

# The Three Wishes Study Guide

## Objectives

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*The Three Wishes* is a wonderful story and show geared for grades Pre-Kindergarten through Fourth Grade. This study guide aims to reinforce the educational and social values discussed in the show. **This guide is great for teachers and parents alike.** Included are: discussion topics, a fairy tale version of *The Three Wishes*, and a puppet making activity. All of these activities aim to satisfy the Arizona Curriculum Common Core Standards.

## Arizona Common Core Curriculum

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### Speaking, Listening and Reading 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.

1.SL.2. Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.

2.SL.2. Recount or describe key ideas or details from a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.

K.RL.3. With prompting and support, identify characters, settings, and major events in a story.

### Arts Standards for Kindergarten through Grade 2:

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

1.1.PO 102 Cooperate in the dramatic process. (*Put on a puppet show!*)

1.4.PO 102. Retell a story including its **theme**, **setting**, storyline, **plot**, and physical descriptions of the characters. (*Discussion Topics for after the 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. (*Discussion Topics for after the show.*)

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

## The Story

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The story of *The Three Wishes* has been told with variations all over the world. Our adaptation of the story is set in Germany and features a kind, happy couple. The script and music were written by Nancy Smith, with puppets designed and built by Ken Bonar (the founders of GAPPT). This classic story tells the tale of a man and woman who are granted three wishes, but their wishes do not make them happy.



## The Characters

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Hans – a man

Anka – his wife

Elf – a wood elf

## Discussion Topics for Before the Show

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*The Three Wishes* is a story with many variations. Consider reading a version of the story to your class before seeing the puppet show. Below you will find The Brothers Grimm version of the story if you would like to use that one. Here are a few questions to get your class to discuss some of the topics presented in the show.

- What is a wish?
- If you could wish for three things what would they be?
- How would getting a wish change your life?

## Discussion Topics for After the Show

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After seeing the puppet show, sit down with your class and ask them some questions about what they learned and what they saw. Also, if you did not read them a version of the story before the show, consider reading one now. Below are some questions to use as a guide for a post-show discussion.

- What did Hans want to do to the tree?
- What was Hans' reward for not cutting down the elf's tree?
- What is a wish?
- If you have read a different version to your students...How is the beginning of the puppet show different from the beginning of the story version? Was the woodsman different? How was the elf's deal different?
- In the puppet show, did Hans know what he wanted to wish for?
- What did Hans actually wish for? Did he mean to wish for that?
- After seeing the show, would you still want to have three wishes?
- This show is performed with one puppeteer. How do you think the puppeteer worked the puppets and sound during the show?
- Have students discuss what they thought of the performance. Which parts of the show did they like? Were there any parts they would change? Encourage students to justify why they liked or disliked different elements.
- Have students 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?

## The Brother's Grimm Version of *The Three Wishes*

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Once upon a time...a woodcutter lived happily with his wife in a pretty little log cabin in the middle of a thick forest. Each morning he set off singing to work, and when he came home in the evening, a plate of hot steaming soup was always waiting for him.

One day, however, he had a strange surprise. He came upon a big fir tree with strange open holes on the trunk. It looked somehow different from the other trees, and just as he was about to chop it down, the alarmed face of an elf popped out of a hole.

"What's all this banging?" asked the elf. "You're not thinking of cutting down this tree, are you? It's my home. I live here!" The woodcutter dropped his axe in astonishment.

"Well, I . . ." he stammered.

"With all the other trees there are in this forest, you have to pick this one. Lucky I was in, or I would have found myself homeless."

Taken aback at these words, the woodcutter quickly recovered, for after all the elf was quite tiny, while he himself was a big hefty chap, and he boldly replied: "I'll cut down any tree I like, so ..."

"All right! All right!" broke in the elf. "Shall we put it this way: if you don't cut down this tree, I grant you three wishes. Agreed?" The woodcutter scratched his head.

"Three wishes, you say? Yes, I agree." And he began to hack at another tree. As he worked and sweated at his task, the woodcutter kept thinking about the magic wishes.

"I'll see what my wife thinks..."

The woodcutter's wife was busily cleaning a pot outside the house when her husband arrived. Grabbing her round the waist, he twirled her in delight.

"Hooray! Hooray! Our luck is in!"

