

A Literacy Variety Show

Joanne Schroeder

PK-6

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

Join an engaging puppetry performance that brings beloved children's books, classic tales, and songs to life through the art of puppetry! Featured stories include How Much is that Doggie in the Window, Miss Lucy had a Baby, The Old Lady who Swallowed a Fly, and much more! With colorful characters and lively storytelling, this delightful variety show entertains while sharing valuable life lessons. Perfect for schools, libraries, and community events, this variety show encourages literacy, active listening, and joyful learning for students of all ages.

TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills):

	Music	Theater	Language Arts	Social Studies	The Students Will: • Demonstrate appropriate etiquette during live performances. • Practice listening and speaking. • Practice reading comprehension skills. • Practice ways to deal with negative emotions. • Write/tell stories to express ideas and feelings about real or imagined people, events, and ideas.
K	2, 3, 4	1, 2, 4, 5	1, 6, 8, 11	11, 13, 14	
1	3, 5, 6	1, 2, 4, 5	1, 6, 7, 8, 12	14, 16, 17	
2	3, 5, 6	1, 2, 4, 5	1, 6, 7, 8, 12	12, 14, 15	
3	3, 5, 6	1, 2, 4, 5	1, 6, 7, 8, 12	10, 12, 14, 15	
4	3, 5, 6	1, 2, 4, 5	1, 6, 7, 8, 12	17, 19, 20	
5	3, 5, 6	1, 2, 4, 5	1, 6, 7, 8, 12	20, 21, 22, 23	
MA	4, 5	2, 4, 5	1, 5, 6, 7	13, 16, 19, 21, 22	

STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness)

Reading Comprehension skills in Grades 3, 4, 5, 6
Writing skills in Grade 4

Academic Vocabulary:

Literacy	The ability to read and write.
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"How much Is That Doggie in the Window?"	A song by Patti Page from the 1950's. https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=how+much+is+that+doggie+ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:4fb28a7f,vid:Gs-cxEzFFiM,st:0
"Miss Lucy Had a Baby"	A traditional American song, often sung while jumping rope or clapping. https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=miss+lucy+had+a+baby&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8
"The Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly"	An English language folksong and story, with an unknown origin. https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=history+of+the+old+lady+who+swallowed+a+fly&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8
Puppet	A model of a person or animal that can be moved (to look more realistic) with the hands or other means.
Marionette	A puppet worked from above with strings attached to its limbs.
Ventriloquism	"Throwing" one's voice. Speaking without moving one's lips in a way that seems to come from a dummy or other source.
Hand and rod puppet	A large hand puppet whose limbs are controlled by rods.

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS:

Before the performance

- What songs or rhymes do you know that tell stories? Ideas: "Little Miss Muffet," "Little Boy Blue," "Mary Had a Little Lamb," "Humpty Dumpty," or "Jack and Jill."

After the performance:

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

Language Arts:

- Act out children's songs that tell a story.
<https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=Children%27s+songs+that+tell+a+story&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8>
- For older students, act out different songs that tell a story. Ideas: "Coat of Many Colors" by Dolly Parton, "American Pie" by Don McLean, "A Boy Named Sue" by Johnny Cash, or "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald" by Gordon Lightfoot.

- Turn a favorite story into a rap, poem, song, dance, skit, or illustration.
- Create new lyrics for “Miss Mary Mack” or another story song.

Miss Mary Mack

Miss Mary Mack Mack Mack
All dressed in black, black, black
With silver buttons, buttons, buttons
All down her back, back, back.
She asked her mother, mother, mother
For 50 cents, cents, cents
To see the elephants, elephants, elephants
Jump over the fence, fence, fence.
They jumped so high, high, high
They reached the sky, sky, sky
And they didn't come back, back, back
'Til the 4th of July, ly, ly!

Math:

- Sing, act out, or illustrate the song, “Five Little Monkeys”

Five Little Monkeys
Five little monkeys jumping on the bed,
One fell out and bumped its head,
Mama called the doctor, and the doctor said,
“No more jumping on the bed!”

Four little monkeys jumping on the bed,
One fell out and bumped its head,
Mama called the doctor, and the doctor said,
“No more jumping on the bed!”

(Repeat till all the monkeys are gone!)

- Create a new counting song with illustrations about fish, butterflies, or something else.
- Act out, illustrate, or create a puppet show with other counting songs. Ideas:
<https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=counting+songs&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8>
- Watch and act out Schoolhouse Rock, especially “My Hero, Zero,” “Elementary My Dear,” or “Three Is a Magic Number.

Social Studies:

- Read *Nursery Tales from Around the World* by Judy Sierra (or another book) and turn the stories into raps, poems, songs, dances, or illustrations.

- Investigate puppets from around the world.
- Watch and act out Schoolhouse Rock, especially, “Three Ring Government,” “I’m Just a Bill,” or “Shot Heard ‘Round the World.”

Science:

- Make up song stories about scientific inventions, discoveries, systems, cycles, or other concepts.
- Watch and act out Schoolhouse Rock, especially, “The Energy Blues,” “The Body Machine,” or “The Nervous System.”

Resources:

Songs for teaching:

<https://www.songsforteaching.com>

Jump rope and clapping songs:

<https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=jump+rope+songs&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8>

<https://designsandlines.co.uk/blog/hand-clapping-games/>

Schoolhouse Rock

https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&sca_esv=9ffe46d5d1a806d0&rls=en&q=schoolhouse+rock+episodes&si=AMgyJEvPmvuwrQN-s7zgPJko6uvassNOwHi3-JKluhJNe1i6CF3jufkxa6JAXDPAe-Z0W8z2uzPi5qaZ-GjZfstQP1eRqjQpyukjeYPvYhBR0Hg10ASfKYONfCORWljX-MLloBiGUI2vE7YzM8AkXvyvWa7iM4EaA%3D%3D&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjkanv57yOAxXjkWoFHR-wF8lQvugFegQlBBAF&ictx=1&biw=1024&bih=547&dpr=2

Puppets:

<https://picturetopuppet.co.uk/puppets-around-the-world/>



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS GUIDE

Joanne Schroeder

Performance

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Throughout her career as a librarian in both public libraries and elementary schools, Joanne Schoeder discovered the powerful role puppetry could play in inspiring children to read. By combining storytelling with performance, she brought books to life in a way that captured young imaginations and encouraged literacy through play. As an active member of the Greater Houston Puppetry Guild, Joanne has continued to refine her craft, using the art of puppetry to create engaging and educational performances. Her shows draw from beloved children's books, classic tales, and familiar songs, featuring a lively cast of marionettes, ventriloquist dummies, and hand and rod puppets. She is also the author of *Fun Puppet Skits for Schools and Libraries*, a resource that helps educators and librarians use puppetry to spark creativity and joy in young audiences.