

## **“Is Your Story Time Sagging? Prop It Up!”**

**Presented at WLA, October 22, 2009**

**Miriam Thompson**

**DESCRIPTION:** Are your stories sagging and your tales dragging? Add pizzazz to your programs as you pull surprises from pockets, totes, boxes and bags. Discover how to use props to enhance songs, picture books, folktales and other favorites. Learn tricks of the trade to build your prop collection including creative recycling, bringing home bargains and clean out the closet donations. Tots thru tweens will enjoy surprises and storytelling opportunities when you “Prop It Up”

### **WHY USE STORY PROPS**

The following books and articles are suggested for more information on why and how to use props in story time:

Barbour, Ann. *Prop Box Play: 50 Themes to Inspire Dramatic Play*. Gryphon House, 2002.

Bellingham, Daryll. "Austories; trials, tribulations and triumphs of an Australian storyteller." <http://www.networkedblogs.com/blog/austories/>

Bromann, Jennifer. *Storytime Action!: 2,000+ Ideas for Making 500 Picture Books Interactive*. Neal-Schuman, 2003.

Goodman, Rachel, and Rebekah Goodman. "Prop Me Up!"

[http://www.uelma.org/miscpdf/09conference/conf\\_glance/prop\\_up.pdf](http://www.uelma.org/miscpdf/09conference/conf_glance/prop_up.pdf)

MacMillan, Kathy. *A Box Full of Tales: Easy Ways to Share Library Resources through Story Boxes*. American Library Association, 2008.

### **SELECTING THE BOOKS**

Look for books that lend themselves to retelling

Share old favorites in a fresh, new way

Involve the audience - select stories that can be adapted to use many props

Readers' theater and skits

### **FINDING THE PROPS, BAGS, BOXES, AND OTHER GOODIES**

What to buy

Where to buy

When to buy

Using volunteers

Clean out your closets

Storing the stuff

### **USING THE BOOKS AND PROPS**

These books and accompanying props were demonstrated at the program session.

Use your imagination and gathering skills to substitute other books and props.

### **CLOTHESLINE STORIES**

- Mrs. McNosh hangs up her wash/ Sarah Weeks
- Too much noise/ Ann McGovern
  - Script, clipart story items, clothesline, clothes pins, apron, dress

## **FABULOUS FROGS**

- Bradley McGogg the very fine frog/Tim Beiser
- Hungry Harry/ Joanne Partis
- The foolish frog/ Pete Seeger
- Biggest frog in Australia/ Susan L. Roth
  - Wood dragonfly, caterpillar, snail, stuffed leopard frog & red spotted frog, crackers, clipart soda pop, frog princess bag, five clipart frogs on a log, frog fabric

## **PUT IT IN YOUR POCKET**

- Peter's pockets/ Eve Rice
- Ohmygosh my pocket/ Janet Perry Marshall
- Katy no-pocket/ Emmy Payne
- A pocket for Corduroy/ Don Freeman
  - Jeans with added pockets, feather, red & yellow ribbon, nickel, ball, marble, button, crayon, frog, small bear, coins, stuffed kangaroo, green check apron, green tote with round hole/pocket, denim pocket apron, quilt fabric

## **FROM THE SINGING BAG**

- Itsy bitsy spider/ Iza Trapani
- Spider on the floor/ Raffi
- The hokey pokey/ Sheila Hamanaka
- Skip to my Lou/ Nadine Westcott
- The wheels on the bus/ Maryann Kovalski
- Mama don't allow/ Thacher Hurd
- Chicken soup with rice/ Maurice Sendak
- Mother Goose/ Aurelius Battaglia
  - Singing bag, "Hickory Dickory Dock" clock, stuffed spider, drainpipe, spider cutout with raised web for The very busy spider/ Eric Carle, spider fabric

## **JUST DUCKY**

- Five little ducks/ Jose Aruego
- In the rain with Baby Duck/ Amy Hest
- Giggle, giggle, quack/ Doreen Cronin
- Jaja, jiji, cuac/ Doreen Cronin
  - Five rubber duckling, mama duck, duck call, duck fabric

## **MONKEYING AROUND**

- Five little monkeys jumping on the bed/ Eileen Christelow
- Five little monkeys sitting in a tree/ Eileen Christelow
- Monkey face (Bread and honey)/ Frank Asch
- A wise monkey tale/ Betsy Maestro
  - Five small stuffed monkeys, foam core bed, stuffed alligator, snapping alligator toy, white board with markers & erasers, script with lion, zebra & elephant foam figures, monkey hand puppet, monkey folded paper puppet, photo from Wise monkey tale puppet show, monkey tote, monkey fabric

