

# 4-H Theatre Arts Lesson • What a Character

## CREATE AND BUILD A PUPPET CHARACTER

### Project Skills:

- Puppetry

### Life Skills:

- Making decisions

### Academic Standards:

- Theatre Education  
B.4. Performance

**Time:** 30-40 minutes

### Supplies:

- Create a Character worksheet
- Pencil per youth
- Small paper bags
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Transparent tape
- Staplers and staples
- Various fabric scraps
- Construction paper
- Markers
- Pipe cleaners
- Wiggly eyes
- Yarn
- Anything else you want, i.e. glitter, sequins, etc.

### Getting Ready:

- Make a copy of the Create a Character worksheet for each youth
- Set out puppet making supplies
- Make a simple puppet and display it to the youth

## WHAT TO DO

### *Develop a History and Personality for a Character*

1. Give each youth a Create a Character worksheet and a pencil.
2. Ask the youth to take about five minutes to complete the Create a Character worksheet and draw a picture of their character.

### *Build a Puppet Character*

1. Show the youth all of the materials.
2. Tell them to build a puppet to fit the character that they described and drew.

### *Develop and Present a Short Three-Scene Play Using their Puppet Character*

1. Tell the youth to use the Create a Character worksheet to develop a short puppet play.
  - a. Scene 1: Have your puppet look for something that is lost.
  - b. Scene 2: Have your puppet find the lost item.
  - c. Scene 3: Have your puppet react to finding the lost item.
2. Ask youth to choose a partner and present their short play for their partner.
3. Then have the partner present their three-scene play.

## TALK IT OVER

Try to get each youth to express their feelings and experiences.

### *Reflect:*

- How did the Creating a Character worksheet help you decide how to build your puppet?
- How did your character change as you made it?

### *Apply:*

- What decisions are hard for you to make? Why do you think they are hard for you?
- How do you feel when someone else makes decisions for you?
- What decisions do you like others to make for you? Why?

## DID YOU KNOW

- A puppet is any object that a person moves to make it “come alive” in front of an audience. The person that makes the puppet move is called the puppeteer.
- The best-known puppet character in the world is one known in England as Mr. Punch. Mr. Punch has been around for hundreds of years. Punch became popular at a time when people were not allowed to speak against their government. As a puppet, Punch could speak out or act in ways that might get real people arrested. The saying, “Pleased as punch,” comes from this character.
- A puppeteer that does not move their lips when speaking for the puppet is called a ventriloquist.



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## Create a Character

Answer the following questions to create your character. Remember that you are not answering questions about yourself. You are creating a new character. They can be anyone you want.

My character's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Where was it born? \_\_\_\_\_ How old is it? \_\_\_\_\_

What does it like to do for fun? \_\_\_\_\_

What is its favorite color? \_\_\_\_\_

What does it like to eat? \_\_\_\_\_

What makes it angry? \_\_\_\_\_

What kind of music does it like? \_\_\_\_\_

Use the space below to draw a picture of the character you created.

