

# RSL Acting Knowledge Organiser – Masks and Puppetry Unit 321

Puppet Type
Rod puppet
Glove puppet
Marionette
Sock puppet
Finger puppet
Shadow puppet
Ventriloquist

## Grading criteria

### Distinction

To achieve a Distinction, learners will:

- 1.1 Give a comprehensive description of the ways in which masks or puppets can be used to enhance a theatre performance
- 1.2 Give examples of plays where masks or puppets have been used, offering comprehensive supportive explanation
- 2.1 Produce a comprehensive outline for a solo performance that will use up to two masks or puppets
- 2.2 Show accomplished skills in designing character mask(s) or puppet(s) that can be used in a theatre performance
- 2.3 Give a comprehensive explanation of the initial concept along with the materials and tools to be used
- 2.4 Show accomplished skills in constructing the character mask/puppet while showing a comprehensive understanding of safety and functionality
- 3.1 Show accomplished skills in using their mask(s) or puppet(s) in their solo performance, demonstrating appropriate vocal agility, interpretation of text, character creation and incorporation of sound/music
- 3.2 Comprehensively and insightfully evaluate strengths and areas for development

For this unit you have to:

1. Research types of puppets
2. Research how they are used in performance
3. Design and make a puppet!
4. Perform a solo play with it.
5. Write an original script.
6. Evaluate your design , puppet and performance.

<https://www.handspringpuppet.com/>  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uy0MJsRFy\\_0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uy0MJsRFy_0)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EXqqhHkDE4o>  
<https://www.vam.ac.uk/articles/a-history-of-puppets-in-britain#slideshow=21816336&slide=0>



# Designing your puppet !

- 1) What style of puppet have you chosen and explain the reason for your choice?
  - 2) What colour is your puppet and why?
  - 3) Is your puppet human/ animal/ other and why?
  - 4) Are there any additions/ embellishments to your puppet that help with the characterisation and / or meaning of your puppet.
  - 5) Does your puppet have a gender? analyse and explain?
  - 6) Is the personality shown through the puppet? Explain how.
  - 7) Did you have to customise an existing puppet- if so, how?
  - 8) What is the scale of your puppet? Why have you designed it this way?
- OR
- 1) Did you make your puppet from scratch? if so, how?
  - 2) What could you add to your puppet to develop the visual messages (semiotics / symbolism) further?
  - 3) What have you had to add/ change to make it more practical to use on stage?
  - 4) Have you had to make anything for it to perform with (a box, curtain, cloth etc)
  - 5) Outline safety precautions you made designing it. (Use of scissors? glue gun? super glue? Craft knife? , sewing machine? , laser cutter, saw??etc)

## Examples of Puppets in Theatre Performance

War Horse

Avenue Q

The Lion King

Frozen

The Ocean at the End of the Lane

Theatre Rites

Norwich Puppet Theatre



### Your aim and objective:

**To educate your audience?**

**To teach something challenging to young children?**

**To make a social comment?**

**To get the audience to sympathise with puppet?**

**To laugh and entertain?**

**To connect with character?**

**To create magical qualities on stage?**