## **PASTA AND PIZZA PIZZAZ**

- On top of spaghetti/ Paul Brett Johnson
- Cloudy with a chance of meatballs/ Judi Barrett
- Strega Nona/ Tomie de Paola
  - Paper plate with “spaghetti & meatballs,” hat with food on strings, red check fabric
- The little red hen (makes a pizza)/ Philemon Sturges
- The princess and the pizza/ Mary Jane and Herm Auch
  - Pizza box, pizza pan with “slices” of “pizza”

## **HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?**

- The enormous carrot/ Vladimir Vagin
- The carrot seed/ Ruth Krauss
- Carrot in my pocket/ Kitson Flynn
- The gigantic turnip/ Aleksei Tolstoy
- El nabo gigante/ Aleksie Tolstoy
- Grandma Lena’s big ol’ turnip/ Denia Lewis Hester
- The enormous potato/ Aubrey Davis
  - Assorted carrot props, giant turnip stick puppets, seed packets, green check fabric

## **READERS’ THEATER - Great for tweens to perform for programs**

- Anansi and the moss-covered rock/ Eric Kimmel
  - Script, photo of skit, Anansi clipart, rock clipart, leaf fabric
- The Golden Goose/ Dennis McDermott
- Rumpelstiltskin/ Paul O. Zelinsky
- King Midas and the golden touch/ Charlotte Craft
  - Scripts, food- plain & gold: bread, pear, apple, straw & gold, gold cloth, yellow “goose”
- Effie/ Beverley Allinson
  - Script and stick puppets characters
- Wombat Stew/ Marcia Vaughan
  - Script, hand drawn characters on strings & food, vinyl bugs, feathers

## **SOUP’S ON!**

- Stone soup/ Ann McGovern
- Stone soup/ Marcia Brown
- Sopa de piedras/ Marcia Brown
- Stone soup/ John Warren Stewig
- Bone button borscht/ Aubrey Davis
- Fox tale soup/ Tony Bonning
- Kallaloo!/ David and Phillis Gershator
  - Assorted real and fake foods

## **THE THREE BEARS**

- Goldilocks and the three bears/ Jan Brett
- Goldilocks and the three bears/ Jam Aylesworth
- Goldilocks/ Ruth Sanderson
  - Three stuffed bears, Goldilocks, three chairs, bear puppet, bears & house cookie cutters, Goldilocks and the three bears cloth book, brown felt fabric

**MAKE A SPLASH @ YOUR LIBRARY summer program 2010 – a sampling of program ideas**

- There was an old lady who swallowed a shell/ Lucille Colandro
- Is this a house for hermit crab/Megan McDonald
  - Large old lady cutout, pail, tin can, fish net, 2 stuffed fish & crab, shell, mounted clipart of crab, gull, sand castle, wave, rock, sand, driftwood, 16x20 photo
  
- Who sank the boat/ Pamela Allen
- One-dog canoe/ Mary Casanova
- Mr. Gumpy's outing/John Burningham
  - Reader's theatre/ Who sank the boat, wood boat, vinyl animals-cow, donkey, sheep, pig, mouse, stuffed dog, mounted clipart canoe, 16x20 photo
  
- The rainbow fish/ Marcus Pfister
- The patchwork fish tale/ Stewart Moskowitz
  - Patchwork script, large fish cutout with small Velcro fishes, large rainbow fish cutout, stuffed octopus, sequin fish tote bag, 16x20 photo
  
- The little fish that got away/ Bernadine Cook
- Stanley goes fishing/ Craig Frazier
- Piggy and Dad go fishing/ David Martin
- A fishing surprise/ Rae A. McDonald
- Granddad's fishing buddy/ Mary Quigley
  - Fishing creel with item for each book – pull out and read book: fish, cloud fabric, mounted clipart bread slice with worm, apple, red licorice fishing theme table runner, 16x20 photo
  
- One rainy day/ M. Christina Butler
- Soggy Saturday/ Phyllis Root
  - Stuffed hedgehog, yellow raincoat & hat, color dog, color art, red/white polka dot fabric

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*Presenting training workshops on a wide variety of activities  
for children's programs - tots to tweens*