Welcome to Found Object Puppetry

Watch a welcome video from Sherie Rene Scott, an Award Winning Writer, Actress, and Singer.

Puppets are everywhere! “Puppetry is acting from your wrist up” – Jim Henson (Creator of the Muppets)

What Do You Need to Make a Puppet?

1. A Pair of Eyes
2. A Personality
3. A Voice

Let’s Make a Found Object Puppet!

Step 1: Choose your Materials

Look around your house and gather anything that looks like it could be a puppet. Some examples are a stapler, a highlighter, a large fork, or a coffee mug.

Once you find your object, you will also need:
- Paper or Magazine
- Pen or Pencil
- Tape
- Crayons or Markers or Colored Pencils (optional)
- Scissors (optional)
In this example, we will use a stapler as our puppet.

Step 2: Make Your Eyes

Now that you have your chosen object, let’s start by giving your puppet some eyes! You can give your puppet as many eyes as you’d like and they can be any shape!

Step 3: Name and Personality

Next, let’s give your puppet a name! We named our stapler puppet Penelope!

Your Puppet’s Name: ____________________________

Now, let’s think about three words to describe your puppet. For example, I think Penelope is Kind, Smart, and Quiet.

Your Puppet is __________, __________, and __________.
Step 4: Create a Voice for your Puppet

When creating a voice for your puppet, here are some things to think about.

- Pitch
  - Is the voice high or low?
- Volume
  - Is the voice loud or quiet?
- Vocal Quality
  - Singing
  - Nasal
  - Slow (like Eeyore)

For example, Penelope the Stapler might have a voice that would be kind of nasal, low pitched, and quiet.

Now let’s think about your puppet!

Your Puppet’s Name: _______________________

Three words to describe your puppet: __________, __________, and __________.

Voice: __________, __________, and __________.

Create Your Puppet Show

Create an Entrance and Exit

Create an entrance and an exit for your puppet(s). Think about:

- Where is it going?
- Where is it coming from?
- How does it feel about being on stage?

Tell a Story

Now, together with your family, create and tell a story with a beginning, middle and end!

The beginning of your story should introduce the characters, setting, and situation.
The middle of your story should introduce the problem.
The end of your story should have some sort of resolution.

More Story Ideas

Using your puppets, try telling the following stories with your family:

- Tell a Fairy Tale
  - Goldilocks and the Three Bears
  - Little Red Riding Hood
- Hansel and Gretel
  - Retell a family story
  - Tell a story about what you did today
  - Make up a story using the character traits you created for your puppets

Additional Resources:

1. Found object puppets with Urban Stages.
2. Found Object Puppets with The New Victory Theatre
3. Animate the inanimate, literally! In his SECRET WORLD OF STUFF videos, Sean Charmatz draws silly faces onto everyday objects and it is HILARIOUS!
4. Try making your own stage out of a CARDBOARD BOX you’ve got lying around.