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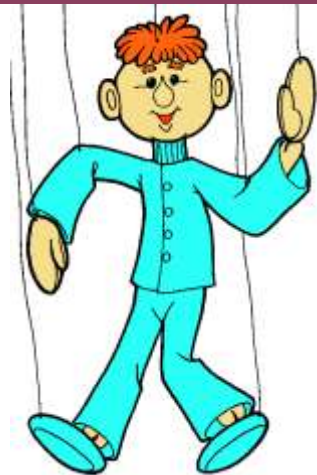
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Creativity and Children has a great connectivity. The world of kids is filled with imaginations, magic and mysteries. It is believed that for many children, their creativity reaches its peak before the age of six, and after which it starts declining with onset of formal schooling and the developmental drive towards conventionality. However, supporting a child's creativity in preschool sets the stage to foster its continued development in the years beyond. With the newfound representational abilities, children's imaginations become

Editorial Column

boundless! They love to pretend games and have a natural tendency to fantasize, experiment, and explore. They are fascinated with magic and struggle to distinguish between fantasy and reality. However, their creative drive ignites a desire to learn and supports intellectual development across all subjects. It is advised by the Psychologists to read and tell stories right from toddler stage. This promotes brain development and imagination, develops language and emotions, and strengthens relationships. Babies and young children often enjoy books, songs and stories with good rhyme, rhythm and repetition. Even simplest way of engaging children is just by looking at books with your child and talking about them, one can be a great storyteller and a good model for using language and books. This helps to build the connectivity with books right from the young age. Also, the child will learn by watching parent holding a book the right way and seeing how parent move through the book by gently turning the pages and learns mannerism too. Not to be surprised when the day is not far off when the child might like to make up his/her own stories or share family stories. The child will learn words and develop language skills from the songs, stories and conversations you share together. Oral storytelling itself is a great way to improve children's oral fluency and help them understand concepts that underpin literacy and literature. Concepts like sequencing, story structure, and the features inherent in different genres are all brought out during regular storytelling sessions. For children who are just starting out with storytelling, it might help to use a puppet to tell the story. If you have several puppets, children can choose one and perhaps use a different voice for that character's dialogue in a story. They in fact become a good companion to play and explore other sides of storytelling and puppetry

Padmini Rangarajan





Little Amal

Giant Puppet the Little Amal on the Streets in the UK and Europe!



Little Amal is the giant puppet at the heart of The Walk, travelling 8,000km in support of refugees. In 2021, the 3.5 metre-tall living artwork of a young Syrian refugee child will walk across Turkey, Greece, Italy, France, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium and the UK to focus attention on the urgent needs of young refugees. 'Little Amal' is not so little at 3.5m high. Find out more about how she operates from her creators African Handspring Puppet Company with the collaboration of a large team of artists.

More information can be found on the website: <https://www.walkwithamal.org>
Here are some great images of Little Amal when she reached London. Little Amal's story began in Good Chance Theatre's award-winning play, The Jungle. The critically-acclaimed production was based on the stories Good Chance's founders Joe Murphy and Joe Robertson encountered when they created their first Theatre of Hope in the 2015 Calais refugee camp. Little Amal appeared as a character in The Jungle who represented the hundreds of unaccompanied minors in the Calais camp who were separated from their families. Following the success of The Jungle, which



Giant Puppet the Little Amal on the Streets in the UK and Europe!

Little Amal



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RyuPtEjUSsg>

contributed to a global conversation about refugees and shared humanity, Good Chance felt Little Amal's story still had so much more to say.

As we follow Little Amal's remarkable journey from Gaziantep near the Turkey-Syria border to Manchester in the UK, she will shine an urgent light on the stories of the millions of young refugees who are displaced – and the many who are forced to risk arduous journeys for the chance at a better life.

https://www.theguardian.com/world/gallery/2021/oct/27/little-amal-in-london-in-pictures?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

<https://www.walkwithamal.org/about-us/little-amal/>



No dearth for Creativity and Enjoyment

Srishti Mantha

Age: 10 years, Class-Grade 6

School: Sancta Maria International School, Hyderabad



This is how my story beganSrishti narartes her Story.....

“It was October 2015. Srishti went to her grandparents' place for Dasara vacation. A couple of days before that, 4.5 years old Srishti was having frequent urination, was feeling very weak to even walk a short distance, and lost weight suddenly. Her parents were assuming it was some infection and that it would subside with time. When she was sleeping at her grandparents' place, she was constantly crying for water, showing her dry mouth. Her parents were assuming that because she was drinking a lot of water, she was urinating frequently but it was just the opposite. She was drinking so much water because she was urinating very often - Due to high blood sugars. She was taken to a pediatrician locally and he directed them to go to a pediatric endocrinologist. She was in a dangerous health condition with 720 mg/dl blood sugar (normal is 70-120 mg/dl). She was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. Doctors told that they had reached just in time. Had they known the symptoms of type 1 diabetes, they would have reached much earlier. Their parents had no clue children can get diabetes! Her parents then learnt that type one diabetes can happen at any age, mostly it's seen in children. It is an autoimmune condition, which means that one's own immunity attacks and destroys insulin producing cells. Hence the children with type one diabetes need to take insulin externally. This is not hereditary, not lifestyle related, none in the family have type one diabetes. Some elders have type 2 diabetes. The family learnt that this happens due to environmental conditions, to those having genetic predisposition, not their fault, not preventable, cannot be cured. The child has to be insulin dependent for life time. A healthy diet and exercise, along with insulin treatment can keep the blood sugars in control. Life seemed shattered, but her parents slowly moved themselves from the grief to



learning how to manage it. They never hid her condition from anyone, although they know that when they say 'diabetes', most of the people think its type 2 diabetes”.

