



LESSON 4 LEVEL C PUPPETS

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

designing and crafting a sock puppet.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

a white or colored adult size tube sock; buttons; tissue paper; rubber bands; a 8 x 13 cm (3"x 5") index card; glue; scissors;

"TIPS": Keep adding to your collection of "useful junk" so that for lessons like this, you will have an inspiring assortment of beads, ribbons, sequins, buttons, jewels, rickrack, glitter and such.

'Tacky glue,' best for using with cloth, can be made by letting a puddle of ordinary white glue air-dry a little. Apply it with a toothpick or scrap of paper, spreading it from the center out to the edges of what is to be glued to the basic fabric.

a 8 x 13 cm (3"x 5") index card in half and round the corners with your scissors. Spread the glue on the top and bottom of the inside and pinch it over the toe of the tube sock. Let it dry before you turn the sock inside out. (The final dragon is an inside out sock.) (Use the drying time to dream up and sketch ideas for your special dragon.)

A DRAMATIC DRAGON Turn an Ordinary Tube Sock into a Decorated Dragon



Dragon Battles Saints Tapestry Museum Angers, France

GETTING STARTED: Look at pictures of many kinds of dragons and also visualize them from vivid descriptions in stories. Notice their scary mouths that breathe fire, their bulging eyes, their scaly, snaky bodies, and their fearsome claws.

1. First make the puppet's mouth. Fold



2. Make each eye (two? three?) by wadding up some tissue paper. Poke it up inside the sock where the eye will be. Hold it in place with a small rubber band wrapped around the bump on the outside.

3. Make scales down the dragon's spine from a strip of colored felt or stiff cloth about 60 x 300 cm (2 1/2" x 12"). Cut in along one long side about 2.5 cm (1 inch), every 2.5 cm (1 inch), and spread the tabs alternately left and right. Make the other edge zigzag or wavy. Before you glue the tabs to the body with 'tacky glue', put a piece of cardboard inside the sock to avoid sticking the body together.



Nicholas G. Age 12

4. Think of the many ways you can give your dragon a unique look. How could you use bits of fur or feathers. buttons or bows, shiny paper and pipe cleaners?

5. To make the inside of the mouth, fold a piece of felt and round the corners with scissors. Glue it to the sock, matching the cardboard shape you made earlier. What kind of tongue could you add? How can you use your collection of treasure-trash to make wild and wonderful eyes on those bumps? What dramatic decorations would you add to make paws with claws?

6. Look at your dragon. Does it have a name?

CLEAN-UP: Put everything away where it belongs. You may want to put a spoonful of glue into an empty film canister to set up more tacky glue for another kind of sock puppet to act out a play with your dragon.

TALK ABOUT IT: What decorative materials did you wish you had, but didn't? Consider enlarging your "junk" collection. What ideas do you have for some different characters?

CONNECTIONS:

Everybody knows the puppets on TV and in movies, but there are many other kinds of puppets all over the world. Learn about the wayang kulit shadow puppets of Indonesia, the marionettes of Europe, and the life-size bunraku of Japan. The history of puppets contains some real surprises: Did you know that puppet shows were enjoyed by the Greeks in the fifth century BC?

