

WHAT A CHARACTER

4-H Theatre Arts Lesson

CREATE AND BUILD A PUPPET CHARACTER



Project Skills:

Puppetry

Life Skills:

Making decisions
WI Academic Standards:
Theatre Education B.4.
Performance

Time:

30-40 minutes

Supplies:

- Create a Character worksheet
- Pencil per youth
- Small paper bags
- Glue Sticks
- Scissors
- Transparent tape
- Staplers & staples
- Various fabric scraps
- Construction paper
- Markers
- Pipe cleaners
- Wiggly eyes
- Yarn
- Anything else you want such as glitter or sequins

Getting Ready:

- Make a copy of the Create a Character worksheet for each youth.
- Set out puppet making supplies.
- Make a simple puppet and display it to the youth.

Adapted from 4HCCS Theatre Arts project series Act 2, Soaring into Action (BU-6871), pages 16-17.

WHAT TO DO

Develop a history and personality for a character

1. Give each youth a Create a Character worksheet and a pencil.
2. Ask the youth to take about five minutes to complete the Create a Character worksheet and draw a picture of their character.

Build a puppet character

1. Show the youth all of the materials.
2. Tell them to build a puppet to fit the character that they described and drew.

Develop and present a short three-scene play using their puppet character

1. Tell the youth to use the Create a Character worksheet to develop a short puppet play.
 - Scene 1: Have your puppet look for something that is lost.
 - Scene 2: Have your puppet find the lost item.
 - Scene 3: Have your puppet react to finding the lost item.
2. Ask youth to choose a partner and present their short play for their partner.
3. Then have the partner present their three-scene play.

TALK IT OVER

Try to get each youth to express his or her feelings and experiences.

Reflect:

- How did the Creating a Character worksheet help you decide how to build your puppet?
- How did your character change as you made it?

Apply:

- What decisions are hard for you to make? Why do you think they are hard for you?
- How do you feel when someone else makes decisions for you?
- What decisions do you like others to make for you? Why?

DID YOU KNOW

- A puppet is any object that a person moves to make it “come alive” in front of an audience. The person that makes the puppet move is called the puppeteer.
- The best-known puppet character in the world is one known in England as Mr. Punch. Mr. Punch has been around for hundreds of years. Punch became popular at a time when people were not allowed to speak against their government. As a puppet, Punch could speak out or act in ways that might get real people arrested. The saying, “Pleased as punch,” comes from this character.
- A puppeteer that does not move his or her lips when speaking for the puppet is called a ventriloquist.

Create a Character

Answer the following questions to create your character. Remember that you are not answering questions about yourself. You are creating a new character. He or she can be anyone you want.

My character's name: _____

Where was it born? _____ How old is it? _____

What does it like to do for fun? _____

What is its favorite color? _____

What does it like to eat? _____

What makes it angry? _____

What kind of music does it like? _____

Use the space below to draw a picture of the character you created.



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