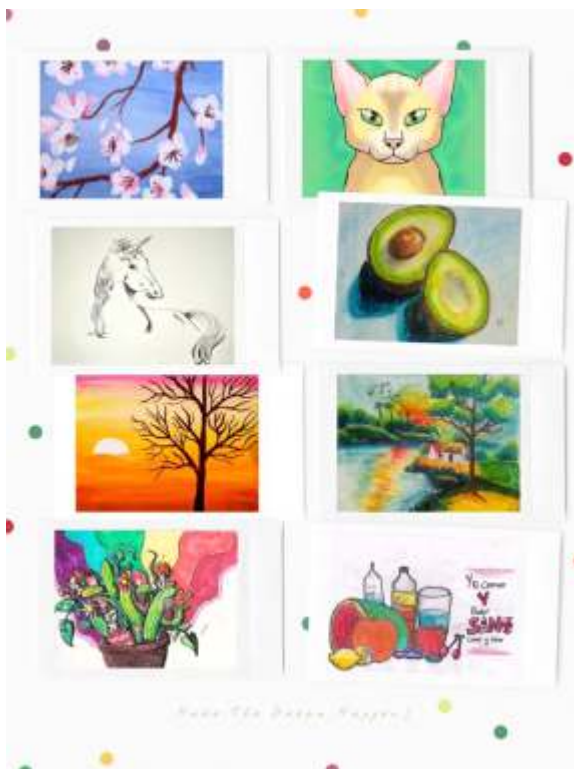
Like everyone, her parents also tried to find if there was a cure, they got suggestions to explore the ancient methods of treating it instead of going with modern medicine, but they understood that non-evidence based methods do not work and that they are dangerous to the health of the child with type one diabetes.

Let's now know about Srishti after knowing the brief background about Type 1 Diabetes. Srishti is 10 years old now, studying in grade 6 in an international school. Srishti checks her blood sugars 6-8 times a day or wears a continuous glucose monitor, takes insulin for every meal, either through injections or using an insulin pump, which is attached to her body to administer insulin subcutaneously.

She learnt how to check her blood sugars with a glucometer on her own at age 6. She used to go to roller skating competitions, play sports; she is a

blogger, coder and a passionate artist who did hundreds of drawings on paper and digitally by now. Her blog "srishtiandbeyond.in" is very interesting. She also posts some science and cooking videos on her YouTube channel. She also made a simple digital game named "Levels" that anyone can play to understand how carbohydrates in food and insulin should balance each other in type one diabetes.

“Everything is possible with type one diabetes. They can participate in all activities, the only thing is that they need to monitor their blood sugars frequently and take suitable insulin or food/glucose based on the situation. They learnt how to measure the



food, count carbohydrates, calculates the insulin dose, learnt the methods and techniques of insulin administration. Since T1D is not understood, the children with type one diabetes are often asked to take rest; they are expelled from sports and other activities. This is really heartbreaking to the little children. There was no option other than being strong” —Smiles Srishti.

Srishti is not scared to prick her fingers many times a day and is not afraid of injections. The entire family started eating healthy. They later met several people, many more children like Srishti in type one diabetes meetings. They shared knowledge with each other. They realized that there was a lot of



misinformation, unawareness and mistreatment happening to T1D kids. It was then; Parents of Srishti thought advocating about type 1 diabetes should be taken up seriously. “No one understands type one diabetes, including the schools where children spend a lot of time”-opines Srishti's mom Ms Sirisha, who did her certified diabetes educator and nutrition courses to keep themselves and others updated with the right knowledge.

In October 2021, storytelling lab was organized by World diabetes foundation, Dalberg media and USAID to work on innovative solutions to create awareness about diabetes in India, using storytelling in which Srishti's mother Sirisha participated as a community leader with team consisting of Ms. Padmini Rangarajan, educational puppeteer and storyteller, Natasha, graphic designer. They worked hard for a month and gave pitches to the world renowned judges. The topic was "Awareness programme for Type-1 Diabetes among children and school



administration through the use of puppet based videos to educate and influence children and having unbiased Type-1 Diabetes and hypoglycemic and episodes in schools; All inculcate and acceptance of children Diabetes and reducing Diabetes education on it." Srishti was part of "Paatshala". girl Dia, a puppet as a child with type one "The summary of the to tell that the children diabetes are normal. does not produce take insulin just like eyesight wears to make the type 1 normal among other school"—Opines Srishti. Srishti makes small made puppet shows on Children "I find great job in expressing diabetic child feels or Srishti. She constantly hands on various crafts address more and Type 1 Diabetes. She and uses storytelling inner feeling. "One my own book with my illustration"—says



administrators into attitudes towards help them mitigate hyperglycemic in order to encourage living with Type-1 the burden of the children with the team "Dia ki Interestingly, the character is shown diabetes.

puppet show was with type one Their pancreas insulin and so they how a person with spectacles. This is children feel children in the

stick puppets and "Diabetes in puppets doing all that Type 1 undergoes"—says keeps working her and likes to more people about does illustration to express her day, I want publish own story and Srishti.

Little Puppeteers

Jiya Vithlani

Class- 7th

St Gregorios High School Chembur , Mumbai. Maharashtra, India



Ventriloquism, the art of speaking without moving your lips, the art of giving your voice to something, the art of putting life to a non living thing. She started her journey as Ventriloquist when she could even not pronounce the word properly, maybe that time she really didn't know there is some art like this. Just doing pretend play with dolls, she somehow learned something which is now a very integral part of her life. When she was 7 years old, her school St Gregorios High School, Chembur gave her the opportunity of performing vent in a Talent show. That time she didn't know this was just a beginning of a long journey. She was blessed to get guidance from Mr. Sandeep Pardeshi ji, Mr. Satyajit Padhyay, Mentalist Kedar ji and many others. Her 1st puppet Chikoo was actually made by Shri Deepak Pandey ji but when he learned that a 7 year old wants to learn this art he at once agreed to give that puppet to her. That year she was the youngest Ventriloquist in the vent event held in Pune. Then the rest is the history of the journey of a serious girl with a super mischievous puppet Chikoo. In this beautiful journey her mom always stood by her side, taking her to all the events and supporting her to polish her skills. She has participated in Gregorios Has Talent (GHT) and many opportunities to perform in many events across the state. She has received awards and name in the field of Ventriloquism.

