



Puppets Around the World

by Lois Grippo

People love puppets! They are a familiar toy. Children all around the world love to play with them.

The first puppets may have been made in Egypt. These puppets were simple toys. They were made of wood. Strings made their parts move.

READ & RESPOND

Author's Purpose

Based on the title, do you think this text is going to persuade you, inform you, or entertain you? Explain.

Shadow Puppets

Long ago, people in Southeast Asia made shadow puppets. These puppets were flat. They were made from paper. Each puppet was attached to a stick. Moving the stick made the puppet move.

The puppets were held behind a silk screen. Candles were lit to make shadows.

People sat on the other side of the screen. They could not see the puppets. They could not see the people holding them. They saw large puppet shadows on the silk screen!



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READ & RESPOND

Central Idea

Look at the heading on this page. How does it help you to know the central idea?

Bunraku Puppets

The Japanese also make special puppets. They are called Bunraku puppets. These puppets are large. They can be as big as a person.

It takes three people to move these puppets. The people appear on stage with the puppet.

The puppet's movements are never jerky. People work hard to make the puppets move smoothly.



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Central Idea

List two facts about Bunraku puppets.



Hand Puppets

Did you ever make a sock puppet?
A sock puppet is a hand puppet.

There were hand puppets long ago in China. These puppets were not made from socks. They were made from wood. The wood was hollow. A person's hand fit inside.



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Author's Purpose

Think about what you have read so far. Have you learned anything new? Explain.

Puppet Theaters

Puppet shows are done on small stages. Sometimes the stage is vacant. Often it is filled. There may be trees and homes. There may be hills and farms.

Puppets race across the stage. They peek out of windows. Fans give applause when a hero fights a dragon. They boo when the dragon fights back. Puppet shows are fun.



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Central Idea

How does the information on this page help you to understand the central idea?

Puppet Shows

What are puppet shows about? Some teach a lesson. Some tell the history of a place. Long ago there were no TVs. There were no newspapers. People learned the news from puppet shows.

So listen closely to puppets! They can be very funny. They can also tell you things you did not know!



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Central Idea

Write one sentence that tells the central idea of this text.

Make a Sock Puppet

- ★ Ask a grown-up to give you an old sock.
- ★ Draw a face on the foot part of the sock.
- ★ Now, stick your hand in the sock.
- ★ Use your fingers to make a mouth.
- ★ Move the mouth up and down.
- ★ Make your sock say something!



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READ & RESPOND

Author's Purpose

Why did the author write this text? Write two things that help you know.



Reread and Respond

1 How do people make Bunraku puppets move in lifelike ways?

Hint
For clues, see page 68.

2 How do you think stage scenery helps to bring a puppet show to life?

Hint
For clues, see page 70.

3 What is the difference between a Bunraku puppet and a shadow puppet?

Hint
For clues, see pages 67 and 68.