

GREAT ARIZONA PUPPET THEATER

presents

THE LEPRECHAUN AND THE REINDEER

STUDY GUIDE

THE LEPRECHAUN AND THE REINDEER is an original story by puppet theater director Nancy Smith. The puppets were built by Ken Bonar, designer. The children in your group should have a good time no matter what, but you can enhance the experience by using the materials in this study guide before and after the show. Please let us know how your class enjoys the show and how useful you find the study guide.

BEFORE THE SHOW:

- *We don't want to give away the whole story of THE LEPRECHAUN AND THE REINDEER, but children will enjoy hearing about the characters before they come. Please read this introduction to the story out loud to your class BEFORE THE SHOW.*

THE LEPRECHAUN AND THE REINDEER

by Nancy Smith

Long ago, it is said, there was a kindly old man with snow white hair and a great bushy beard. He dearly loved children and he greatly loved Christmas. It made him very sad to see any child left out on Christmas. So one day he said to his wife, "My dear, this year I am going to make a toy for every child in the village." And he did. He took a toy to every child in the village on Christmas morning. They were so happy and hugged him so hard that he was a little embarrassed by all the attention.

So the next year he left the toys on their doorsteps, but some of the toys got wet, so he decided to slip down their chimneys while they were sleeping instead.

But soon, Santa Claus (that was his name, though some call him St. Nicholas, St. Nick or Kris Kringle) – soon Santa noticed that the children in other villages felt left out, so he began making more and more toys for more and more children and it was too much work for him and way too many toys for his little house. So Santa Claus left his little village and went way far away to the North Pole, where it was cold all year long. Here he built a fabulous toy shop and hired elves, who make the very best toys, to work there.

Here Santa and the elves were able to make hundreds, even thousands of toys. But there was a problem.

Back in his village, Santa had simply walked from house to house to deliver presents. Then when he began going to other villages he carried the presents in a sleigh pulled by a sweet little pony named Louise. In the frozen north, the reindeer were happy to pull his sleigh. But reindeer were not birds or rockets. They had four legs that could run very fast, but the reindeer could not fly, as they do now, not in those days, no! They trotted from place to place on their four good feet and it was getting hard for Santa to take presents to all the children he wanted to on Christmas.

In the meantime, far away in Ireland, lived a young leprechaun named Pat O'Flynn with his very fine leprechaun family. A leprechaun, as you may know, is not an elf, not a fairy, not a person, but a very special kind of magical being usually found in Ireland. Pat had a mother, a father, a grandmother, a grandfather, three brothers, four sisters, eight aunts, nine uncles and fifty-seven cousins. And the O'Flynn family was very good at what leprechauns are known for – magic. They could turn straw into gold. They could turn water into milk. They could disappear and reappear whenever they wanted. One of his sisters could even turn a horse into a pig.

But Pat O'Flynn was having trouble. He just couldn't get the hang of magic. Try as he might, even the simplest trick just wouldn't work for him. And to make matters worse, every time he went off looking for the end of the rainbow (which most leprechauns can get to simply by blinking their eyes), he ended up getting horribly lost and had to be rescued by his father or his uncle or even his old grandmother. It was very embarrassing.

One day, it so happened, Pat was practicing his magic without much success when he met a mortal child – a little girl, a real human girl - which leprechauns really shouldn't do. They should be able to disappear when they see a human, but Pat - well, he couldn't disappear either so he actually talked to the girl. She had heard stories about the North Pole and Santa Claus and the elves and all the toys and she told Pat all about it. "Hmm," thought Pat. "Making toys for children – what a grand idea!"

Do you want to know what happens next? You'll find out at the puppet show!

MORE THINGS TO DO BEFORE THE SHOW:

- FIND IRELAND AND THE NORTH POLE ON A MAP OR GLOBE. FIND PHOENIX.
- FIND PICTURES OF ELVES, LEPRECHAUNS AND SANTA CLAUS IN BOOKS
- DISCUSS APPROPRIATE AUDIENCE BEHAVIOR & REVIEW DIRECTIONS TO THE THEATER! (NEXT PAGE)

GOOD AUDIENCE MANNERS

A trip to the puppet theater will help your students learn to be good audience members.

- **Seating** Please line the children up in the courtyard before entering the theater. A puppet theater employee will direct you to your seats, which will be on a carpeted floor, or on benches. Staff members can be seated nearby. One of your staff members should check in with the cashier. Audience members should remain seated throughout the performance, unless the performer asks them to stand.
 - **Talking** Quiet conversation before a show is fine. But, it is rude to talk to each other during a show, move from your seat or be otherwise disruptive to the audience and performers. If a performer or puppet speaks to the audience, a good audience member answers them. Otherwise, their feelings get hurt! Laughing at funny stuff is always fine.
 - **Showing appreciation** At the end of the show, performers bow. This is their way of thanking you for coming to the show and being a good audience. That is when the audience should clap their hands. Sometimes
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Who is in this picture? What is happening? Color the picture!