Puppeteer Soham Sham Yemul

AGE-12 years-Grade 5

School-Shri B F Damani Prashala, Solapur Maharashtra, India



Soham use to watch YouTube videos on iPad of his father. It was an iPad given by a USA client for software testing. He used to watch videos of Ramdas Padhey a world famous Ventriloquist and Puppeteer. He was also keen on listening videos of famous mimicry artist Hasya Samrat Shri Deepak Deshpande. With repeated watching such videos, at the age of 4 years he started speaking without moving lips, like a ventriloquist.

When his father observed this, he made the first puppet for him called Chotu Singh. Later he developed puppet like a book, a cake, a dinasour, Taty vinchu, Sonuli a girl child, Narendra Modiji puppet, etc. His first public show was at age of 5 years at Sahastrajun Ganesh Mandal, Mangalwar peth, Solapur. He shows magic Tricks, Puppetry, Powada, Mimicry and Play Acts. He won state level prize in an elocution competition for Swacha Abhiyan at the of 6 years. He won district level first prize for his Act Bhondu Baba. He presents Mimicry scripted by Shri Deepak Deshpande, Hallo Tai and a few others.

Achievements

- 4 August 2020 : Wisdom India, National Level MIME competition, Child Labour subject - First Prize
- August 2020 :Letter of Appreciation by Padmashali Worldwide, MLA Shashikant Shinde, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 2020:International competition on Covid 19 Response - NeverSuchInnocence, London, 2nd Prize - Arts category, 9 to 11 years.

- 2020:Mumbai Marathi Sahitya Sangha - One Act Play competition - Second prize in 6 to 15 years category
- August 2019 : A letter of honour given by Shri M. F. Damani Prathmik Vidya Mandir, Solapur for his achievement of receiving title of India's Youngest Ventriloquist & String Puppeteer(8 years) by India book of Records.
- 2019 - Khedkar Smruti Vakrutva Spardha : A district level elocution competition - Runners Up Prize
- 2019 - Samarjit Natya Shala, acting district level competition - Bhondu Baba - 3rd prize
- Natakghar Natya Shala, acting district level competition- Bhondu Baba - third prize
- Feb 19 - Shri Chatrapati Pratishthan, Kasegaon, North Solapur, elocution competition - 1st Prize
- 15 Aug 2018 - Solo Acting - Mimicry written by Deepak Deshpande - S M Bura Foundation - 2nd Prize
- January 2016 - State level elocution competition - Speech on Swachata Abhiyan - Shri Shakambari Navaratra Mahotsov aani Marathwada Sahitya Mandal, Tuljapur - 2nd Prize
- January 2017 - State Level elocution competition - speech on "Bharatane Dileli Amulya Denagi - Shri Shakambari Navaratra Mahotsovaani Marathwada Sahitya Mandal, Tuljapur - Runners Up Prize
- 2018 - Solo Acting competition - Bhondu Baba - Akhil Bharatiy Natya Parishad & Lalitkunj Kala Akadami - 2nd Prize
- 2017 - Solo Acting Competition - Swachata Abhiyan - Lalitkunj Kala Akadami - 2nd Prize
- 2017- Khedkar Smruti Vakrutva Spardha - 2nd Prize
- 9 Feb 2019 - Powada on the occassion of Shiv Jayanti - Thorla Mangavedha Tarun Mandal - Amol Babu Shinde - Appreciation Prize
- 2017 - Chef - Little Idol - RNA Events - 1st Runners Up Prize
- 2017 Sanskrit Shlok citation competition - RNA Events- 1st Prize
- Shantisagar Maharaj Pathanthar(Follow-up) Spardha - 2016 - Third Prize, 2017 - Third, 2018 - First Prize , 2019 - First Prize - Cash Prize + Certificate, Memento.

He is covered extensively by print and electronic Media. He has a website and one can look into his achievements, rewards and others details from the website-

<https://sohammagic.ruha.co.in/>



Little Puppeteers

Palangthod Sreenidhi and Palangthod Vaibhav Raj (Shreyas)

Palangthod Sreenidhi aged 10 years is studying in class V, at St. Paul's High School in Hyderabad. Her younger brother Palangthod Vaibhav Raj alias Shreyas aged 5



years in in UKG at St. Paul's High School, Hyderabad. Right from age one, Sreenidhi's mother Ms. Archana took her to all the children's events in the city more so to Storytelling and Puppet shows. Slowly, they came in contact with Sphoorthi Theatre STEPARC and enrolled in summer camps, storytelling and puppet making classes. Today, both brother and sister make puppets out of best of waste, throw away materials and together tell a story. They have a YouTube channel with the name - Sreenidhi Vaibhav

Samya Chowdhury

Samya Chowdhury is an art and craft enthusiast and has a penchant for the art form Puppetry. She hails from Guwahati, Assam and is a student of St. Mary's Senior Secondary School, Maligaon Class VI. Samya is good at drawing and Mandala art. Samya enrolled for the Storytelling with puppets conducted by Sphoorthi Theatre STEPARC held virtually during summer 2021. She took great interest and started exploring more on her



own. She also has a YouTube channel by the name Samya's Art and Craft Craft where one can find her puppet videos.



Aadvik.R

Aadvik is 5 years old and is now in PPT2-UKG from TVS Lakshmi School, Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India

He is very much interested in colouring and drawing. He in fact questions his mother about our Traditions, culture, and value system. He finds storytelling using puppets interesting. He performed a storytelling using finger puppets on Children's Day celebration.

Mugil .A

Age: 4years and 9 months

School: Shishya BEML Public School, Bengaluru, Karnataka State, India

Mugil, joined online storytelling with puppets session during summer 2021, he learnt to make simple puppets. Of course he made his parents also involved in making and helping. The bug of puppet bit him so badly that he started to make puppets to tell stories. Every day he had a new story and this is like a Mega serial that the family enjoys a lot. His other Special Interests are playing Lego, drawing characters like wolf in three little pigs story and Tom and Jerry.





