Folktale Animal Puppets
Grades CD–2

Objectives:

1. Students will select some elements of art to construct 2D or 3D artwork.
2. Students will combine several elements of art to express ideas, feelings, and stories in their artwork.
3. Students will identify and describe characters and ideas through creative expression.

Materials:

- Printed folktale puppet template (attached)
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- Popsicle or craft sticks (1 per student)
- Safety scissors
- Glue sticks or tape
- Googly eyes, yarn, cotton balls, fabric scraps (optional)
- Copy of:
    - *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* (read or watch/listen)
    - *The Three Little Pigs* (read or watch/listen)
    - *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* (read or watch/listen)
- Open classroom space for puppet performances
- Optional: calm instrumental music

Directions:

- Tell students, "When you come to the Gaillard Center, you will see *Billy Goats Gruff and Other Tales*, a theatrical performance inspired by classic folktales. In the performance, actors and puppets help bring stories to life using movement, imagination, and storytelling."
- Ask students:
    - What is a puppet?
    - Have you ever seen a puppet show?
    - What characters do you remember from folktales?
- Explain, "Today, you will become puppet designers and storytellers by creating your own folktale animal puppet! After you create your puppets, you can create your own puppet shows with peers at your table using all of the different folktale characters."
- Introduce the folktales:
    - *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*

    - *The Three Little Pigs*
    - *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*
- Briefly discuss the main characters and lessons from each story. Choose one story to read aloud.

Activity directions:

Step 1: Choose your character
- Show students the attached puppet template.
- Explain that they may create:
    - a goat from *Billy Goats Gruff*
    - a pig from *The Three Little Pigs*
    - a bear from *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*
- Encourage students to be creative and make it their own. It can look completely different from the original folktale!
- Ask:
    - What colors or textures would your character have?
    - Will your puppet look silly, fierce, sleepy, or friendly?

Step 2: Decorate the puppet
- Students color and decorate their puppet template using:
    - crayons
    - markers
    - fabric scraps
    - yarn
    - cotton balls
    - googly eyes
- Encourage creativity and imagination.
- Examples:
    - Cotton balls for fluffy goat fur
    - Pink paper ears for pigs
    - Brown yarn for bear fur
- Discuss: “How can you use colors and materials to help show your character’s personality?”

Step 3: Cut & assemble
- After decorating, students:
    - Carefully cut out their puppet.
    - Glue or tape the puppet onto a popsicle stick.
    - Add optional moving parts or extra decorations if desired.

- Teacher may assist younger students with cutting and assembly.

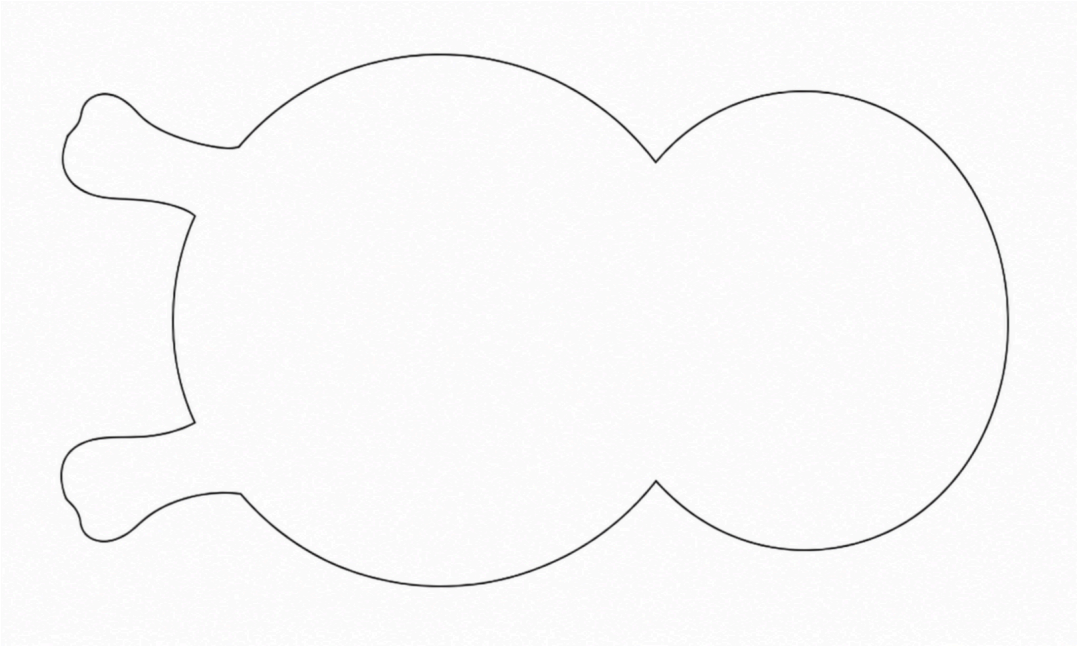
Step 4: Puppet practice and performance

- Gather students together at their tables.
- Encourage them to practice:
    - Giving their puppet a voice
    - Moving the puppet up, down, and side to side
    - Acting out simple emotions or actions
    - Examples:
        - Goat crossing a bridge
        - Pig building a house
        - Bear discovering Goldilocks
        - **OR** mix up the stories! For example, the goats building houses to hide from the wolf, the three bears crossing the troll bridge, the pigs discovering Goldilocks
- If there is extra time, students can create a short folktale puppet performances using their different characters.
- Ask students to share:
    - What was your folktale about?
    - How was it different from the original folktale?
    - Did your folktale character learn an important lesson?

Conclusion:

- Share with students, "Today, you used visual art and storytelling to bring folktale characters to life through puppetry. In *Billy Goats Gruff and Other Tales*, you will see how performers use theater, movement, puppets, and imagination to transform stories into live performances."
- Encourage students to watch for:
    - puppets and costumes
    - character movement
    - storytelling through theater

SC College and Career Ready Standards:

- **VA.CR NL.1.2** - I can select some elements of art to construct 2D or 3D artwork.

- **ELA.AOR.1.1**– Identify and describe characters and ideas through creative expression.
- **VA.CR NM.1.1** - I can combine several elements of art to express ideas, feelings, and stories in my artwork.
- **ELA.AOR.1** - Evaluate and critique key literary elements that enhance and deepen meaning within and across texts.