

Shadow Puppetry Spectacular

Puppet Pizzazz

Grades: PK-5

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

You won't see the puppets themselves—you'll see the giant shadow images they create! This highly interactive performance uses dramatic shadow illusions to bring classic children's literature to life. Mr. Greg's enthusiasm is contagious as he invites audiences to recite beloved nursery rhymes, sing along, move creatively, and act out favorite storybook characters. The production features a unique collection of puppets, including original Puppet Pizzazz creations and puppets gathered from around the world.

TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills):

	Music	Theater	Science	Lang. Arts	Math	Social Studies	The Students Will: * Demonstrate appropriate etiquette during live performances. * Practice listening and speaking. * Read with comprehension. * Write/tell stories to express ideas and feelings about real or imagined people, events, and ideas. * Demonstrate appropriate audience etiquette during live performances. * Practice active listening, speaking, and collaborative discussion. * Read and interpret poetry, nursery rhymes, and traditional literature. * Analyze characters, setting, plot, and literary themes. * Compare multiple versions of familiar stories and rhymes. * Write and perform original poems, narratives, or puppet scripts. * Use voice, movement, and puppetry to communicate ideas creatively. * Make connections between storytelling traditions from different cultures.
K	K.3, 4	K.4, 5	K.6	K.1, 10, 11	K.1	K.11, 12	
1	1.5, 6	1.4, 5	1.6	1.1, 11, 12	1.1	1.15	
2	2.5, 6	2.4, 5	2.6	2.1, 11, 12	2.1	2.15, 16	
3	3.5, 6	3.4, 5	3.13	3.6, 7, 8, 9	3.1	3.14, 15	
4	4.5, 6	4.4, 5	4.13	4.6, 7, 8, 9	4.1	4.14, 15	
5	5.5, 6	5.4, 5	5.13	5.6, 7, 8, 9	5.1	5.14, 15	

STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness): (Notice the grade level when these are first assessed.)

Writing
Grade 4
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.

Writing (Grades 4–5): composition process, organization, development of ideas, revision and editing, written response to literature

Reading

Grades 3

(7) Multiple genres: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts--literary elements. The student recognizes and analyzes literary elements within and across increasingly complex traditional, contemporary, classical, and diverse literary texts.

Reading (Grades 3–5): author’s purpose, theme, genre, poetry, comprehension skills, responding to text

Academic Vocabulary:

Mother Goose	* The fictitious creator of a collection of nursery rhymes that was first published in London in the 1760s
Nursery rhyme	*A simple traditional song or poem for children.
Storybook	*A book containing a story or collection of stories intended for children.
Character	*A person or animal in a story.
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.

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS:

Before the performance

- What stories do you know?
- What nursery rhymes do you know?
- Have you ever made a puppet?

After the performance:

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

Language Arts:

- Act out or draw pictures to illustrate parts of a story or rhyme.
- Create simple puppets, give them names, and have them act out a story. (1) Draw a face on a popsicle stick (or an index finger) and add hair, etc. if desired, or (2) Close your hand with the thumb inside. Draw a mouth around the space made by the thumb and the rest of the hand. Add eyes. Move the thumb to make the puppet "talk."
- Sing/recite nursery rhymes or songs. Second graders can change the lyrics to make up their own songs/chants/rhymes.
- Rewrite a nursery rhyme from another character's perspective
- Modernize a traditional nursery rhyme
- Compare two versions of the same folktale
- Write an original shadow puppet script
- Reflect on how rhythm, repetition and rhyme affect telling a story

Math:

- Use puppets to count by ones, twos, or fives.
- Make/use puppets to act out math problems.
- Design puppets with symmetry and geometric shapes
- Measure and scale puppets designs
- Calculate proportions for enlarging puppets for shadow projection

Social Studies:

- Make puppets of your family or of holiday figures, such as turkeys for Thanksgiving.
- Make puppets of different colors and make up stories about social/emotional themes, such as bullying.
- Investigate storytelling traditions from different cultures
- Compare Texas folktales with those from other regions
- Explore how stories preserve cultural values

Science:

- Make up puppets of different animals and have them interact.
- Investigate how light creates and affects shadows
- Explore transparent, translucent and opaque materials
- Experiment with how distance changes shadow size and shape

Theatre:

- Design shadow puppets that communicate character traits
- Explore how just movement can communicate emotion
- Adapt a picture book into a shadow puppet scene
- Experiment with narration versus dialogue in a scene

Resources:

Nursery rhymes:

<https://allnurseryrhymes.com/>

Children's stories:

Nursery Tales Around the World, edited by Judy Sierra.

Songs and games:

Shake It to the One That You Love the Best: Play Songs and Lullabies from Black Musical Traditions, compiled by Cheryl Warren Mattox

De Colores and Other Latin American Folksongs for Children by Jose-Luis Orozco

Simple puppets:

<https://preschooltoolkit.com/blog/homemade-puppets-preschool/>

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



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Performance

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.