Artist of the Month

Educational Puppetry: Teaching with Puppets

Ms. Kusuma.K.R. Cluster resource person Padupanambur Mangalore North, Karnataka State, India got appointment on November 21 1996 as an Assistant teacher by education department from Mangalore, Karnataka. She worked in the Bajav rural area to primary school. Children came from remote village were very innocent and the poverty faced by them made to think a lot. She took an oath that she should learn something which will really give a meaning to her life by establishing good interaction with children. She desperately wanted this change and wanted to get connected with all the children and touch the core of the heart of every child. For that she found storytelling is the best art form. After collecting much information from her higher authorities, she came to know about the "Role of puppetry in education"- a workshop conducted by the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training- CCRT New Delhi for government teachers free of cost. She tried to apply for the same, but not successful initially. On one fine day she met Sri Mohammed Ali –a Resource Person of the state who conducts training related to CCRT. After attending the basic training programme at the district level her ambition was to get workshop on the Role of puppetry in education. Due to up's and downs of in her life, the opportunity that was before her was challenging. She did not give up my struggle. She constantly persuaded her authorities to enroll herself in the training programme. Finally, on 14th November to 29th November 2019 she succeeded in attending for 18-day Course on "Role of



Puppetry in Education” in CCRT Hyderabad. “Those are memorable days of my life”-Smile Kusuma.

Due to Covid-19 Pandemic that hit the world and schools were closed since March 21st, 2020 till October 25, 2021, she used online portal and Whatsapp group video calling to connect with children and told stories. During this pandemic she prepared lots of Puppets and props to teach her cluster school children. Now Schools have started she was so happy to involve me in telling stories physically. She had dreams of learning to make puppets from 1996 due to many up and down of my life as a resource person Ms. Padmini Rangarajan Director of Sphoorthi Theatre –STEPARC Hyderabad impressed her and

motivated her. She did the virtual Certificate course Art of Puppetry and Storytelling during Covid -19 Pandemic and learnt to make simple, easy, effective, different kinds of puppets and storytelling with puppets. She considers, Pandemic was a boon for her as she could learn and fulfill her ambition. She also has trained teachers in making of puppets and using them effectively in the classroom. Children were also involved, participated actively and even shared their imaginary stories with her. Now her students join her in making puppets with creative ideas.

She now dedicates her time in making puppets with the help of the her students Viz, Roshini, Bhavya, Ritika, Riya, Gaurav, Kavan, Aman and the Amol to name a few did many puppets. She inspired her students to make Pandemic Puppet and puppet play giving social messages to all. Now, she is doing Ph.D in Hindi as a Research scholar on “Kahani sahitya- Ek Adhyayan”-Storytelling for Children and its outcome. On 26th of this November training is going on in DIET for English teachers-EMTIP-1 English Medium Teachers Induction programme. She is so glad to inform as a Resource Person who is going to train the teachers “Role of Puppetry in Classroom”

“At last I would like to extend my thanks to Education Department ,Higher Authorities like DDPI Shri Shivaramayya, BEO Smt Manjula, CCRT-Trainer Ms. Padmini Rangarajan and Shri Mohammad Ali Sir who have supported me to reach my Goal”—signs off Kusuma





Artist of the Month

Shri Pankaj Kumar Pasrija – A Government Primary School teacher Rania (Sirsa) Haryanayan State, India. He is highly qualified with various degrees of qualifications to his credits like-B.COM, D.ED, B.ED, M.SC (COMPUTER SC.), M.A (PSYCHOLOGY). He is from Sirsa Haryana, India. He has 20 Years of teaching experience (10 Years in Government Sector and 10 Years in Private Sector). He underwent Role of Puppetry in Education training from the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training – CCRT New Delhi in 2013. Now, he makes and uses puppets effectively as a Teaching Aids in Teaching. He finds teaching with puppets makes learning interesting and enjoyable. Students also learn many things through puppets and they get connected with puppets more closely than with the teacher. This has not only helped students learn better, but also helped students to speak their minds without fear or hesitation. He

makes varieties of Socks Puppets, Glove Puppets and talking puppets. Now he is selected as a District Resources Person by CCRT, NEW DELHI and selected as a Master Trainer by Block and District level for given training to teachers for making and use of Puppets. Experience of Puppet Show : increases strength in school, motivate to students for hand wash, motivate to students for daily attendance, lesson teaching, awareness about corona virus, Motivate to Green Diwali n Clean Diwali. He also has his own YouTube channel by the name Pankaj Pasrija (Puppeteer) on puppet making and puppet shows. He is very eager to teach making puppets of those who are interested to learn. One can reach him on this -Email ID: mr.pankajpasrija@gmail.com



पुतली नाटक के माध्यम से कक्षा पहली व दूसरी का किया स्वागत



रानिया | सिरसा टुडे

(अर्जुन कुमार) सोमवार को जहाँ स्थित राजकीय प्राथमिक पाठशाला में सप्तमरी अर्धशताब्दी कक्षा पहली व दूसरी के कक्षा सुनवाई पर। इसी संघर्ष में स्कूल के शिक्षक पंकज कुमार ने कक्षा पहली और दूसरी के लिए एक कठपुतली नाटक का आयोजन किया। ज्ञात रहे कि

प्राथमिक शिक्षक पंकज कुमार ने दिल्ली से कठपुतली नाटक का विशेष प्रशिक्षण प्राप्त किया हुआ है। पंकज कुमार ने कठपुतली नाटक के माध्यम से बच्चों को प्रतिदिन स्कूल में आने के लिए और कोरोना महामारी से बचने के उपाय के लिए जागृत किया। इस अवसर पर स्कूल के मुख्य शिक्षक जगदीश खिलान और अन्य शिक्षक सहित भी उपस्थित रहे।

शिक्षकों के प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम में कठपुतली बनाना सिखाया

पल पल न्यून: रानिया, 29 सितंबर। सिरसा जिला के सभी खण्डों में मांडल संस्कृति के प्राथमिक विद्यालयों के शिक्षकों का दो दिवसीय प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम चल रहा



