

The Three Little Pigs Study Guide

Objectives

The Three Little Pigs is a great show for children in preschool and up. Along with seeing this silly and fun show, teachers and parents alike can use this study to enhance children's knowledge of storytelling and puppetry. This guide covers puppetry topics, audience behavior topics and discussion ideas for how to evaluate the performance and the story of *The Three Little Pigs*.



Arizona Common Core Standards

Reading Literature, Writing, and Speaking and Listening Standards:

K.SL.2. Confirm understanding of a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media by asking and answering questions about key details and requesting clarification if something is not understood. (*Discussion Topics for after the show*)

1.SL.2. Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media. (*Discussion Topics for after the show*)

K.RL.3. With prompting and support, identify characters, settings, and major events in a story (*Discussion Topics for before and after the show*)

1.RL.3. Describe characters, settings, and major events in a story, using key details (*Discussion Topics for before and after the show*)

Art Standards for Kindergarten through Grade 2:

1.1.PO 101. Demonstrate respect for others' opinions by respectfully listening while ideas are articulated. (*Activities for before and after the show*)

1.1.PO 102. Cooperate in the dramatic process. (*Building a puppet and acting out a puppet show*)

3.2..PO 101. Demonstrate respectful audience behavior. (*Attending the puppet show*)

3.2.PO 104. Justify the perception of a performance and critique its production elements. (*Activities for after the show*)

3.5.PO 102. Explain and justify personal preferences for specific elements and/or moments in dramatizations (*Activities for after the show*)

The Show

The story of *The Three Little Pigs* is one that we all know and love. Sometimes, it's fun to review this story with your student or child before seeing the puppet show. Here's a brief outline of our version of the story:

The Three Little Pigs live with their mother and are growing up. One day Mama encourages them to move out on their own. The first little pig builds a house of straw. The second little pig builds a house of sticks. And the third little pig built himself a house made of bricks. One day, a hungry wolf comes along and decides that he would like to have pig for lunch. He comes to the first little pig's home that's made of straw and tries to blow it down. He succeeds, but the pig gets away without being eaten. The wolf then blows down the house made of sticks, but the second little pig also escapes. The wolf tries to blow down the house

of bricks but can't. The wolf arrives at the third little pig's house which is still standing, made of strong bricks. The pig teases the wolf while the wolf blows and blows trying to blow the house down. When the wolf realizes he can't blow down the house made of bricks, he tries to get the pig by going down the chimney. The wolf knocks his head on a cooking pot and decides that he really doesn't need any pigs today.



The Puppets

The puppets used in *The Three Little Pigs* are rod puppets. They are made from carved Styrofoam that makes up the body pieces. The bodies are then covered with paper mache. Once this is dry and sanded, the puppets are painted or covered with fake fur. Their clothes are custom made for their bodies and are similar in construction to doll clothes. Finally, their mouths are operated by a spring and string mechanism that is operated by the rod that the puppeteer holds.

Discussion Topics for Before the Show

Objectives: Take some time to discuss with your students how to behave while seeing a live show. By starting this discussion before coming to see the show, students will be better prepared to watch the story. Also by talking to your students about the story of *The Three Little Pigs* they will gain more from seeing puppet show and be able to better discuss the story afterwards.

- Ask students to talk about theater audience behavior. Discuss the difference between behavior in a live theater vs. behavior at home watching television or out at a movie theater. Why must our behavior be different when the show is "live"?
- Do you think it's ok to yell out or talk to your neighbor during the show? What about laughing or answering the puppets when they talk to you?
- Have students discuss other puppet shows they have gone to or seen on television and in the movies. What did the puppets look like? How did they move?
- Review the story of The Three Little Pigs. Are there other versions of the story that they've heard?
- Have the students stand up and act out the story of *The Three Little Pigs* in pantomime while you narrate the action.

Discussion Topics and Activities for After the Show

Objectives: After seeing the puppet show, discuss with your students what they learned from the puppet show. By doing so, students will gain more from the experience. These discussion questions will encourage students to talk and debate about their thoughts on the show. Also, students will think more about the production and will be able to articulate what they thought about the story and the experience of watching the puppet show.

- Have students draw pictures of the puppet show. Have them share their pictures with the class, describing the scene they have drawn and the characters in it.
- Students can discuss what they thought about the performance. Which parts of the show did they like? Which parts did they not like? Encourage students to be specific and think about different aspects of the production such as lighting, sound, the voices and look of the puppets, etc. Make sure students justify their views on the puppet show and performances.
- Students can discuss what they think it would be like to be a puppeteer. Is this a job they would enjoy? What do they think are important things that a puppeteer can do?
- Use the templates below to make your own *Three Little Pigs* finger puppets. Just color, cut out, and tape the characters on some craft sticks to make your own puppet show! Encourage students to recreate the story; have them split up into small groups to make their own puppet show or narrate the show and have different students act out different parts of the show.

Resources

Arizona Common Core Standards:

<http://www.azed.gov/standards-practices/>

Great Arizona Puppet Theatre:

www.azpuppets.org

Please send any thoughts or appreciation letters to:

Great Arizona Puppet Theatre

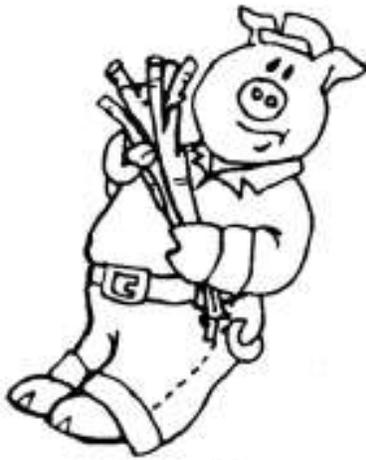
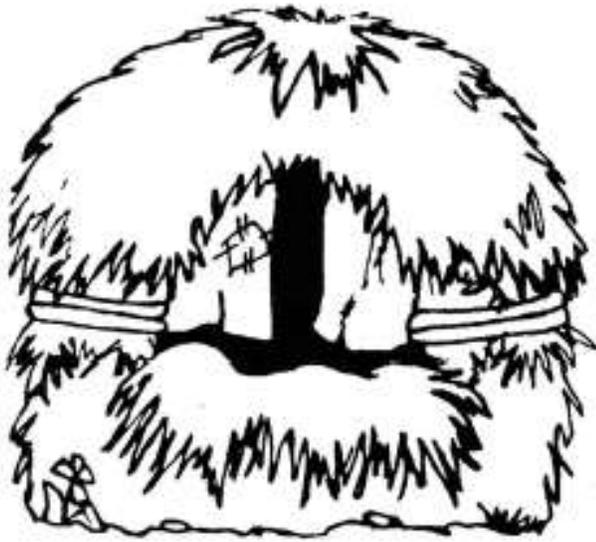
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We Love Hearing from You and Your Students!



COLOR, CUT OUT,
& TAPE TO CRAFT
STICK FOR EASY
ROD PUPPETS!



E. Schulze

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