

Finger puppets

by Jackie Holderness & Annie Hughes

Level 3 • Elementary

Age: Primary (6–11)

Language aims: To follow instructions; to use puppets to create a story; to write a simple plot for a story; to use the plot from a well-known story as the basis for a puppet show; to introduce and use story markers

Time: 35 minutes

Student grouping: Individuals, groups

Materials: Several copies of the worksheet per student, plus some spares; some ready-made puppets 'dressed' with paper or coloured in, to show different characters from a story of your choice, e.g. *Cinderella* or *Hansel and Gretel*; a cut-out puppet ready to glue; multiple pairs of scissors; sticky tape or glue; scraps of material for clothes

Language focus: *Ears, eyes, nose, mouth*; the past simple; clothes vocabulary; *once upon a time, then, so, but, lived happily ever after*

Procedure

Step 1

Show the class your puppets and tell them which characters from a well-known story they are based on. Show the children how you made the puppets and how you created 'clothes' from paper and material or by colouring the puppet.

Step 2

Briefly tell the children the story that your puppet is modelled on. You can use the story summaries on the next page, translating to L1 if necessary.

Step 3

Put the children into pairs or groups and help them to decide which story they would like to make puppets for, for example *Cinderella*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *Goldilocks*.

Step 4

Hand out a worksheet to each child and the scissors, glue, material and paper. Tell the children to cut out all the puppets, being careful not to cut off the tabs.

Step 5

With your cut-out puppet, show the children how to stick the tabs round so that they are the correct size for their fingers. Let them draw a face on their puppet and decide if it is a boy or a girl. Show them how to make the animal puppets.

Step 6

In small groups, children decide which story they are going to tell and what each puppet should look like. Let them make up their puppets. Children can choose how many puppets they would like to use. You may need to give some groups extra copies of the worksheet.

Step 7

Go round the class helping each group to practise their story. Give a simple outline for each story and expressions such as *once upon a time, then, so* and *lived happily ever after*. Tell them they must use this vocabulary in their story.

Step 8

Each group performs their story in front of the class. Each story should start with 'Once upon a time ...' Tell each group that you are particularly listening for story markers like *then, so, but* and *lived happily ever after*.

Follow-up activity

Let the groups perform their puppet shows for other classes or at an end-of-term party. The stories could be performed for the parents.

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Story summaries

Cinderella

Cinderella lived with her stepfather and did all the cleaning in the house. Her stepsisters were nasty to her. The prince was having a big dance and Cinderella wanted to go. A fairy godmother helped her by turning a pumpkin and some mice into a coach and horses, and by giving her a new dress. She went to the dance and the prince danced with her, but at 12 o'clock, she had to go home as she promised. As she left, she lost one of her shoes and the prince picked it up. He tried the shoe on every woman in the land until he found Cinderella and married her.

Goldilocks

Goldilocks was a naughty little girl who went into the woods and walked into the house of the three bears while they were out. She tried their bowls of porridge. One was too hot, one was too cold and one was just right. She tried their chairs. One was too hard, one was too soft and one was just right. She tried their beds. One was too hard, one was too soft, and one was just right, and she fell asleep. The three bears came back and saw that their porridge had been eaten, their chairs had been sat in and their beds had been slept in. They found Goldilocks asleep and frightened her, and she ran all the way home.

