

## FLANNEL BOARDS

### PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES:

- Bauer, Caroline Feller. *New Handbook for Storytellers*. ALA, 1993. REF 372.64.
- Bay, Jeanette Graham. *A Treasury of Flannelboard Stories*. Alleyside Press, 1995. REF 371.3.
- Briggs, Diane. *Preschool Favorites: 35 Storytimes Kids Love*. ALA, 2007. REF 372.67.
- Carlson, Ann D. *Flannelboard Stories for Infants and Toddlers*. ALA, 1999. REF 371.33.
- Diamant-Cohen, Betsy. *Mother Goose on the Loose*. Neal-Schuman, 2005. REF 372.21.
- Ernst, Linda L. *Baby Rhyming Time*. Neal-Schuman, 2008. REF 027.62
- Ernst, Linda L. *Lapsit Services for the Very Young II*. Neal-Schuman, 2001. REF 027.62
- Hicks, Doris Lynn. *Flannelboard Classic Tales*. ALA, 1997. REF 371.3.
- Lincycomb, Kay. *Storytimes...Plus!* Neal-Schuman, 2007. REF 027.62
- MacMillan, Kathy. *A Box Full of Tales: Easy Ways to Share Library Resources Through Story Boxes*. ALA, 2008. REF 027.62.
- MacMillan, Kathy & Christine Kirker. *Multicultural Storytime Magic*. ALA, 2012. REF 027.62
- MacMillan, Kathy & Christine Kirker. *Storytime Magic: 400 Fingerplays, Flannelboards, and Other Activities*. ALA, 2009. REF 027.62
- Marsh, Valerie. *Stories That Stick: Quick & Easy Storyboard Tales*. Upstart, 2002. REF 372.67.
- Sierra, Judy. *The Flannel Board Storytelling Book*. H. W. Wilson, 1987. Midstate 027.62.
- Sierra, Judy. *Mother Goose's Playhouse: Toddler Tales and Nursery Rhymes with Patterns for Puppets and Feltboards*. Bob Kaminski Media Arts, 1994. REF 372.64.
- Sierra, Judy. *Multicultural Folktales: Stories to Tell Young Children*. Oryx, 1991. REF 372.64.

Sierra, Judy. *Multicultural Folktales for the Feltboard and Readers' Theater*. Oryx, 1996. REF 398.2.

Follow Flannel Friday on Pinterest: <http://pinterest.com/flannelfriday> and the Flannel Friday blog: <http://flannelfridaystorytime.blogspot.com>.

## **THE FLANNEL BOARD**

Buy a commercially produced board, or simply attach (rubber cement or tape works best) a piece of heavy flannel, felt, or velcro, to stiff cardboard, foam core, plywood or an artist's cardboard portfolio. An easel will help give stability to your flannel board, or it can be made so that it folds in the middle, and stands that way. If you use a portfolio, fold it inside out and tie it together loosely with the attached ribbon.

### **WAYS TO MAKE CHARACTERS AND OBJECTS IF YOU'RE NOT AN ARTIST:**

- 1) Trace or copy them from the original book or from one of the resources above.
- 2) Buy a paperback edition and cut the figures out. You will need two copies if you need pictures that are back to back.
- 3) Cut the figures out of an old book that is being discarded.
- 4) Use coloring books to trace or cut out simple animals or objects.
- 5) Use an opaque projector to reproduce figures.

The figures can be made from felt, light flannel, construction paper or white interfacing (a basic sewing supply). If you use construction paper, it must be backed with felt or flannel. The interfacing is more flexible than felt because you can draw on it but it will not stick to itself, so cannot be used when figures must overlap.

## **CHOOSING THE STORY**

Not every story is appropriate for the flannel board technique - don't ruin a good story that is better told with the book by squeezing it into a flannel board format. Cumulative tales are particularly good since you can add the characters as you tell the story. Think simple when planning and creating the pieces; you don't have to illustrate every detail of the story.

Here are some suggestions of books to adapt:

Allen, Jonathan. *I'm Not Cute!* Hyperion, 2006.

Allen, Pamela. *Who Sank the Boat?* Coward-McCann, 1983.

Balian, Lorna. *Humbug Witch*. Abingdon, 1987.

Barton, Byron. *My Car*. Greenwillow, 2001.

Belle, Babs. *The Bridge is Up*. HarperCollins, 2004.