Great Arizona Puppet Theater
302 West Latham Street
Phoenix, AZ 85003
602-262-2050
www.azpuppets.org

AFTER THE SHOW

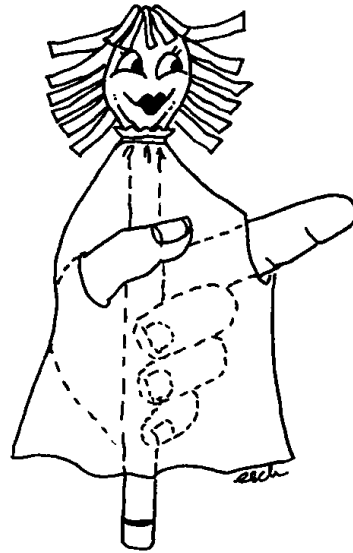
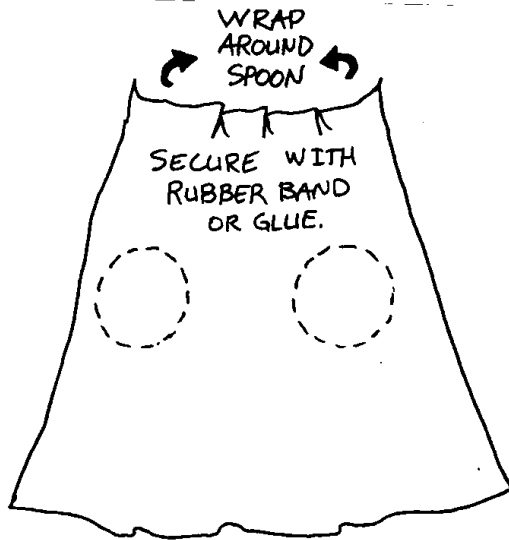
- **DISCUSS THE STORY.** What did Santa Claus want to do? Why couldn't he do it? What kind of problem did Pat O'Flynn have? What did he do? What happened?
- **DISCUSS PUPPETS.** How did the puppets in the show work? What is a puppet? How many puppets were in the show? How many people were working the puppets? How did the puppets talk?
- **SEND IN YOUR PICTURES AND LETTERS.** The puppeteers love hearing from you! Send pictures and letters to: The Great Arizona Puppet Theater, 302 West Latham St., Phoenix, Az 85003
- **WHAT IS A PUPPET?** A puppet can be anything that seems to be brought to life when a person moves it. You can buy puppets or make puppets or make almost anything into a puppet. Here are two easy ways to make puppets – one requires just your imagination, the other turns a wooden spoon into a puppet. Try them both!

A PENCIL PUPPET

Hold your pencil so the eraser is up and pretend the eraser is a puppet's head. Let your pencil puppet say hello to your neighbor's pencil, walk back and forth on your desk, laugh, lay down and take a nap.

A SPOON PUPPET

Take a wooden spoon and paint or glue a face on it. Glue on hair (cover the back, too!), and a costume. Cut holes in the costume for your fingers to fit through. Decorate the costume.



audiences will also clap when a stage curtain closes, or at the end of a song. Applause is how an audience tells the performers they like the show.

- **Restrooms** Trips to the restroom or water fountain should happen before or after the show, not during it. Our restroom facilities are limited, so please try to keep visits to a minimum. The restrooms are on the opposite side of the courtyard from the theater. The water fountain is in the hall outside the restrooms. Children should be escorted by one of your staff to the restroom or water fountain. Only two at a time are permitted in the men's room. An ADA restroom is available. Ask one of our staff to direct you to it.
- **Time Out** Should it become necessary for you to remove a disruptive audience member, please take them to the picnic tables at the far side of the courtyard, so as not to disturb the rest of the audience. You may re-enter quietly when they are ready.
- **Snacks** We do not sell snacks. You may bring snacks to eat in the courtyard before or after the show, but **NO FOOD, GUM OR DRINKS ARE ALLOWED IN THE AUDITORIUM.** This is a standard rule in nearly all live theaters. We do allow water bottles in the theater. There are picnic ramadas and a playground at Hance Park across the street. You should call Central City Parks at ~~262-2412~~ for reservations for the ramada.
- **Gift shop** Our gift shop has a variety of puppets, puppet stages, t-shirts and books. Prices start at \$1.50 for a coloring book. Nice finger puppets may be purchased for \$3.50 and up. Hand puppets and marionettes range from \$5.50 to \$50.00. We are happy to demonstrate any of the puppets we sell.
- **Letters and pictures** We'd love to hear you and your students' response to our shows. We especially like when they draw us pictures! Send them to:
Great Arizona Puppet Theater
302 West Latham Street
Phoenix, AZ 85003

DIRECTIONS TO 302 WEST LATHAM STREET, PHOENIX

- **FROM I-10:** Exit 7th Avenue (not 7th Street). Go north on 7th Avenue to Culver Street (the first street). Turn right on Culver Street. Turn right on 5th Avenue (one-way south) Turn left on Latham Street. We are the only thing on the left.
- **FROM McDOWELL ROAD:** Go south on 5th Avenue (one-way south) to Latham Street. Turn left on Latham Street. We are the only thing on the left.

PARKING

Free parking is available at our theater. There are two bus spaces. Additional parking is on the street or at Hance Park.

QUESTIONS?

Please call us at 602-262-2050. We want to do everything we can to make your field trip a big success!

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