



# The Zany Zoo

This teacher guide is designed to provide both teachers and students with a more comprehensive understanding of theater and live performance.

Show Synopsis

Curriculum Connections

Program Objectives

Vocabulary

Internet Resources

Reading Recommendations

Grade Level Ideas & Activities

Live Performance

Etiquette

Styles of Puppetry

## Teacher Guide



## Performance Specifics

**Show Length:** 45 minute show, includes behind the scenes demonstration

**Audience:** Pre-K thru 5th grade and families for audiences of up to 300

**Technical Support:** Lighting and sound support provided by the puppeteer

**Staging Requirements:** Requires a stage or bleacher seating. Space should be at 15 feet square and in close proximity to an electrical outlet.

# Show Synopsis

The Zany Zoo is a trick marionette production featuring puppets originally created in the workshops of Bob Brown (of Mr. Roger's Neighborhood) with additional stringing and costumes by Lee Bryan. In this hilarious variety marionette revue, you'll witness the most amazing amalgamation of animal antics, acrobatics and artistry ever before presented on one stage.

Performed entirely to music, these wild and woolly animal artists will charm their way into your hearts as they dangle by a thread in the hands of Lee Bryan, That Puppet Guy. Among the myriad members in this merry menagerie, you'll thrill to the antics of a frog on roller skates, a weightlifting bear, a juggling dog, and even a belly dancing bunny! You're sure to be astounded by a clown bunny puppet that falls apart into six pieces and then magically reassembles! Be sure to watch closely as this delightful assortment of colorful characters comes to life, *cabaret-style*, in full view of the audience.

Delights for the entire family abound in this action-packed show that's perfect for the young and even the young-at-heart. And be sure to bring along your cameras to have your picture made with a piano playing bird, a bumble bee ballerina, or even a beetle that plays the trumpet!

This production was created especially for outdoor venues such as carnivals and fairs but easily adapts to an inside production space as well.



## Curriculum

## Connections

The Zany Zoo includes content from these Common Core and Georgia Performance Learning Standards.

(click to view):

\* [Language Arts](#)

\* [Theatre](#)

\* [Music](#)

## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- \* Students will gain an understanding of live performance and puppetry arts.
- \* Students will observe and learn about trick marionette puppets.
- \* Students will be shown the value of unique talents that we all have.

## Vocabulary



**derby** - any race or contest open to qualified competitors

**fleet** - moving quickly or nimbly

**spiral** - with a flat curve or series of curves that constantly increase or decrease in size in circling around a central point

**amphibian** - a cold-blooded vertebrate that spends some time on land but must develop into an adult in water

**scoured** - to search something thoroughly and quickly for somebody or something

**feat** - a remarkable act or achievement involving courage, skill, or strength

**exercise** - physical movement designed to make the body stronger and fitter or to show off gymnastic skill

**presenting** - the act of giving something to somebody in a ceremonial manner

**professional** - engaged in an occupation as a paid job rather than as a hobby

**volunteer** - somebody who works without being paid

# Internet Resources

<http://www.puppetguy.com>

Visit this site for more information about “That Puppet Guy” Lee Bryan and his many performances. Also, be sure to check out the “Glue & You” Puppet kits!

<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/Animals/PhotoGallery/default.cfm>

Take a virtual visit to the National Zoo by exploring our photo and image galleries.

<http://www.switcheroozoo.com/>

At Switcheroo Zoo you can make new animals, play games, solve jigsaw puzzles, learn about animals, join a zoo quest, watch movies, and more!



## Reading Recommendations

Nancy Drew and the Clue Crew

By Carolyn Keene & Macky Pamintuan

1 Zany Zoo

By Lori Degman & Colin Jack

Felicity Flu Visits the Zoo

By E. S. Redmond

Eloise Visits the Zoo

By Kay Thompson, Lisa McClatchy,  
Hilary Knight, and Tammie Lyon

Zoo School

By Laurie Miller Hornik & Debbie Tilley

A Day at a Zoo (Time Goes By)

By Sarah Harrison

What's New at the Zoo?

An Animal Adding Adventure

By Suzanne Slade & Joan Waites

Last Night at the Zoo

By Michael Garland

Never, Ever Shout in a Zoo

By Karma Wilson &  
Douglass Cushman

My Visit to the Zoo

By Alike

My Heart Is Like a Zoo

By Michael Hall

The Secret Zoo

By Bryan Chick

Animal Strike at the Zoo. It's True!

