

Fabric and Fibre Lesson with 3rd to 6th Classes

'Sock Puppets'

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Curriculum Strand: Fabric and Fibre (Visual Arts Curriculum p.58, 76)

Objective: *Explore the possibilities of fabric and fibre as media for imaginative expression (p.58, 76)*
Make soft toys, emphasising individuality and variety (p.58)
Make simple character toys (p.76)

Linkage: **Drawing**> *Express his/her imaginative life and interpret imaginative themes using inventive pattern and detail (p.48)*
Draw imaginative themes using inventive pattern and detail (p.66)
Paint and Colour > *Express his/her imaginative life and interpret imaginative themes using colour expressively (p.50, 68)*
Clay> *Make sturdy figures in clay using the medium expressively and with imaginative detail (p.54)*
Make simple pottery and sculpture (p.72)
Construction> *Make imaginative structures (p.56, 74)*

Integration Possibilities:

Oral Language: *Initiate conversations and respond to the initiatives of others in talking about experiences and activities (p.38); Discuss ideas and concepts encountered in other areas of the curriculum (p.53)*

Science: *Observe, identify and investigate the animals and plants that live in local environments (p.62); Observe and explore some ways in which plant and animal behaviour is influenced by, or adapted to, environmental conditions (p.84)*

Drama: *Develop, in role, the ability to co-operate and to communicate with others in helping to shape the drama (p.30); Help to plan dramatic activity too include the particular tension and suspense appropriate to the theme being explored (p.35)*

Developing this Activity in Class:

Getting Started: Have a little chat with the children about all the lost socks in the world! We all have odd socks at home, bring a few into class as they are ideal for making simple puppets. Children can swap with each other depending on the colours they want. If the children have not read *James and The Giant Peach*, encourage them to do so, or read it for them.

Materials Needed: Selection of odd socks
 Variety of wools and threads
 Buttons, beads
 Scraps of fabrics
 Wool needles or bodkins
 PVA
 Fabric paints and brushes

Stimulus: James and The Giant Peach – “What insects did James find inside the giant peach? Can you describe what they were like? Which was the most shy? Which was the cheekiest? Which had a calming affect on the others? What did they learn about themselves on their fantastic journey? Can you imagine the features on these fabulous characters created by Roald Dahl? We are going to create them with the odd socks!”

Activity: The children choose which character from the story they would like as a puppet. By placing one hand up into the sock they can create a 'face' using fingers and thumb. Now they can add features using wools, fabric

scraps, buttons, beads or other bits and pieces they may have gathered up. Encourage them to try to show the personality of their chosen character by inventive use of the fabrics, fibres, buttons and beads. Encourage them to describe what they are doing, where they are having any difficulties and how they are overcoming them. They might also like to use the fabric paints. Display their puppets in the classroom or other suitable place in the school.

Evaluation/Looking and Responding:

This will be happening as the children work. Encourage them to talk about what they are doing, about the personality of their puppet and if they feel it is emerging as they work.

Extension Activities:

The children could enact a little drama using their puppets. They could make a diorama showing the inside of the peach, or a stage setting that would allow them to show their hand puppets in action.

ICT Possibilities:

The children could photograph their puppets relating to each other, make a story about it and scan the pictures into the computer. The story could be printed out, complete with pictures as in a comic!

Using the I Am An Artist DVD:

The *Fabric and Fibre* programmes on the DVD offer opportunities to see children using fabrics and fibres to make pictures, weavings, puppets and costumes.

Note:

Explore other ways of making puppets with the children. Have a look at the 'Can You' section to see how other puppets can be made.

Relevant Artists:

Relevant Websites:

The Creative Stitching Gallery is a showcase for fabric art with lots of images. Although it is a commercial site you can view the works freely.
<http://creativestitchingquilts.shutterfly.com/action/>

The official site of Christo and Jeanne-Claude, famous for the art of wrapping major buildings and landmarks with fabrics
<http://www.christojeanneclaude.net>

Visit this weaving and lace gallery to see lots of sample of handweaving from around the world.
<http://www.handweaving.net/GalleryList.aspx>

The Victoria and Albert Museum website offers lots of opportunities to learn about textiles.
http://www.vam.ac.uk/collections/furniture/textiles_links/index.html

Scoilnet, which is a portal to lots of sites useful in the classroom.
<http://www.scoilnet.ie>