प्राथमिक पाठशाला में कठपुतली कार्यक्रम के माध्यम से विद्यार्थियों को दिया पठन-पाठन का संदेश



रानिया | सिरसा टुडे

(अर्जुन कुमार) सोमवार को शहर के सामुदायिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्र के समीप स्थित राजकीय प्राथमिक पाठशाला में कक्षा पहली, दूसरी व तीसरी के विद्यार्थियों की कक्षाएं आरंभ होने से पाठशाला प्रांगण में बच्चों की रौनक लौटी। कक्षाएं आरंभ होने के मौके पर पाठशाला के अध्यापक पंकज कुमार ने पुतली

कार्यक्रम के माध्यम से विद्यार्थियों को प्रतिदिन स्कूल आने, कोरोना के नियमों का पालन करने व नियमित रूप से पठन-पाठन करने का संदेश दिया। कार्यक्रम दौरान पाठशाला के मुख्याध्यापक जगदीश ने विद्यार्थी बच्चों के सामने कैसे और कब पढ़ना है के बारे में प्रेरणादायक विचार रखे। पुतली कार्यक्रम दौरान पाठशाला की अध्यापिका प्रीति व अध्यापिका ममता रानी उपस्थित रहे।

कार्यक्रम का कठपुतली नाटक का भी आयोजन किया गया। सभी राजकीय अध्यापकों ने सीखने के बाद अध्यापक कठपुतली बनाई। सभी अध्यापकों

प्राथमिक स्कूल रानिया में मुखौटा कार्यक्रम आयोजित

खेट



सिरसा टुडे सिरसा। राजकीय प्राथमिक पाठशाला रानिया में मुखौटा अध्यापक पंकज कुमार ने शिक्षण में बच्चों को मुखौटा बनाना सिखाया। पंकज कुमार ने दिल्ली से 2013 में मुखौटा बनाने का विशेष

प्रशिक्षण प्राप्त किया था। पंकज कुमार ने बच्चों को छोटी, बड़ी और विशिष्ट के मुखौटे बनाने सिखाया। उसके उपरांत उन्हें मुखौटे का प्रयोग कर के बच्चों के सामने एक कहानी का भी गाना किया गया। इस अवसर में मुख्याध्यापिका

दोपक सुतान ने अपनी उपस्थिति प्रदान की। वैकल्पिक रूप से मुखौटा का प्रयोग कर के तुम शिक्षक में एक नई ऊर्जा ला सकते हैं। इस प्रकार से प्राप्त ज्ञान एक स्थान पर ही नहीं रहता बल्कि इसे रोज पर लाया जा सकता है। इस अवसर पर मुख्याध्यापिका प्रीति रानी, विद्युत बालक लाल

सिरसा अध्यापक पंकज कुमार ने बच्चों को छोटी, बड़ी और विशिष्ट के मुखौटे बनाने सिखाया। उसके उपरांत उन्हें मुखौटे का प्रयोग कर के बच्चों के सामने एक कहानी का भी गाना किया गया। इस अवसर में मुख्याध्यापिका

A Snapshot of Puppetry in Australia

Kay Yasugi



The following has been adapted from [this article](#) previously published on the [Puppet Place blog](#) (UK).

What is 'Australian' Puppetry? We are the world's oldest and youngest nation, when considering our Aboriginal heritage dating back over 60,000 years, as well as British colonisation only 200 years ago. We don't have a long Puppetry tradition like 'Punch and Judy' in the UK, and have had to define what is 'Australian' Puppetry along the way. Australia is a cultural melting pot, and so is our puppetry. Back in 2018 I collected thoughts and comments about Australian puppetry from notable puppeteers and other practitioners working in the puppetry sectors in Australia, which were published on the Puppet Place Blog ([Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#)).

Unfortunately Australian puppetry has changed so much due to the impact of Covid-19, and it became apparent that a new snapshot needed to be taken.

The last 18 months have been very challenging for Australians– with devastating bushfires in January 2020 and a global pandemic which is still ongoing. Most puppeteers have lost gigs and other work, and the recovery has been varied depending on location

A Snapshot of Puppetry in Australia

Kay Yasugi

and Covid numbers.

Theatres around the country have gone through periods of reopening (with limited capacity), though for artists who work in those industries it's been particularly tough. Some have sought employment in other industries (e.g. teaching, personal training, running online workshops) and others are creating new work. Some who have shifted to online puppet shows are even getting bookings from clients overseas, and there are some who are using social media like TikTok, Facebook, and Cameo to gain new audiences and get work.

With the onset of travel bans and social distancing restrictions affecting how we tour, perform, gather and connect, our whole industry has changed. Although many physical doors are still closed at the moment, there has been an influx of virtual doors opening, allowing us to connect with artists all around the world.

I have been quite involved with the puppetry organisation [UNIMA Australia](#) in our efforts to offer additional support to artists. We have organised Zoom meetings with UNIMA members, including artist

talks, maker sessions, competitions and special celebrations for [World Puppetry Day](#) and our [50th Anniversary](#). We also put together the [Silver Linings Online Puppet Film Festival](#) and invited people to participate from around the world. This year we launched a special [50th Anniversary UNIMA Oz magazine \(Volume 1\)](#) – a project that was done completely online.

