activity 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 there are children, there are puppet shows. Puppets are something all cultures share. Everyone loves to laugh and hear a good story. Holli Rubin presents her one-man puppet performance for you. She plays the parts, sings the song, brings the puppets to life and tells the story. She presents a musical marionette performance from the past for your audience today.



Holli Rubin
Bits ‘N Pieces Puppet Theatre

Jack & the Beanstalk

Before the Show

Read the story and describe the show to your class.

Our story of

Jack & the Beanstalk



Act One

Jack is a poor farm boy. Where once his family had money, now they barely had dinner. Jack's mother tells him to take the cow to market and sell her 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 falls to the ground and gets his face stuck in the mud. With the Giant no longer a problem, Jack and his mother can live happily ever after.

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 Holli Rubin uses marionettes to bring a 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. During the performance Holli allows the audience to see the “manipulation technique” of the puppets and the “backstage” workings of the theatre. After the performance, Holli talks to the children about the show, answers their questions, and happily lets them see the puppets one more time.

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.

About the performing artist Holli Rubin



Artistic Director, Puppet Sculptor, and Actress

Graduate of the University of South Florida, Holli is the company's performer extraordinaire and master puppet builder. She has created puppets for 16 productions, including 52 giant puppets. She has taken the company on twelve international tours to Asia and Europe. She recently led the company for return performances at the 9th International Festival of Puppetry Art in Prague, Czech Republic. Holli received a 2013 Artist Fellowship from the Arts Council of Hillsborough County. Holli believes in the magic of a smile and a hug!

About the director Jerry Bickel



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. He is currently the North American Councilor for the World Puppet Carnival.

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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”

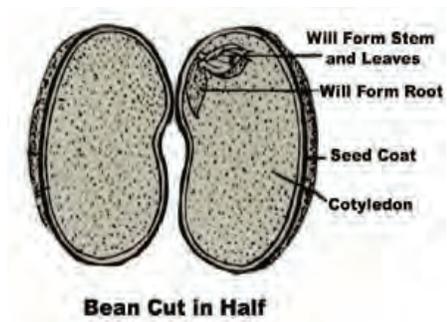
The desire to climb up into the sky is as old as mankind. Early stories of the Tower of Babel and Jacob’s Ladder are known far and wide. Many variations of the tale’s themes exist in different countries. Asia has a story about a branch planted by Buddha that grows skyward rapidly when planted. The English 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?



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 Board of County Commissioners, Florida State Division of Arts and Culture, Florida Council on Arts and Culture, 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

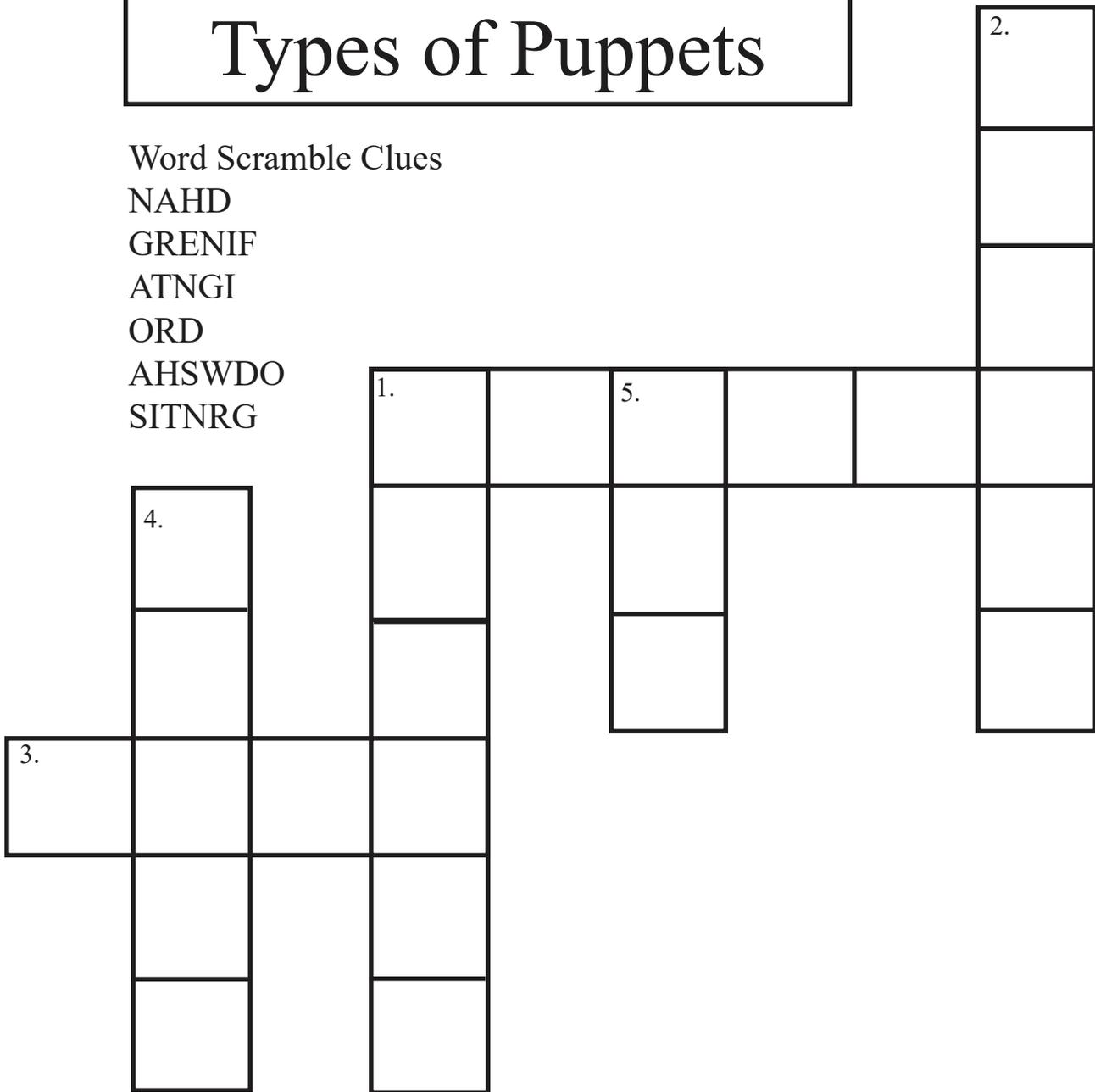
GRENIF

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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.