The woman could not understand why her husband was so pleased with himself and she shrugged herself free. Later, however, over a glass of fine wine at the table, the woodcutter told his wife of his meeting with the elf, and she too began to picture the wonderful things that the elf's three wishes might give them. The woodcutter's wife took a first sip of wine from her husband's glass.

"Nice," she said, smacking her lips. "I wish I had a string of sausages to go with it, though..."

Instantly she bit her tongue, but too late. Out of the air appeared the sausages while the woodcutter stuttered with rage.

". . . what have you done! Sausages . . . What a stupid waste of a wish! You foolish woman. I wish they would stick up your nose!" No sooner said than done. For the sausages leapt up and stuck fast to the end of the woman's nose. This time, the woodcutter's wife flew into a rage.

"You idiot, what have you done? With all the things we could have wished for . . ." The mortified woodcutter, who had just repeated his wife's own mistake, exclaimed:

"I'd chop . . ." Luckily he stopped himself in time, realizing with horror that he'd been on the point of having his tongue chopped off. As his wife complained and blamed him, the poor man burst out laughing.

"If only you knew how funny you look with those sausages on the end of your nose!" Now that really upset the woodcutter's wife. She hadn't thought of her looks. She tried to tug away the sausages but they would not budge. She pulled again and again, but in vain. The sausages were firmly attached to her nose. Terrified, she exclaimed:

"They'll be there for the rest of my life!"

Feeling sorry for his wife and wondering how he could ever put up with a woman with such an awkward nose, the woodcutter said: "I'll try." Grasping the string of sausages, he tugged with all his might. But he simply pulled his wife over on top of him. The pair sat on the floor, gazing sadly at each other.

"What shall we do now?" they said, each thinking the same thought.

"There's only one thing we can do . . ." ventured the woodcutter's wife timidly.

"Yes, I'm afraid so . . ." her husband sighed, remembering their dreams of riches, and he bravely wished the third and last wish "I wish the sausages would leave my wife's nose."

And they did. Instantly, husband and wife hugged each other tearfully, saying "Maybe we'll be poor, but we'll be happy again!"

That evening, the only reminder of the woodcutter's meeting with the elf was the string of sausages. So the couple fried them, gloomily thinking of what that meal had cost them...

## Put on a Puppet Show!

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**Objectives:** Students will create their own hand puppet, manipulated just like those in *The Three Wishes* puppet show. This is a good activity for students in kindergarten through fourth grade. There are directions to gear the activity to the different grade levels. Students will enjoy making these easy hand puppets and they can be used in many different ways in the classroom. The puppets can be used in story telling activities or students can make their own puppet show in small groups. This activity can be done before or after seeing the puppet show. This is also an activity where parent volunteers are very helpful!

### Materials:

- 2 standard felt squares per puppet
- Felt and fabric scraps for decorations and costumes
- Paper, pencil, and/or crayons
- Sewing machine or needles and thread
- White glue
- Low temp glue gun and glue sticks

### Optional Materials:

- Trim and lace
- Sequins
- Pipe Cleaners
- Old Jewelry
- Buttons and Beads
- Wiggly Eyes

### Directions:

Begin with giving your students a sheet of paper with the blank puppet drawn on it (found below). Have them design their own puppet by adding details and make up what they'd like their puppet to look like. Have them use details like eyes, nose, ears and a costume and accessories. They can design their puppets to be animals, people, robots, whatever they'd like! Examples of what kind of puppet students can make are on the last page before the resources.