It has been great to see the Australian puppetry community start to get



Screenshot from World Puppetry Day Zoom Celebration, 21st March 2020 (Top to bottom, left to right): Kay Yasugi (Pupperoos NSW), Katherine Hannaford (NSW), Karen Hethey (WA), Ros Campbell (Wild Puppets QLD), Richard Hart (Dream Puppets VIC), Fiona Finley (The Drama Studio NSW), Joshua Anderson (Curious Legends NSW), Brett Hansen (Larrikin Puppets QLD), David Morgan (NSW), Angie Macmillan (VIC), Rhoda Di Filippo Lopez and Remo Di Filippo (Di Filippo Marionette Italy), Caroline Astell-Burt (London School of Puppetry UK), Jingjing Chen (Happy Box Theater in Guangzhou China), Roberta Cipollone and Stephen Bocchetto (Compagnia del Rospo Rosso Italy), Mitchell Reese (Curious Legends NSW)

A Snapshot of Puppetry in Australia

Kay Yasugi

back out into the real world. Shows have toured around the country, including [Blueys Big Play](#) (based on the popular children's television program). Puppet theatres and companies are putting on shows and exhibitions too, including [ImaginArta Australian Puppet Centre](#) (New South Wales), [Erth Visual and Physical Inc](#) (New South Wales), [Terrapin Puppet Theatre](#) (Tasmania), [Larrikin Puppets](#) (Queensland), [Dead Puppet Society](#) (Queensland) and [Windmill Theatre](#) (South Australia). [Spare Parts Puppet Theatre](#) (Western Australia) launched their large-scale installation [The Last Numbat](#) last year and have also organised shows as well as intensive training workshops. In 2021 both Terrapin and [Spare Parts](#) are celebrating their 40th anniversaries and it is heartening to see puppet theatres continuing to endure and thrive despite our challenging times.

Click here to see a video about Terrapin's 40th Anniversary: <https://youtu.be/G9POYfsc290>



The Wider Earth by Dead Puppet Society (Photo by Guy Bell)

We have found ways to be resilient and adapt to ever changing restrictions. We've seen a trend for more outdoor spectacles and installations (rather than traditional theatre indoors), as well as live performances which are also streamed online. The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra put on ['Peter and the Wolf'](#) with puppets made by [AboutFace](#)

A Snapshot of Puppetry in Australia

Kay Yasugi

[Productions](#) – the production was digitally streamed and later (once restrictions had eased) performed to live audiences.



Puppet Mayhem – Fly by Niow (Photo by Little Moments Melbourne)

A highlight of this year was [Puppet Mayhem](#) in Melbourne, Victoria in May 2021. It was [A Blanck Canvas](#)' first major event to celebrate the launch of their new rehearsal and performance space – The Playground, located at Seaworks Maritime Precinct in Williamstown. We also enjoyed the [Melbourne Festival of Puppetry](#) (6-11 July 2021). Unfortunately Melbourne has had 2 more lockdowns since then and they are now the city with the longest cumulative Covid-19 lockdown in the world (nearly 9 months since March 2020). Melbourne is a key hub of arts and culture in Australia and home to so many artists including puppeteers.

I think that finding our feet requires us to reach out our hands in support of one another. We are a diverse, resilient, and adaptable community.

We are still keen to make connections with puppeteers. For anyone interested in Australian puppetry, I recommend joining [UNIMA Australia](#).

A Snapshot of Puppetry in Australia

Kay Yasugi

Finally, please check out the [Talking Sock podcast](#) about Aussie puppetry practitioners including puppetry legend [Richard Bradshaw](#).

Links:

UNIMA Australia - www.unima.org.au

UNIMA Oz Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/unima_oz/

Talking Sock podcast - <https://sites.google.com/view/oneorangesock/podcast>

Kay Yasugi - Pupperoos (www.pupperoos.com) and Digital Seagull (www.digitalseagull.com)

Kay's instagram: https://www.instagram.com/kay_yasugi/





Creative Corner:



Use the given symbol/ figure as a reference and complete a meaningful picture



Jasleen Saini

This is open for kids between the age group of 5 to 14 years.

Use the symbol/ figure as a reference and complete a meaningful picture.

(Free to use colour pencils, crayons or paints)

Post the completed pictures and give full details:

Name, Parent/s name, Age of the child,

Class, School, Place and State

Contact number to

puthalikapatrika@gmail.com

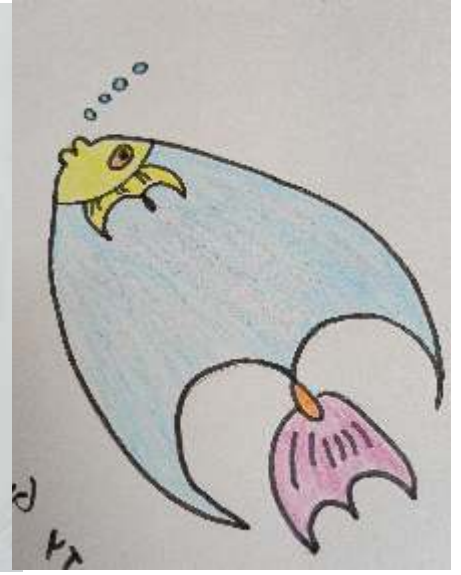
The best three winners will be awarded and best six will be issued e-Certificate.

Final Submission Date: Dec 25, 2021

(Oct 2021) Previous Edition's Hint



Creative Corner:



Mention of Commendation

- 🏆 Eshit Bansal, Age:12, Ankur School, Panjab University, Chandigarh
- 🏆 Samya Chowdhury, Age: 11, St. Mary's Senior Secondary School, Guwahati, Assam
- 🏆 Mishty Gupta, Age: 6, Carmel Convent School, Chandigarh
- 🏆 Taarush, Age: 6, St. Joseph Sr. Secondary School, Chandigarh
- 🏆 Aadya M Kashyap, Age: 8, Rashtroythanna Vidya Kendra, Bangalore, Karnataka
- 🏆 Mugil. A, Age:4, Shishya BEML Public School, Bengaluru, Karnataka
- 🏆 Trinika Sharma, Age: 6, St. Joseph Senior Secondary, Sector 44-D, Chandigarh
- 🏆 Vaibhav Raj Palangthod, VKG 'D', St. Paul High School, Hyderabad, Telangana



Yakshagana Puppets from Uppinakudru, Karnataka

Indian Puppetry

From time immemorial, there are evidences of the existence of Sting Puppetry in Dakshina Kannada District in Karnataka State. According to folk art experts, the origin of Yakshagana puppetry has not been established. Though it remained with a few families, Yakshagana puppetry has survived for over three centuries, due to Uppinakudru Kamath family's commitment to the art. In the 17th century, Krishna Babu Kamath and his son Lakshmana Bhagavatha launched the Yakshagana puppet theatre and travelled from place to place staging shows at fairs, temple festivals and so on.

