

Storybook Theater

(art + literature)

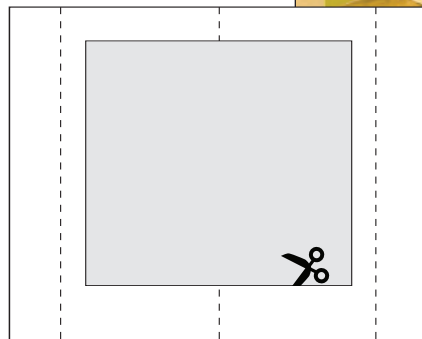
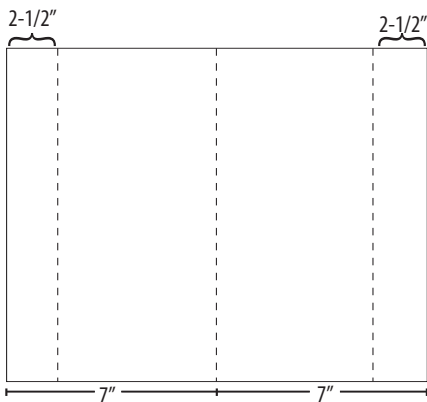
From the outside, this Storybook Theater looks like a simply constructed book, but open it and a puppet stage unfolds! Children make their favorite stories come to life with puppets, props and scenery. There's even built-in pockets for holding craft stick puppets.

Grade Levels K-6

Note: Instructions and materials are based on a class of 25 students. Adjust as needed.

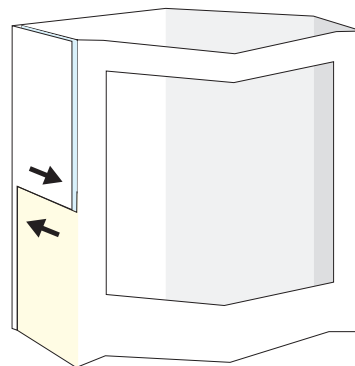
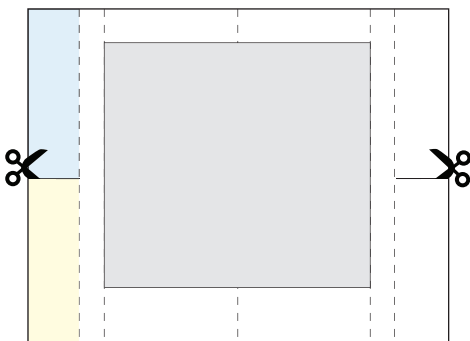


Process



1. Cut a 15" x 22" sheet of watercolor paper down to 11" x 14". Fold both pieces in half, then measure 2-1/2" from either end and make a crease.

2. Take one sheet and open it up. Fold it in half and cut an opening for the stage.



3. Cut lines from sides of page to first fold. Also, make a fold at edge of stage window cut out, see above.
4. Place first folded sheet (without cutout) on bottom. On left side, fold top side flap (shaded blue) back behind the left flap on the first sheet and glue together. Place a line of glue on three edges of the lower flap (shaded yellow) — to form pocket. Repeat on right side. Reverse front fold, so it comes out. Construction will look like illustration above right.

*Above left: Storybook Theatre closed
Above: Storybook Theatre open with changeable scenery in place.*

Materials

Railroad Board, 4-ply, 11" x 14", 50-sheet package, assorted colors (13105-0459); need one sheet per student

Blick® Student Watercolor Paper, 90-lb, 15" x 22" (10028-1028); need one sheet per student

Sargent Art® Watercolor Pencils, 24-color set (20589-0249); share one set among three students

Creativity Street® Wood Craft Stick Shapes, package of 36 (60456-1036); need at least two per student

Optional:
Craftsticks, box of 1000 (60401-1001)

Process, continued

5. Fold the Railroad Board in half to make the cover of the book. Fold the side flaps in and fold both sheets of watercolor paper back down into a book form. Glue them into the folded Railroad Board cover.
6. Decorate the stage with watercolor pencils, creating a front curtain and backdrop. Create a title and credits on the cover of the book with markers, pencils or crayons.
7. Create simple puppets for the theater using Wood Craft Stick Shapes or characters designed to fit on the end of a craft stick. The heavy board of the book cover keeps the theater balanced on the edge of a table so puppets can enter from below or above the stage area.
8. Store puppets in the side pockets when the book is closed.

Options

1. Make changeable scenery with another sheet of watercolor paper cut to 9-1/2" wide x 11" high. Paint a second background and slide it in place through the top of the stage. Remove the scenery before folding the book.
2. Use a hook-and-loop 3M™ Reclosable Fastener (57316-1040) to keep the book closed when not being used.
3. Older students may be challenged to write scripts or even create their own stories to perform in their theater.

National Standards for Visual Arts Education

Content Standard #1 — Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes

K-4 Students use different media, techniques and processes to communicate ideas, experiences and stories

5-8 Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques and processes to enhance communication of their experiences and ideas

Content Standard #3 — Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols and ideas

K-4 Students select and use subject matter, symbols and ideas to communicate meaning

5-8 Students use subjects, themes and symbols that demonstrate knowledge of contexts, values and aesthetics that communicate intended meaning in artworks

Content Standard #3 — Making connections between visual arts and other disciplines

K-4 Students identify connections between the visual arts and other disciplines in the curriculum

5-8 Students describe ways in which the principles and subject matter of other disciplines taught in the school are interrelated with the visual arts