By Karma Wilson &  
Margaret Spengler

'Twas the Day Before Zoo Day

By Catherine Ipcizade & Ben Hodson

Welcome to the Zoo!

By Alison Jay

Zoo-Looking

By Mem Fox & Candace Whitman

Bruno Munari's Zoo

By Bruno Munari

Going to the Zoo

By Tom Paxton &  
Karen Lee Schmidt

If Anything Ever Goes

Wrong at the Zoo

By Mary Jean Hendrick &  
Jane Dyer

Zoo-ology

By Joelle Jolivet

Put Me in the Zoo

By Robert Lopshire



# Grade Level Ideas & Activities

## Preschool

- ◆ Click [here](#) to be directed to That Puppet Guy's website with learning extensions for this age group.

## Kindergarten & First Grade

- ◆ Zoo Animal Sort- Collect pictures of zoo animals from magazines. Sort the pictures into labeled baskets. The baskets can be for large animals, small animals, furry, spotted, etc.
- ◆ Zany Zoo Animals- Laminate and cut them in half. Have the students mix and match them and then write about the new zany creature they have created.
- ◆ **Animal Attributes** - Characteristics using can and can't ([page 8](#))

## Second & Third Grade

- ◆ Animal Alliteration– Pick a zoo animal and write an alliteration poem about the animal where all of the words start with the same letter as the name of the animal. Ex. Monkeys must move to music while munching on melons.
- ◆ Zoo Habitat Dioramas- Have your students create a diorama featuring the natural habitat of a zoo animal of their choosing. Instruct the students to design a Title and Fact Card for the diorama and display them in the school library.
- ◆ **Feeding Frenzy** - Telling Time Worksheet ([page 9](#))

## Fourth & Fifth Grade

- ◆ Zoo Haiku– Explain to your class the structure of a haiku poem (typically 3 unrhymed lines 5, 7, 5 syllables, respectively). Ask each of them to select a zoo animal and write a haiku featuring the animal. Post the poems in a public area for the school to enjoy!
- ◆ Zoo Keeper– Have each student draw a detailed map for a zoo. They can lay it out any way they like. The map should include labels, symbols, a legend, a scale and a title. It could also include illustrations, pictures, travel routes, trivia, etc.
- ◆ Zoo Facts- Assign each student a different zoo animal to research. Students should prepare a poster presentation for the class including written paragraphs, pictures and diagrams. After presentations, display the posters in your classroom.

# LIVE PERFORMANCE ETIQUETTE

Going to see a live performance is not like watching television or seeing a movie. The artists on stage can see and hear everything that the audience is doing. These performers have worked very hard to provide an enjoyable, entertaining show. Let them know through your actions that you appreciate this. Also, your behavior affects the experience of everyone around you. So respect the other audience members by following the few simple guidelines listed below.

## Did you Know?

Stage performers tell each other to "break a leg" before a performance because superstition says that it is bad luck to wish a performer "good luck" before a show!

## Thumbs Up !



- Arrive early
- Turn off phones, watch alarms & anything else that would disrupt the show
- Use the restroom before the show
- Applaud where appropriate, after a well-performed song or dance, and at the end of an Act or scene, Also at a curtain call when the performers are taking a bow
- Laugh or giggle politely where appropriate
- Watch closely and listen carefully

## Thumbs Down!

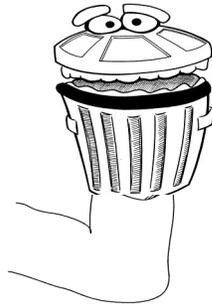
- No photos or video
- Do not whisper, talk, sing or hum during the performance
- Do not eat or drink during the performance
- Do not put your feet on the seat in front of you
- Do not boo, heckle or shout during the performance
- Do not leave the theater until the actors have left the stage



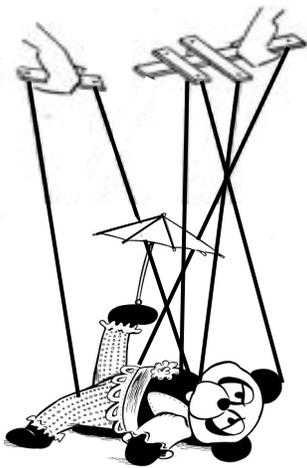
# STYLES OF PUPPETRY

**Body Puppets** Body puppets are exactly what they sound like. They are larger-than-life and the puppeteer, or sometimes two, are actually inside the puppet. Body puppets can be very simple, like a large costume, or very sophisticated, employing video cameras and robotics. Sesame Street's Big Bird is probably the most recognized body puppet!