Burningham, John. *Mr. Gumpy's Outing*. Macmillan, 1971.

Carle, Eric. *The Mixed Up Chameleon*. Crowell, 1975.

Carle, Eric. *The Very Busy Spider*. Philomel, 1984.

Carle, Eric. *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. World, 1970.

Carlstrom, Nancy White. *Jesse Bear, What Will You Wear?* Macmillan, 1986.

Crews, Donald. *Freight Train*. Greenwillow, 1978.

Dodd, Emma. *Dog's Colorful Day: A Messy Story about Colors and Counting*. Dutton, 2001.

Dodds, Siobhan. *Grandpa Bud*. Candlewick, 1993.

Domanska, Janina. *The Turnip*. Macmillan, 1969. (or other versions)

Dunrea, Oliver. *Gossie*. Houghton, 2002.

Eastman, P.D. *Are You My Mother?* Beginner Books, 1960.

Emberley, Ed. *Go Away, Big Green Monster*. Little, Brown, 1992.

Feiffer, Jules. *Bark, George*. HarperCollins, 1999.

Fleming, Denise. *Barnyard Banter*. Holt, 1994.

Fleming, Denise. *In the Small, Small Pond*. Holt, 1993.

Fleming, Denise. *Lunch*. Holt, 1992.

Henkes, Kevin. *Kitten's First Full Moon*. Greenwillow, 2004.

Hutchins, Pat. *The Doorbell Rang*. Greenwillow, 1986.

Hutchins, Pat. *Good-Night Owl!* Macmillan, 1972.

Hutchins, Pat. *Titch*. Macmillan, 1971.

Kalan, Robert. *Blue Sea*. Greenwillow, 1979.

Kalan, Robert. *Jump, Frog, Jump!* Greenwillow, 1981.

Kasza, Keiko. *Mother for Choco*. Putnam, 1992.

Kent, Jack. *The Fat Cat*. Parents, 1971.

Kimmel, Eric. *Old Woman and Her Pig*. Holiday, 1992.

Krauss, Ruth. *The Carrot Seed*. Harper, 1945.

Lacome, Julie. *Walking Through the Jungle*. Candlewick, 1993.

Lawrence, John. *This Little Chick*. Candlewick, 2005.

London, Jonathan. *Froggy Gets Dressed*. Viking, 1992.

Martin, Bill. *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* Holt, 1983.

Numeroff, Laura Joffe. *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*. HarperCollins, 1985.

Paye, Won-Ldy and Margaret H. Lippert. *Head, Body, Legs: A Story from Liberia*. Holt, 2002.

Rees, Mary. *Ten in a Bed*. Little, Brown, 1988.

Rice, Eve. *Sam Who Never Forgets*. Greenwillow, 1977.

Rikys, Bodel. *Red Bear*. Dial, 1992.

Shaw, Charles. *It Looked Like Spilt Milk*. Harper, 1947.

Sheppard, Jeff. *Splash, Splash*. Macmillan, 1994.

Slobodkina, Esphyr. *Caps for Sale*. Harper, 1947.

Stenmark, Victoria. *The Singing Chick*. Holt, 1999.

Taback, Simms. *Joseph Had a Little Overcoat*. Viking, 1999.

Tresselt, Alvin. *The Mitten*. Morrow, 1989.

Van Laan, Nancy. *This is the Hat*. Joy Street, 1992.

Walsh, Ellen. *Mouse Paint*. Harcourt, 1989.

Watanabe, Shigeo. *How Do I Put It On?* Collins, 1979.

Williams, Linda. *The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything*. Crowell, 1986.

Wood, Audrey. *The Napping House*. HBJ, 1984.

Wood, Audrey. *Silly Sally*. Harcourt, 1992.

## **FOLK TALES**

Short folk tales that have strong plots and lots of action work well, too. Below is a list of tried and true tales to adapt. There are many versions to work from, both in collections and as picture books.