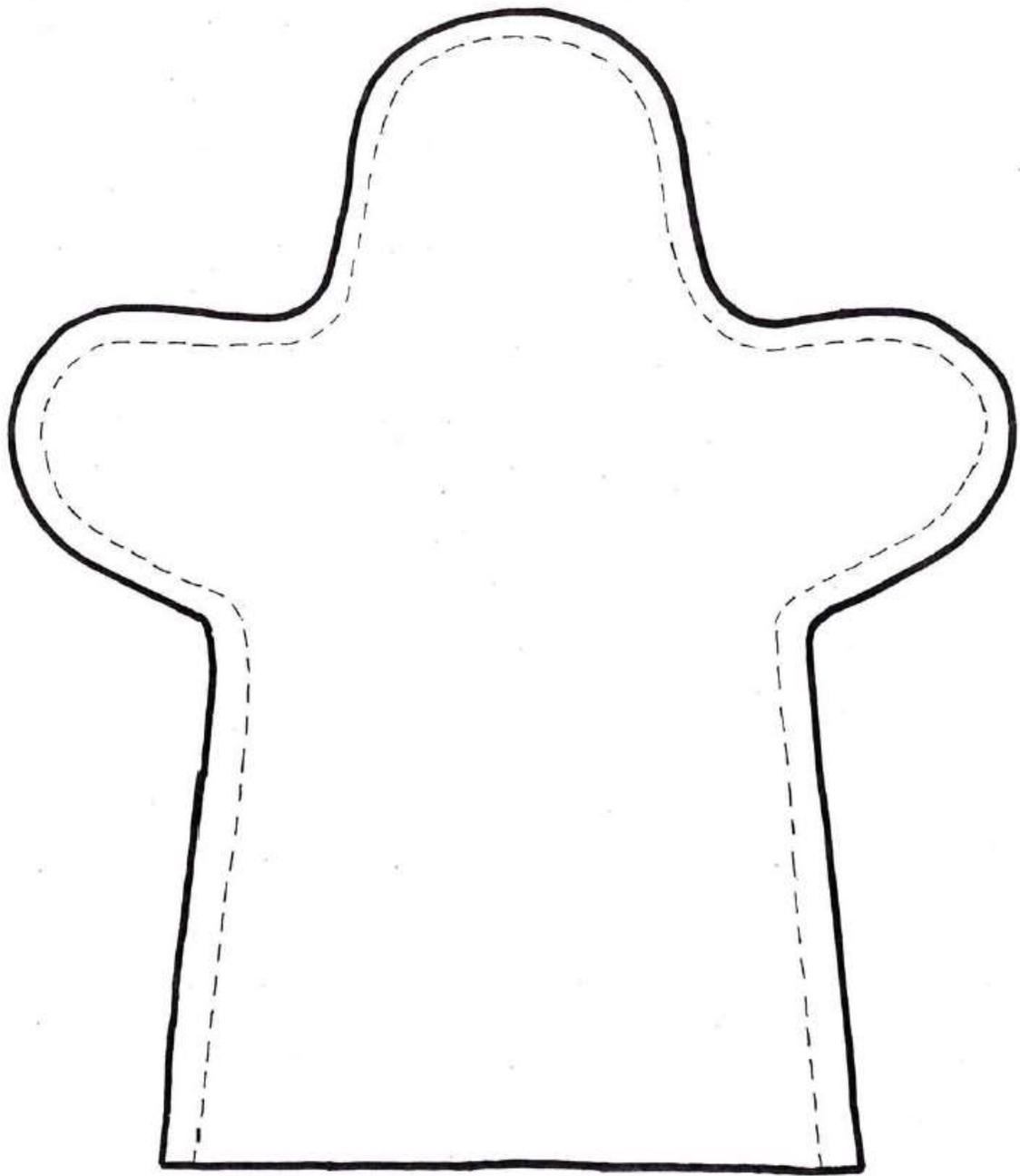
Make multiples of the pattern below and using that pattern, have your students cut out their two pieces of felt. This will be the base for their puppets. Then the students can watch the volunteers sew the two pieces of felt together around the edges. The puppets look cuter if they are NOT turned inside out after sewing.

