

# Puppet Play

# Trend task

**Approach:** Team

**Level:** Year 4 and year 8

**Focus:** Planning and presenting plays using hand puppets and thematic ideas.

**Resources:** 2 prompt sheets, 8 hand puppets.

**Questions/instructions:**

In this activity you are going to work in pairs to put on some puppet plays. Each pair will have 4 puppets, 2 puppets each. You should try to use different voices so that your 2 puppets will sound different from each other, and have their own personalities. Try to use words to tell what is happening rather than overdoing the movements with your puppets.

You will have up to 10 minutes to discuss what you are going to do, and to practise your play. Then you will put on your play. Your play should take about 2 or 3 minutes.

Here are the ideas for the plays.

**Read each pair's prompt card, then give them the cards to refer to during their practice.**

**PUPPET PLAY 1**

**Animals and the zoo keeper**

The animals are having a meeting with the zoo keeper. They are telling him what it's like living in the zoo and the things that go on. The zoo keeper is a nice man. He

wants to be helpful, so he asks questions and talks to the animals about what they are saying.

**REMEMBER**

Practice your play so that it is about 2 or 3 minutes long. Use your imagination. Use interesting voices and ideas. Try to make the characters sound real. Don't over do the actions with the puppets.

**PUPPET PLAY 2**

**Aliens on Earth**

Two aliens have arrived on Earth. They have to go to school, but they have never been to a school before. They meet up with a couple of kids. The kids ask them all about what it is like living on another planet. The aliens ask the kids about what it will be like at school.

**REMEMBER**

Practice your play so that it is about 2 or 3 minutes long. Use your imagination. Use interesting voices and ideas. Try to make the characters sound real. Don't over do the actions with the puppets.



Remember, you've got about 10 minutes to practise then we'll watch your play.

**A packaging carton may be placed on top of a desk as a place for the puppeteers to operate from.**

**Drama and characterisation through spoken word:**

	% responses	
	2000 ('96)	2000 ('96)
	year 4	year 8
strong	19 (15)	27 (35)
moderate	54 (55)	51 (51)
weak	27 (30)	22 (14)

**Timing, continuity and interaction with partner:**

strong	21 (25)	32 (49)
moderate	58 (51)	52 (46)
weak	21 (24)	16 (5)

**Speech clarity:**

*(listener can hear and understand the words)*

strong	42 (48)	45 (69)
moderate	45 (42)	45 (29)
weak	13 (10)	10 (2)

**Overall effectiveness in communicating story:**

very high	5 (5)	8 (16)
quite high	23 (28)	31 (39)
moderate	47 (44)	43 (36)
poor	25 (23)	18 (9)

**Total score:** 8-9 13 (13) 19 (34)

6-7 16 (19) 21 (24)

4-5 37 (37) 35 (27)

2-3 19 (16) 11 (11)

0-1 15 (15) 14 (4)



**Commentary:**

Students at both year levels enjoyed this task but found it challenging to plan and practise a puppet play in a period of about 10 minutes. About 10 percent more year 8 than year 4 students met this challenge well. Year 4 students performed almost identically in 1996 and 2000, but year 8 students performed distinctly less well in 2000 than in 1996.