

Sharing the Secrets of Puppetry

Puppet Pizzazz

Grades: K-12

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

Professional puppeteer Greg Ruhe enthusiastically shares the ancient art of puppetry by demonstrating a variety of styles of puppets in a highly theatrical performance. Mr. Greg shares the secrets of making and manipulating many of his unique characters. The audience will learn how to turn trash into treasure as Mr. Greg shares ideas on making puppets from recycled materials. This Puppet Extravaganza includes storytelling along with hand puppets, shadow puppets, recycled material puppets, and marionettes. Puppet Pizzazz is best known for its giant puppet creations. The show is not over until an eight-foot-tall surprise character takes center stage.

TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills):

| | Theatre | Language Arts | Math | Science | Social Studies | The Student Will: |
|------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|--|
| K | K.2, K.3, K.5 | K.1, K.11 | K.1, K.6, K.7 | K.1, K.2, K.3 | K.10, K.11 | * Demonstrate appropriate etiquette during live performances. *Practice listening and speaking skills. *Practice measurement and problem-solving skills * Write reports, stories, poems, and other forms. |
| 1 | 1.2, 1.3, 1.5 | 1.1, 1.11 | 1.1, 1.6, 1.7 | 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 | 1.14 | |
| 2 | 2.2, 2.3, 2.5 | 2.1, 2.11 | 2.1, 2.8, 2.9 | 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, | 2.12 | |
| 3 | 3.2, 3.3, 3.5 | 3.1, 3.11 | 3.1, 3.6, 3.7 | 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 | 3.10, 3.11, 3.12 | |
| 4 | 4.2, 4.3, 4.5 | 4.1, 4.11 | 4.1, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8 | 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 | 4.17 | |
| 5 | 5.2, 5.3, 5.5 | 5.1, 5.11 | 5.1, 5.5, 5.6, 5.7, 5.8 | 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 | 5.20, 5.21 | |
| 6 | MS 2, 3, 5 | 6.1, 6.10 | 6.1, 6.11, 6.12, 6.13 | 6.1, 6.2, 6.3 | 6.13, 6.14, 6.15, 6.16, 6.17 | |
| 7 | | 7.1, 7.10 | 7.1, 7.11, 7.12, 7.13 | 7.1, 7.2, 7.3 | 7.18 | |
| 8 | | 8.1, 8.10 | 8.1, 8.10, 8.11 | 8.1, 8.2, 8.3 | 8.23, 8.24, 8.25, 8.26 | |
| H.S. | HS 2, 3, 5 | Eng. I.9 | Alg/Geom | 1, 2, 3 | World hist. | |

STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness):

Writing

Grade 4, 7

Recording Category 1

(10) Composition: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts--writing process. The student uses the writing process recursively to compose multiple texts that are legible and uses appropriate conventions.

Mathematics

Reporting Category 1

Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Mathematical process standards. The student uses mathematical processes to acquire and demonstrate mathematical understanding.

(3.7) Geometry and measurement. The student applies mathematical process standards to select appropriate units, strategies, and tools to solve problems involving customary and metric measurement.

Social Studies

Reporting Category 2

Grade 8

(26) Culture. The student understands the relationship between the arts and the times during which they were created.

Academic Vocabulary:

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Hand puppet | * A type of puppet that is controlled by the hand that occupies the interior of the puppet. A glove puppet is a variation of hand puppets. A smaller variety, simple hand puppets often have no significant manipulable parts at all. |
| Rod puppet | * One of the puppeteer's hands inside the puppet glove holding a rod which controls the head. Other parts of the puppet may be controlled by different means, e.g., by rods operated by the puppeteer's free hand, or strings or levers pulled the head or body. |
| Shadow puppet | * Figures that are placed between a light and a screen. Moving them creates the illusion of moving images on the screen. An experienced puppeteer can make figures appear to walk, talk, fight, and dance. Shadow puppetry is a popular form of entertainment in countries all over the world. |
| Marionette | * A puppet worked from above by strings attached to its limbs. |
| Recycle | * Convert waste into usable material. |

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS:

Before the performance

- What is a puppet?
- What do you know about puppets?
- Have you ever made or manipulated one?

After the performance:

- What did you learn from the presentation?
- Write, draw, tell, sing, dance, or act out your favorite part.

Language Arts:

- Write a story, poem, song, rap, or chant about a puppet.
- Create a puppet show around a favorite story or piece of literature.
- Create a puppet show around a concept in English language arts, such as “hyperbole” or “punctuation.”
- Write a story, poem, song, rap, or chant about recycling.

Math:

- Make up and solve math problems related to measurement or recycling.
- Create a puppet show around a math concept, such as “measurement.”

Social Studies:

- Find out more about the history of puppets and the cultures that use them.
- Create a puppet show about a social studies concept, such as “buy and sell.”

Science:

- Create a puppet show around a concept in science, such as “force.”
- Create a campaign for recycling.

Resources:

More about puppets:

<https://discover.hubpages.com/games-hobbies/Interesting-facts-about-Puppet-Puppets-Puppet-masters-and-Puppeteers#:~:text=Types%20of%20Puppets%20%20%20hand%20puppets,%20stick%20puppets%20%202%20more%20rows%20>

<https://www.wikihow.com/Make-Puppets>

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Greg Ruhe is a professional puppeteer and creator of Puppet Pizzazz, a Houston based puppet company dedicated to providing extraordinary puppet entertainment and educational experiences world-wide. Greg developed his puppetry skills while earning his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from West Virginia University and continued his study of puppetry while participating at National Puppetry Conferences at the Eugene O'Neil Theatre Center. Since then, Greg has toured the world with his unique larger- than- life puppet characters that are best known for strolling throughout special events and engaging guests with comedic conversation. He has also had the pleasure of working as a performer and teaching artist for Young Audiences of Houston, for the past 30 years. Greg's greatest joy comes from sharing his Puppet Pizzazz in schools both locally and internationally. He is proud to have been the guest artist at 18 International Schools, in four different continents, and is hoping for more such adventures.