

African Tales and Puppet Pizzazz

Puppet Pizzazz

Grades: PK-5

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

Professional puppeteer Greg Ruhe enthusiastically shares his real life adventures of teaching puppetry in the Sudan, while sharing an array of new puppets and stories inspired by his journey into Africa. Puppetry magic is created with the tabletop rod puppets of a Sudanese family, a lion and a crocodile. This spectacular puppet show is filled with various puppetry styles, dramatic storytelling and lots of audience participation.

TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills):

Grade	Theatre	ELAR	The Students Will: * Use the elements of drama and the conventions of theatre to develop concepts about self, human relationships, and the environment. * Interpret characters using the voice and body expressively and create dramatizations. * Relate theatre to history, society and culture. * Dramatize literary selections using puppetry. * Identify theatrical elements. * Cooperate and interact with others in dramatic play. * Sequence and summarize the plot's main events and explain their influence on future events. * Write imaginative stories to express their ideas and feelings that include a beginning, middle, end, and details about character, setting and point of view.
PK		IIID, IVD	
K	K.1, K.2, K.4	K.8, K.14	
1	1.1, 1.2, 1.4	1.9, 1.18	
2	2.1, 2.2, 2.4	2.9, 2.18	
3	3.1, 3.2, 3.4	3.8, 3.18	
4	4.1, 4.2, 4.4	4.6, 4.16	
5	5.1, 5.2, 5.4	5.6, 5.16	

STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness):

Subject	Grades	Reporting Category	The Students Will: * Compose a variety of written texts with a clear, central idea; coherent organization; sufficient development; and effective use of language and conventions,
Writing	4,	1	

Academic Vocabulary:

Fiction	Story structure	Conflict	Stage
Characters	Plot	Problem	Scenery
Main Character	Setting	Solution	Lighting
Protagonist	Dialogue	Puppet	Costumes
Antagonist	Theme	Marionette	Special Effects

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS:

Young Audiences of Houston; Arts for Learning

675 Bering, Suite 300, Houston, Texas 77057

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Scheduling: 713.520.9264 www.yahouston.org

Before the performance:

- Have you ever seen a puppet show? What do you expect to see in this show?
- What do you know about the countries in Africa?

After the performance:

- Retell all or part of the story through drama, writing, drawing, puppetry, or cartooning.
- What was your favorite part of the show? Why?

Language Arts:

- In the African nation of Sudan, grand pyramids, statues, and scientific achievements have been buried under the sand for thousands of years. Pretend that you are an archaeologist and write a daily journal of your discoveries and adventures. Include sketches of your discoveries in your journal.
- Work with a partner to make paper bag puppets for your own tale. Act the story out for the class.
- Create Finger Puppets of characters in stories and act out the main events in the plot.
- Design Glove Puppets with moveable mouths to act out important concepts in language.
- Use puppets as a "prewriting" experience to inspire original writing.
- Choral read or engage in a Reader's Theater of reading selections or students' original writing.

Math:

- Use puppets to create and act out original or given math problems.
- Revise a familiar story to include numerical information. Use the added numerical information to write six math questions about the story that someone else could answer. (*Sample: Once upon a time there was a family of bears. Brother Bear was the oldest. He was 17 years old. Next came Sister Bear, who was 9 years old, and Baby Bear who was 3 years old, etc.*)

Social Studies:

- Find the Republic of Sudan on a map or globe and research the people and their culture.
- Collect pictures of the land in Sudan, from the sandy deserts to the tropical forests. Make a poster or a PowerPoint presentation to share with the class.
- Research puppets from different cultures.

Science:

- Research the Coral Reefs of the Red Sea. Draw pictures of the creatures and types of coral found there. Make a poster of your illustrations.
- Work with a partner to create a food web for creatures found in the Red Sea. Share your work with the class.
- Make simple cut out puppets and create a puppet show about ideas in science. For example, the water cycle could be enacted with puppets for a cloud, rain, a river, water vapor, and the sun. Show it rain, fill the river, sink into the ground, feed the plants, evaporate, and begin again.

Resources:

Related Websites:

<http://www.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3758044>

<http://www.legendsandlore.com/teacher-resource.html>

<http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/afland.htm>

http://www.reefchief.org/redsea_coral.html

<http://www.childdrama.com/puppets.html>

Related Smartboard Sites

<http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/student-interactives/fractured-fairy-tales-30062.html>

<http://exchange.smarttech.com/search.html?q=%22coral%20reef%22>

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Greg Ruhe is the creator of Puppet Pizzazz. Greg developed his skills while earning his B.F.A. from West Virginia University and by participating in eight sessions with the National Puppetry Conference at the Eugene O'Neil Theatre Center. Greg has a strong commitment to education. He cofounded the Children's Theatre of Houston, twice awarded number one in arts in education by the Cultural Arts Counsel of Houston. Greg also worked for the Texas Institute for Arts in Education as a teaching artist and performer for ten years. Greg Ruhe is a proud member of UNIMA, the World Puppetry Organization, Puppeteers of America, the Greater Houston Puppetry Guild and the Houston Visitors and Convention Bureau.