

Codswallop & Poppycock: Object Puppetry

Time

45 minutes

Supplies

Pen or pencil, paper, two household objects, a camera to film with (optional)

Find Your Characters

Find two objects that have some personality, but nothing with a face or body. If you're at a desk, like I am right now, there's much on offer that has interest. There's a crumpled piece of paper, and a pair of scissors, and both speak to me as characters. One is a little dejected and cramped, and the other is ready to tell it as it is, like an unforgiving aunt. But who knows? They might have other things to say, or ways of being.

Play & Write

With each object you've chosen, explore and take some notes. What does the object feel like? What sounds does it make, if any? Play with the object – how does it want to move? Is there an emotion you associate with the object?

Each object is a puppet when you give it breath, focus, and weight. Explore these principles further, by watching [this video from The National Theatre](#). Play with each object by giving it breath, focus, and weight.

Play a variety of instrumental music – dramatic, soft, suspenseful – here's a playlist to start – and work with your puppets and see what stories start to emerge. Film anything that you want to remember or share.

Share Your Discoveries & Reflect

Want to share your thoughts and creations? Add your findings to the Forum, where you'll connect with others who have explored this act.