Sleeping Beauty

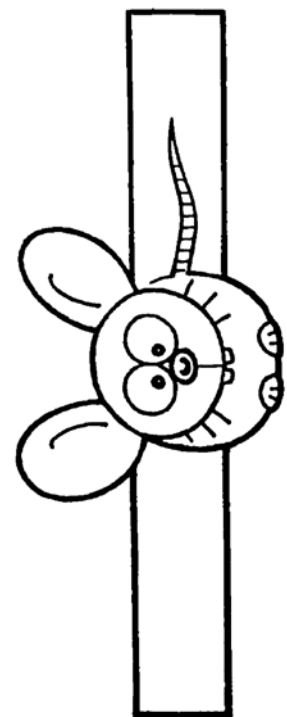
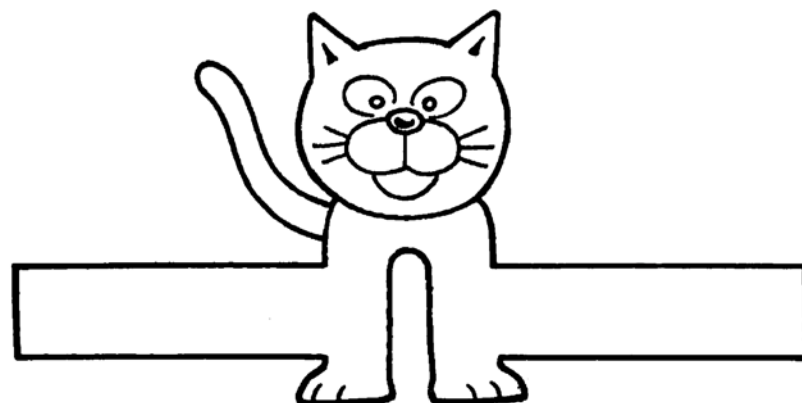
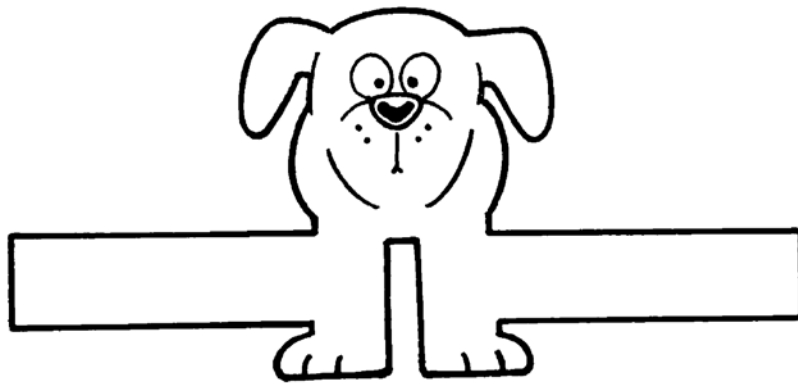
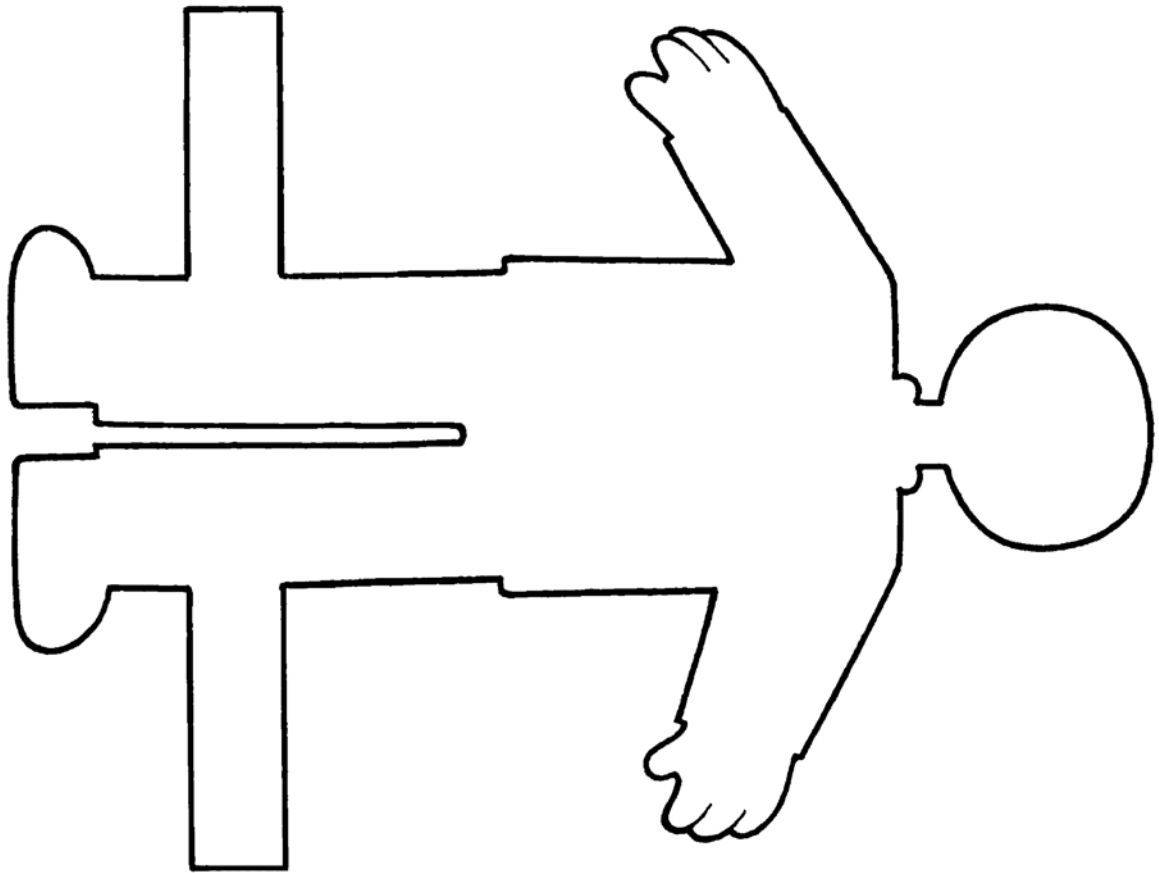
Sleeping Beauty was a lovely princess with a stepmother who wanted to kill her. She gave Sleeping Beauty a poisoned apple, a poisoned comb and finally she poisoned the needle on the spinning wheel. Sleeping Beauty pricked her finger on the spinning wheel and fell asleep for a hundred years, until a handsome prince found her and kissed her. The kiss woke her up and they were married and lived happily ever after.

Hansel and Gretel

Hansel and Gretel are the children of a poor family. Their step-mother wants to leave them in the forest because they can't feed them. Hansel and Gretel leave a trail of breadcrumbs. The animals of the woods eat it so Hansel and Gretel become lost. They find a house made of gingerbread, which they begin to eat. The old woman who lives there invites them in. The woman, however, is a witch who has built the house to entice children to her so that she may fatten and eat them. She cages Hansel and makes Gretel her servant. Gretel tricks the witch into climbing into the oven, closing it behind her. They go home to be reunited with their father, whose wife has since died.

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WORKSHEET