The ancient folk art of "Yakshagana Gombeyatta"- known as Yakshagana Puppetry of coastal Karnataka was founded by three brothers named Sri Laxman, Sri Narasimha and Sri Manjappa Kamath, three centuries ago at Uppinakudru a small village in Kundapura Taluk, Udupi district of Karnataka State, India.

It was Lakshmana who founded the Ganesha Yakshagana Gombeyata troupe. The grandson



of Sri Laxman Kamath named Sri Devanna Padmnabha Kamath the fourth generation puppeteer persuaded this art form with a missionary zeal. Acute poverty and the lack of patronage forced Devanna to wind up his puppet theatre in 1941. In 1966, it was Smt Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay –the first Chairman serving of All India Handicrafts Board who encouraged 75-year-old Devanna to revive the Yakshagana puppetry. He

was also honoured by the President of India during Republic day celebrations in 1966.

He was extended support by Sri Srinivas Mallya, Sri K Sanjeeva Prabhu, Sri K.S Upadhyaya, and many others. Sri Devanna Padmanabha Kamath ended up being the only one to practice the art handed down by his ancestors.

After Sri Devanna Padmanabha Kamath his son Sri Kogga Kamath took over and trained many youngsters in this art form. It was Sri K.S.Upadhyaya from Mangalore, Karnataka State who popularized this art form by organizing

regional, interstates and foreign tours. Under the able leadership of Sri K.S. Upadhyaya and his supportive wife Dr. Leela Upadhyaya Sru Kogga Kamath staged many shows and participated in National and International Festivals.

A very bright and colourful costume, unique style of puppets, rhythmic steps, traditional music and dance style has kept this art form alive for six generation. "Our family has the image of Sri Ganapathi which is more than 300 years now"-says Sri Bhaskar Kamath.

This Yakshagana Gombeyata, this stringed puppet play is now piloted by a sixth generation puppeteer – the chief Sutradhara Sri Bhaskara Kogga Kamath, who quit his banking job to continue the family tradition. His father Kogga Kamath was an award-winning master puppeteer and in the last two decades, Sri Bhaskar has taken the art to new heights. Over the years, Sri Bhaskar Kogga Kamath continued to add innovations in techniques to help Yakshagana puppetry likeable itself to the present audience.

The string puppet play of Karnataka -Yakshagana style of coastal area is quite unique and interesting, both on account of its technique and content – the presentation is highly stylized since it has to adhere strictly to the norms and standards of Yakshagana Bayalata, one of the most remarkable among the numerous arts of Karnataka. All the ritualistic rigor of the Yakshagana 'Human Theatre' has to be observed in its original form and adept manipulators of the puppets seem capable of

DH

'Hallyyedege Gombe Nadige' to begin from today

BAINDOOR, DHNS: Uppinakudru Ganesha Yakshagana Gombeyata Mandali will organise 'Hallyyedege Gombe Nadige' from Friday. The puppetry show will be organised in 25 villages, said Mandali's Bhaskar Kogga Kamath.

The show will be inaugurated at Lakshmi Janardhana hall in Badakere. Baindoor taluk, on Friday at 6 pm.

Through the trust's initiatives, the 350-year-old tradition of puppetry is still alive.

The show will be held at Ranganatha Sabha Bhavana in Siddapura on November 6; Mahaligeswara Sabha Bhavana in Haradi on Nov 7; Nandikeswara Yakshagana Kala Mandali in Matpadi on Nov 9; Pete Venkatramana Sabha Bhavana in Shiroor on Nov 11; Janaseva Trust in Moodugilyar on Nov 13; Lakshmi Venkatramana Temple in Harikhandige on



Bhaskar Kogga Kamath demonstrating a puppetry show

Nov 14; Government Higher Primary School in Mettinahole on Nov 17; Sharada Sabha Bhavana in Neelavara on Nov 18; Nandikeswara Temple in Hegdekere Halladi on Nov 20; Mahaganapathi Select Tunda in Matnakatte Kergal on Nov

21; Batte Vinayaka Temple in Devalkunda on Nov 23; Narayanagudu Sabha Bhavana in Kokkarne on Nov 25; Rama Mandira in Aloor on Nov 29; Mahaganapathi Temple in Hattikudru on Nov 30; Kunda Adhyayana Kendra in Uppunda on December 2; Mahisha Mardini Gadduge Ammanavara Temple in Chanthar on Dec 4; Lions Club in Hakladi on Dec 5; Kalikumba Temple in Domb Paduvari on Dec 7; Government Higher Primary School in Mowadi on Dec 9; Deeti Mangaligeswara Temple in Bijoor on Dec 11; Sharada Sports Club in Mundkinjaddu Cherkadi on Dec 12; Mahishamardini Temple Sabha Bhavana in Kanberu Hosoor on Dec 14; Hongirana Shaala Vedike in Hosoor Shiroor on Dec 16 and Durgaparameshwari Bhajana Mandali in Kudkunjje on Dec 19.



making the Yakshagana puppets leap to life. "At times it is difficult to tell whether what one is witnessing is a mere show of wooden puppets, inert and lifeless, or a serious performance by well-trained men and women, pouring forth in dance, song and dialogue the whole range of human emotions and passions"--- Opines Sri Bhaskar Kamath.



These wooden puppets are about 18 inches high. Their costumes are exactly like those worn by the characters from Yakshagana Bayalata, with the same elaborate make-up, high and colourful head gear and heavy jewellery.

