

Chris Thomas Hayes

SEL Video Puppetry Workshop

Lesson Purpose: To learn to express emotion, action, and character through puppetry.

Lesson S.E.L Focus: Self-Awareness, Goal-Directed Behavior, Self-Management, Relationship Skills, Social Awareness.

Essential Questions:

- How do we communicate with an audience?
- How do we use body language to communicate?
- How do we “become” a character?
- How do we know something’s alive?
- What life skills can we learn from theatre?

Enduring Understanding:

Through an exploration of theatre and puppetry, students will understand the connection of the theatre arts and the domains of learning (cognitive, psycho-motor, and affective).

Quick Introduction to the Medium – 5 minutes

1. *What is puppetry?*
2. *How are they used in current medium?*
3. *What are differences between theatre and TV puppetry?*
4. *What are the differences between theatre and TV puppets?*
5. *How the camera is used in this medium? How do we shoot puppets?*
6. *Questions.*

Getting on Camera- 15 minutes

The time varies from group to group, allowing for multiple people to have a turn going through the process. In some instances, multiple stations can be set up, serving more students faster. This part of the workshop also has a steep learning curve and sometimes takes more time.

1. We learn how to wear the puppet, the proper stance for puppetry, and how to operate the accompanying rods.
2. We learn the basics of the video monitor
3. We learn how to position their puppet on the monitor
4. We learn direct eye focus, one of the main principles of puppetry
5. We learn how eye focus changes depending on focus
6. Questions

The Whole Head - 10 minutes

1. We learn how to correctly operate a puppet mouth to allow for proper eye focus.
2. We work the basics of speech; reciting poems, nursery rhymes, and songs that help us to learn language.
3. We talk to each other, incorporating our eye focus
4. Questions

Body and Soul - 15 minutes

The most important part of the workshop

1. We learn how to work in our whole body; standing, walking, and running.
2. We learn how emotions changes everything
 - a. We list the emotions we feel often
 - b. We think about how we communicate those emotions so others understand
 - c. We learn how our puppets can do the same
 - d. We work through emotions with our puppets
3. We use music, emotions, movement, and lip sync to explore