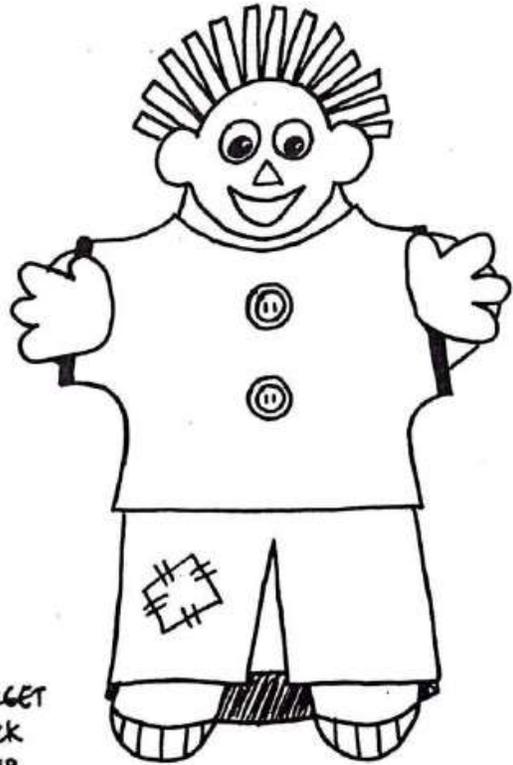
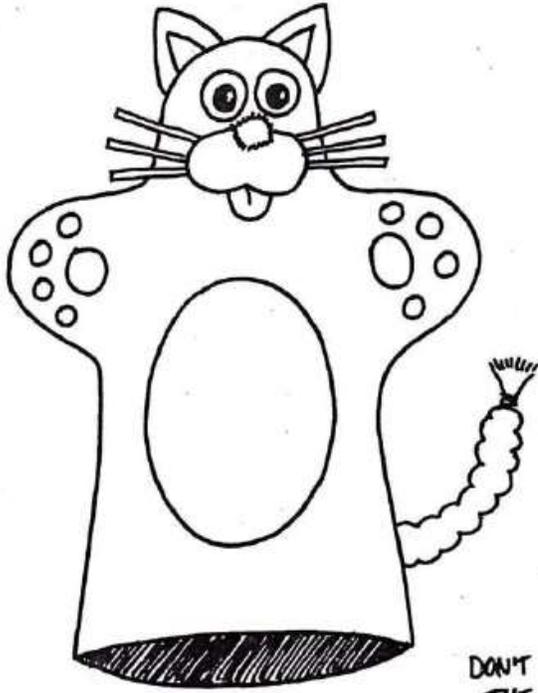
For kindergarten and first grades, you'll want to have the blank puppets pre-cut and pre-sewn.

Once their puppets are cut and sewn and their design is done, students can begin selecting items to glue onto their puppets to make their characters. With young children, limit availability of such items as buttons and sequins. If a student is getting off track, remind them to check their design and see what can make their puppet look like their picture.

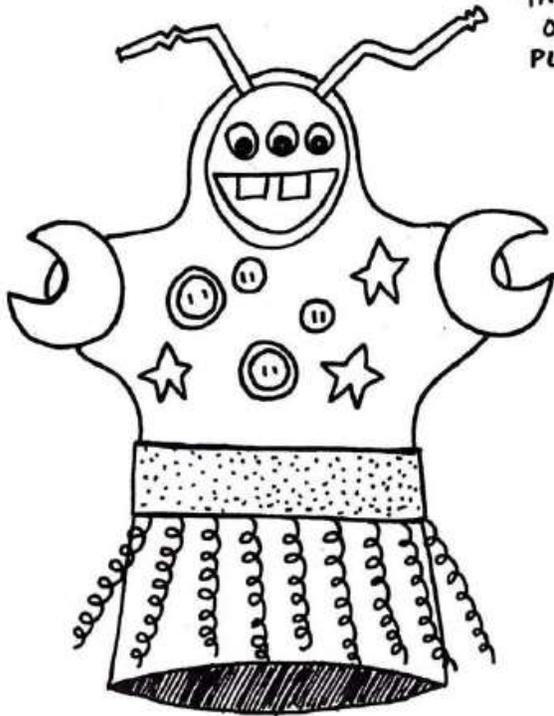
Most craft materials will adhere with white glue, but some things, like buttons and pipe cleaners, just won't stick with white glue. A low temp glue gun is recommended for these kind of materials. We recommend only allowing older children (fourth grade and up) to use the glue guns and then for adult's to do the gluing for all children younger.

When the puppets are complete, practice working them together. Put your top two fingers in the head, thumb in one hand, and your pinkie and maybe ring finger in the puppet's other hand. Make the puppets walk, run, sleep, laugh...A fun activity is to write down or whisper a simple action to a student (such as sneeze or dance) and have them act it out with their puppet. Then the other students can try to guess what they are doing.





DON'T FORGET  
THE BACK  
OF YOUR  
PUPPET!



## Resources

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Arizona Department of Education – Core Curriculum and English Language Learners:

<http://www.azed.gov/english-language-learners/>

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

Great Arizona Puppet Theater:

<http://azpuppets.org/>

The Brother's Grimm version of *The Three Wishes*

[http://www.yankeeweb.com/library/storytime/grimmbros/grimmbros\\_59.html](http://www.yankeeweb.com/library/storytime/grimmbros/grimmbros_59.html)

Please send any thoughts or appreciation letters to the Great Arizona Puppet Theater at:

302 W Latham St

Phoenix, AZ 85003

[info@azpuppets.org](mailto:info@azpuppets.org)

*We love hearing from you and your students!*