"The person who infuses life into the puppet and makes it come alive, by dexterous manipulation, is the puppet master, known as the 'Suthradhara'. The content in the Yakshagana puppetry, as in every other ancient performing art, is drawn from the epics and the Bhagavatha Purana. There may have been possibilities for embracing secular themes, but the older tradition still persists"---Opines Sri Bhaskar Kamath
Uppinakudru Puppet Academy:

With the support of eminent personalities, Art lovers, Philanthropists like Dr. Sudhamurthy, Chair Person Infosys Foundation, Bengaluru and another Dr. P. Dayananda Pai, eminent industrialist, Bengaluru, Sri Bhaskar Kogga Kamath was

able to make his ancestor's dream come true by establishing a well built huge "PUPPET AKADEMY BUILDING" with an estimated cost of Rs. One Crore has come up in our Uppinakudru, a small coastal village of Karnataka gives opportunity to exhibit not only puppetry programmes, but also in different fields of literary and other art activities. This was inaugurated on 7th March of 2015 and we are now in the 5th year of its inception. Every month they have one or the other programme by the people local or neighbouring areas, giving opportunity to expose their talents and we are happy to record that many of such programmes were over crowded beyond our expectation. "We have already arranged 61 monthly programmes one each month so far which was possible by their over whelming encouragement"—smilingly shares Sri Bhaskar Kamath.



'Walkthrough of Puppets' in 25 different villages: November 5- December 19, 2021
A series of 25 plays being planned under a special coastal tour, 'Walkthrough of Puppets', in 25 different villages spread across four talukas in Udupi district, Karnataka State from November 5 to December 19, 2021. The tour is being organized to mark the silver jubilee year of Uppinakudru Sri Devanna Padmanabha Kamath Memorial Yakshagana Gombeyata Trust and the centenary year of Master puppeteer Kogga Devanna Kamath.

"Sri Devanna's son Kogga Devanna Kamath my father, was an enchanter artiste of high calibre, introduced many innovations (experimented with torch-bearing

puppets like Hanuman setting Lanka on fire, depicting emotions on the puppets and so on) which drew world-wide world-wide acclaim. His troupe also participated in the fifth traditional arts festival at Rennes in France in 1978 with the help of K S Upadhyaya, a writer who organized tours in foreign countries for the troupe"-- exclaims Sri Bhaskar.

Such tours are not new to Sri Bhaskar Kamath. In 2008 and 2017, Sri Bhaskar and his troupe staged shows in 26 districts across Karnataka and in 22 schools from Kumta to Kasargod (Kerala) respectively. "Unlike previous tours, this is a comeback tour. We were without work for two years and this is also an opportunity to popularize Yakshagana puppet theatre," Says Bhaskar Kamath .

In the ongoing Walkthrough puppets in one of the villages named Neelavar Village in



Brahmavara Taluk, Udipi District, Karnataka, Silence pervades the hall as the tiny curtains are drawn aside and the Yakshagana stringed puppet play begins with the opening song — "Ganapathi Vandana". As the play progresses of "Choodamani-Lankadahana", the live music, the deft movements of the puppeteers' haze reality, making the lifeless Yakshagana puppets rise to life. The audience scream with delight as Hanuman takes flight with his tail on fire and burns down Lanka. The backstage buzzes with intense activity as Sri Bhaskar is not only manipulating strings of each puppet which is operated by six strings and an additional string is added if puppet is holding a sword but is also dancing with anklets on, to make puppet dance authentic to the audience. "After bringing the audience under the puppet's spell for nearly two hours, the play ends with a Mangalam just like that of a Yakshagana play"—replies Sri Bhaskar Kamath with a sigh of relief. Once the show is over, they also do puppet

Demonstration in all Villages.,

The troupe, Sri Ganeshha Yakshagana Gombeyata Mandali, Uppinakudru, includes 10 to 15 members. Some members tie anklets and act as puppeteers, while the remaining team up as him mela to provide live music. So far, Sri Bhaskar and his team have also staged shows in 25 foreign countries. The troupe, which used to perform 10 prasangas-plays, has now reduced it to three prasangas. The number of puppets has declined from 300 to about 75. "We have



staged plays over a thousand times, but every show is a litmus test," Bhaskar says. So they make it a point to get the audience's feedback through a form.

At this puppet house, children are trained in puppetry art, shows are staged once a month and senior puppeteers are felicitated. Sri Bhaskar says that in the first few days of coastal tour, he realized that society has not neglected Yakshagana puppetry, which still revolves around mythologies.

"The number of Yakshagana puppetry troupes declined from over 31 in 1988 to just handful of puppetry troupes in 2021. As puppetry art is endangered, government must set up a theme park dedicated to Yakshagana puppetry and set up a Puppetry authority to safeguard the traditional folk art," says Dr. S A Krishnaiah, the author of Karnataka Puppetry published in 1988.

Sources:

Sri Kogga Bhaskar Kamath-Traditional Puppeteer & Photo credits to Bhaskar Kamath
<http://yakshaganapuppets.org/bhaskar-kogga-kamath>

Nature's Lap



Survived for 7 days in Fridge but couldn't survive 7 minutes outside

I am a Kitchen Gardener, owing to my zeal to connect with nature, I try to grow food for the family. On a day I harvested the fresh spinach and kept that to have it as final meal before leaving for a vacation. Somehow the situation changed and spinach was put in fridge for its fate.

On return, the spinach was retrieved and a garden spider rescued from the undue prison. It was not so active and considering that it needs sunshine, I placed it on a mount. I got busy with some work and later turned back to get stunned. It survived seven days in fridge and couldn't survive seven minutes outside.

For more of such amazing stories of nature, join us at
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/naturalbiodiversity>

Dr. Arun Bansal



WASTE TO WEALTH TIPS



1



2



3



4



5



6

Kandeel \ lantern

Step 1 Drawing a circle

Step 2 cut the circles.. 20 pcs or more

Step 3 fold each circles in half

Step 4 paste each pcs, one after another

Step 5 need to cut a rectangular pc of paper..

Step 6 paste the yellow paper with the multiple circle

Step 7 Glue the handle

Step 8 Enjoy the waste to wealth Kandeel \ lantern



7



8

Material Required

Pencil

Eraser

Sharpener

scale

Colourful paper

1 White paper

Decorative tapes (optional)

Fevicol or any type of glue

Scissor

One bangle

One lace

Ankita Panda

D/o Sujit Kumar Panda

Class V, Age: 10, Amravati Vidyalaya

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