The Gingerbread Boy  
Goldilocks and the Three Bears  
Henny Penny  
The House that Jack Built  
Jack and the Beanstalk  
Little Red Riding Hood  
The Princess and the Pea  
Teeny Tiny Woman  
The Three Billy Goats Gruff  
The Three Little Pigs

Try simple rhymes or songs with the flannelboard. They are easy to prepare and present, and children love them. Here are a few suggestions:

## **SONGS**

Bingo  
Five Little Speckled Frogs  
I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly  
Old MacDonald Had a Farm

## **MOTHER GOOSE RHYMES**

Hey Diddle Diddle  
Hickory Dickory Dock  
Jack and Jill  
Jack Be Nimble  
Little Boy Blue  
Little Miss Muffet

## HOW TO USE A FLANNEL BOARD

The storyteller should be familiar enough with the story so she can easily keep eye contact with the audience while placing figures on the board. Sit or stand to the side of the board so that your audience can see the objects, and be sure to talk to the people - not the board! Keep the characters and movement on the board simple - too much complicated movement will create confusion and detract from the story. In other words, don't try to act out every incident on the flannel board - plan your major moves and let the children imagine the rest of the story through your storytelling.

## ADVANTAGES TO FLANNEL BOARD STORYTELLING

- Primarily using flannel boards reinforces early literacy skills, particularly narrative skills (retelling the story). They can also be used for letter recognition, vocabulary and phonological awareness.
- Flannel boards help children remember lines in a poem, stanzas in a song, or characters in a story through visual clues. Thus, they reinforce learning and understanding.
- Flannel boards can develop concentration by bridging the gap between storytelling with the picture book and listening to traditional storytelling without the book.
- Although flannel board cut-outs certainly cannot replace the beautiful art work found in children's books, simple flannel board characters can highlight details from book illustrations that are difficult to see.
- Participation flannel board stories for which the child actually comes to the front of the room and places something on the board can be very satisfying for the young child. This type of involvement takes children one step beyond the participation story where they just answer questions posed by the storyteller - they are much more actively involved in telling the story.

The Department of Libraries has a small collection of flannelboard stories you can check out. They are all listed in the catalog, as well as here.

\* Pattern also available

1. *Ask Mr. Bear*. Written and illustrated by Marjorie Flack. Macmillan, 1958.
2. *The Bed Just So*. Retold by Jeanne B. Hardendorff; illustrated by Lisl Weil. Scholastic, 1976.
3. *\*Big Orange Splot*. Written and illustrated by Daniel Manus Pinkwater. Hastings House, 1977.
4. *Coconut Thieves*. Adapted by Katharine Fournier; illustrated by Janina Domanska. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1964.

5. *\*Could Anything Be Worse?* Retold and illustrated by Marilyn Hirsh. Holiday House, 1974.
6. *Dog's Colorful Day.* Written and illustrated by Emma Dodd. Dutton, 2001.
7. FIVE LITTLE GHOSTS. (poem)
8. FIVE LITTLE MONKEYS. (poem)
9. FIVE LITTLE PUMPKINS. (poem)
10. FIVE RED APPLES. (poem)
11. *Head, Body, Legs.* Written by Won-Ldy Paye and Margaret H. Lippert; illustrated by Julie Paschkis. Henry Holt, 2002.
12. *Henny Penny.* Retold by Anne Rockwell. Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1975. (Chicken Little)
13. *The House of Four Seasons.* Written and illustrated by Roger Duvoisin. Lothrop, 1956.
14. *I Went Walking.* Written by Sue Williams; illustrated by Jule Vivas. Harcourt, 1990.
15. JACK AND JILL. (poem)
16. *The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything.* Written by Linda Williams; illustrated by Megan Lloyd. HarperCollins, 1986.
17. *Martha Matilda O'Toole.* Story by Jim Copp; illustrated by Steve Kellogg. Bradbury, 1969.
18. *My Crayons Talk.* Written by Patricia Hubbard; illustrated by G. Brian Karas. Henry Holt, 1996.
19. OLD MACDONALD HAD A FARM. (song)
20. *\*The Proud White Cat.* Written and illustrated by Ruth Hurlimann. Morrow, 1977.
21. *Silly Sally.* Written and illustrated by Audrey Wood. Harcourt, 1992.
22. THERE WAS AN OLD LADY WHO SWALLOWED A FLY. (song)
23. THREE LITTLE PIGS. <http://www.preschoolprintables.com>
24. *Too Much Noise.* Written by Ann McGovern; illustrated by Simms Taback. Houghton, 1967.

Grace W. Greene  
Youth Services Consultant  
Revised 2013

StorytellerSurvivalKit/FlannelBoard13



This publication is supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a federal agency, through the Library Services and Technology Act.