

Making your own Shadow Puppet Theatre



Making shadow puppets with your hands has been a pastime since the earliest of times as men sat around an open fire. Dress it up a bit by designing a small puppet theater and cardboard shadow puppets. Then dim the lights and treat your family and friends to some entertaining performances.

Making a shadow puppet theater is an inexpensive family time activity that will build memories. It could also be used to narrate back something read for homeschool or for a book report presentation.

Items You'll Need

All you need is:

- A cardboard box. A cereal box works very well as well as any good sized Amazon shipping box you may have in the house.
- Scissors
- Tape
- Thin white paper or wax paper or tracing paper or parchment paper.
- Either straws, craft sticks, pencils or skewers
- A desk lamp works well for the light source.
- Oh, and you need some imagination because there are stories to be told!

Instructions

- Tape the box up well so that it's sturdy and closed.
- Then trace about 1 - 1 1/2 inches away from the edges of the large faces of the box. Do this on both sides. These are your marking lines.
- Next cut out the large rectangles you just drew. We used a utility knife for this but you can also use scissors or an Exacto knife. If you use a utility knife or Exacto knife, make sure your parents do it or they are present when you make your cuts. Save the cardboard you just cut away! You can use that for making puppets.
- If you need to add more tape to the inside of the box to make it more sturdy, go ahead and do that now.
- Find a sheet of fairly thin white or light colored paper. Tracing paper, wax paper or parchment paper for baking works too. We just used plain old copy paper.
- Tape that over the hole on one side only. That side with the paper faces your audience. The other side is where you, the puppet master will work your magic.

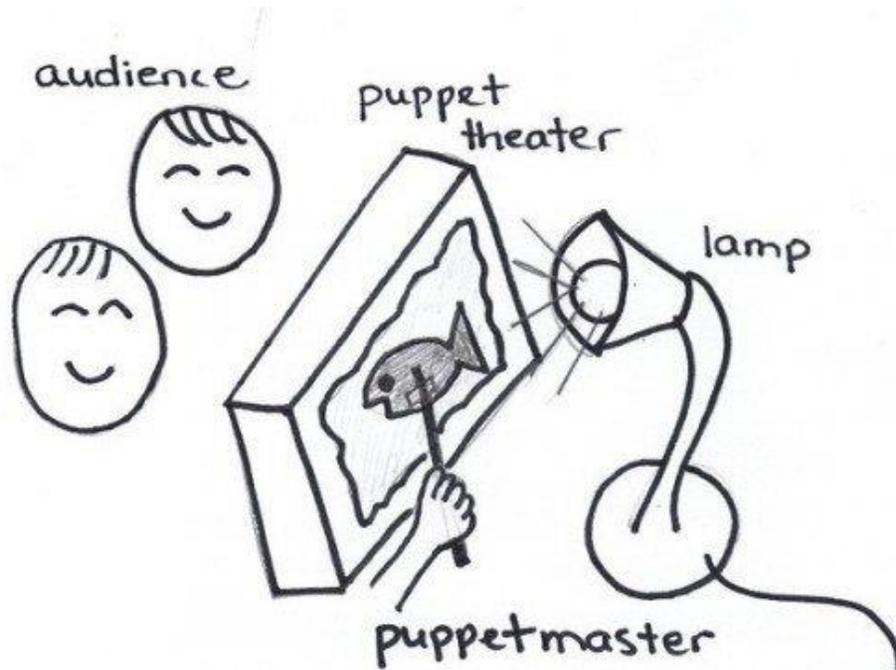


Below are the puppets -- simply shapes cut from cardboard with sticks taped on. We used thin wooden dowels, but you can use craft sticks, straws, pencils or pen as well. To make your puppets more lifelike, cut out legs, jaws, or arms separately from the body parts and attach them with paper fasteners (brads). Be sure to attach a stick on each part so you can move both pieces



Setting It up and Giving a Shadow Puppet Show

Now you've made your puppet theater and your puppets. All you need now is a darkened room, a lamp, and an audience to watch your brilliant performances. Set up your room like this with the audience on one side of the theater and the lamp on the other. You need to be between the lamp and the theater but not blocking the light, of course.



**Don't forget to show off photos or video of your creations @
#fwyouthatre**