

FEAST!

A Queen's Jubilee project supported by Artswork and City Catering for schools in Southampton.

Created by TouchedTheatre in collaboration with Year 4 at Mount Pleasant Junior School

4 MAKING PUPPET STORIES

Now you've all made your puppets, it's time to think about a short story you can tell with them, about festivals and food and feasts and celebrations. This works best in groups of three or four children to start with - enough characters, but not too many puppeteers.

Here are some ideas that Year 4 at Mount Pleasant School came up with to get your stories started:

- Special times... when you eat special things
- Memories of special meals
- People you share your meals with - family and friends and neighbours
- recipes
- Cooking, baking and making food
- Arguments over food or bad behaviour at meal times - I'm sure you'd never do that but it can make for exciting stories!
- Food you like eating and food you don't like eating
- Not forgetting other things like setting the table - and washing up

But everyone should be encouraged to think of their own stories.

Getting ready:

There are lots of choices to make when you start to make a new puppet show. These are some you could share with children to help them see the possibilities.

- Think about the puppets you're using and which characters they are going to be.
- Sometimes people might be in the show, or the film, with their puppet - you'll be one character (as an actor) and your puppet will be another, so you get to be two different characters at once. This isn't easy though!
- Sometimes it might just be the puppets doing the show and you'll want people to look mostly at the puppets.
- Think about any props you might want to find to use - these could be human-sized things like pans or plates or cutlery.
- Think about any extra props you might want to make - like food your puppets could share and eat.
- Think about places you might want to act or film (a sink, a cooker, at a table...)

Supporting video at
https://bit.ly/feast_videos

Putting on a show - more top tips to share

- When you know where you're going to perform your show, you have to think about where the puppets go and where the puppeteers go, so that people can see your puppets. If you are performing with your puppets on a table, for example, it works best if all the puppeteers are on one side of the table so your audience can easily see the puppets. Sometimes it takes a little bit of working out where is going to be best for you and your audience (or the camera person) to be.
- **Rehearse your story** - work out what happens and share ideas between your group.
- **Get someone to watch your rehearsal** - they can often give you good ideas and suggestions
- When you're ready, **show your story** to your friends or class, and **film your story**.

Filming the show

- It's very easy to film these days - even tablets and phones can give very good results.
- It's helpful to remind everyone who's not in the show to be quiet while recording, and for the performers to speak loudly.
- It helps for camera people to get close in and down to the puppets' level.

We'd love to see any videos you create, or photos you take during your performances!

Being able to see and share how schools are using our work enables Artsworld to keep making more exciting creative content.

Please send any pictures or video to us via

https://bit.ly/AW_puppets

We'll be spotlighting some of the puppets created on Artsworld's website and social media channels, so please make sure appropriate permissions are in place. If you have any questions about this, please email info@artsworld.org.uk



TIPS FROM YEAR 4

- Give your story a good ending
- Practice your puppet's actions to make the story clear and interesting
- Make it funny
- Try to remember the words - it might help to write them down, but don't read them while you're doing the show!



HAVE FUN WITH YOUR PUPPETS!