



**The Great Arizona Puppet Theater
Presents**

The Three Little Pigs

Study Guide!



Who We Are

The Great Arizona Puppet Theater makes its home in Phoenix, Arizona. Established in 1983 we are Arizona's oldest professional puppet theater company. Our shows have been seen at our theater and at schools, libraries and festivals throughout the state. Most of the shows are written and directed by our Artistic Director, Nancy Smith, while all the puppets are designed by Ken Bonar. Together Nancy and Ken founded the theater and since then have created a repertoire of over sixty shows. Nancy and Ken still perform in many of the shows in addition to company head puppeteer Gwen Bonar.

The Show

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 pigs home made of straw and tries to blow it down. He succeeds the pig gets away without being eaten. The wolf then blows down the house made of sticks and 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 pigs' house which is made of 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 in the Three Little Pigs are rod puppets. They are made from carved Styrofoam that makes up the body pieces. The bodies are 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 the puppeteer holds.

Arizona Arts Standards

The following activities for before and after the show correspond with the related Arts Standards. Use each activity to help your students explore our show while exploring all the standards.

- A1) Creating Art
- A2) Art in Context
- A3) Arts as Inquiry

ACTIVITIES FOR BEFORE THE SHOW

Discuss with students if they have heard the story of the “Three Little Pigs”. What are some of the different endings? How might they end the story? (A3)

Have students discuss other puppet shows they have gone to or seen on television and on the movies.

What did the puppets look like? How did they move? (A3)

Ask students to talk about theater audience behavior. Discuss why we must act differently watching a play than when we are at home watching television or at the movie theatre? Why must our behavior be different when the show is “live.” (A2)

ACTIVITIES FOR AFTER THE 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. (A3)

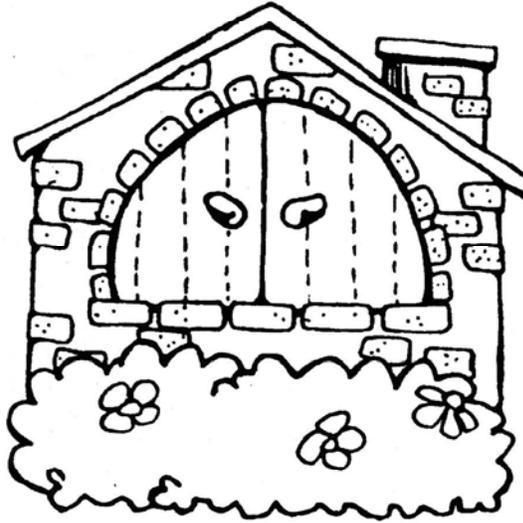
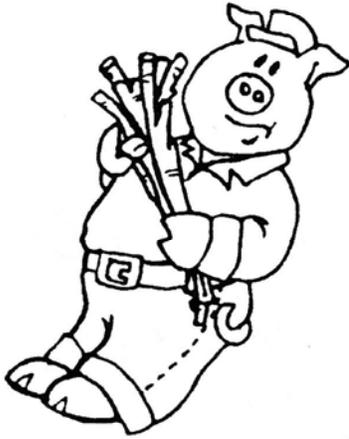
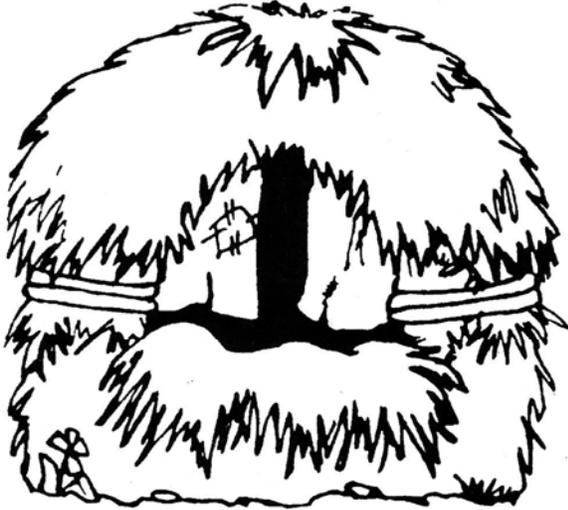
Students can discuss what they thought about the performance. Which parts of the show did they like? Which parts did they not like? (A3)

Students can discuss what they think it would be like to be a puppeteer? Is it a job they would enjoy? What do they think are important things that a puppeteer can do?

Students can retell the story of the “Three Little Pigs” by making simple rod puppets from the pig and wolf patterns. Have students come up with ideas of how to make the different houses from materials found at home or in the classroom. They can divide up the scenes into characters and locations. Allow the students to come up with a different ending for the show. (A1)

Students can send their pictures and letters to the Great Arizona Puppet Theater. We love to hear from our fans!

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



E Schulze

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