**Hand Puppets** Hand Puppets are puppets that cover the puppeteer's hand. They can either have a moving mouth or not. Hand puppets, or glove puppets as they are sometimes called, cover the puppeteer's hand so that the head is moved by the index finger and the arms moved by the thumb and middle finger. Hand puppets are part of a Chinese puppet tradition.



**Rod Puppets** are puppets that are controlled entirely by control rods, or sticks. These rods are often attached to both hands with a third rod that is attached inside the head to allow the puppeteer to turn the head or move it up and down. While the puppeteer provides the voice, without a moving mouth much of the puppet's character is expressed through exaggerated movements and actions.



## **Marionettes (string puppets)**

Marionettes are considered the most difficult of all puppets to master. They consist of a full bodied character whose head, arms and legs are jointed to allow full movement. These are each connected by heavy thread to a cross shaped controller (called an airplane) that is held in one hand by the puppeteer. By moving the airplane controller and using the free hand to manipulate individual threads, the

puppet can be made to walk, jump, dance, or run. The puppet is always controlled from above. Some stages even have bridges built across them to allow the puppeteer to move back and forth across the scene without ever being seen. A very famous marionette scene was in the movie *The Sound of Music*, in which Julie Andrews sang a song while marionette

**Shadow Puppets** When most people think of shadow puppets they picture making a simple bird or dog shadow on a wall with their hands. Actually, shadow puppets can be quite complex. Originating in Indonesia, shadow puppets are often made from dried animal skins which are cut out in very ornate patterns and shapes. Because shadow puppet shows are usually performed at night, they are often considered to be "adult" themed and not suitable for children to attend. Audience members may sit in front of the shadow screen to watch the show, or they may sit behind the screen and see the puppets in the bright light and not as shadows at all!



That Puppet Guy brings the Zany Zoo to life with the help of Trick Marionettes also know as string puppets.

**Puppets Featured**  
**in**  
**The Zany Zoo**

# About The Puppeteer



Celebrating 20 years, Lee Bryan "That Puppet Guy", specializes in exceptional school assemblies and extraordinary library programs. He strives to entertain the imaginations of the young *and* the young-at-heart with innovative puppets, original scripts and zany adaptations of classic tales. Lee's solo performances are often featured at the internationally acclaimed The Center for Puppetry Arts in Atlanta.

He is a two-time grant recipient from the prestigious Jim Henson Foundation, Inc. In 2003 he received a Project Grant which helped produce his original, found-object production of PINOCCHIO.

<http://www.hensonfoundation.org/index.php/grantawards/2000s/2003>

Then, in 2006 Lee received a Seed Grant to further his production of THE SUITCASE CIRCUS a/k/a "Le Cirque du Suitcase."

<http://www.hensonfoundation.org/index.php/grant-awards/2000s/2006>

Professional film credits include work with the Muppets® on the feature film, "[The Adventures of Elmo in Grouchland](#)." Recently, The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences honored Lee with a Southeastern Regional Daytime Emmy® nomination for his work with Public Broadcasting on the award winning Spanish language series, ¡[SALSA!](#) Current video projects include the role of Hardy Heart for [The OrganWise Guys](#) and most recently the role of Captain Cruller to help celebrate Krispy Kreme's [TALK LIKE A PIRATE](#) promotion.

Professional puppetry affiliations include memberships with [UNIMA-USA](#), [The Puppeteers of America, Inc.](#), and [The Atlanta Puppetry Guild](#).



# Curriculum Standards

## For

# The Zany Zoo

### Language Arts – Common Core Standards

Literacy.RL.K.2 - With prompting and support, retell familiar stories, including key details.

Literacy.RL.1.2 - Retell stories, including key details, and demonstrate understanding of their central message.

Literacy.RL.2.2 - Recount stories, including fables and folktales from diverse cultures, and determine their central message, lesson, or moral.

Literacy.RL.3.2 - Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message, lesson, or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text.

Literacy.RL.4.3 - Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).

Literacy.RL.5.3 - Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific detail in the text (e.g., how characters interact).

### Theatre - Georgia Performance Learning Standards

TAES.10 - Analyzing and constructing meaning from theatrical experiences, dramatic literature, and electronic media

TAES.11 - Engaging actively and appropriately as an audience member in theatre or other media experiences

### Music—Georgia Performance Learning Standards

MGM.7 - Evaluating music and music performances

a. Evaluate musical performances of themselves and others.

b. Explain personal preferences for specific musical works using appropriate vocabulary.



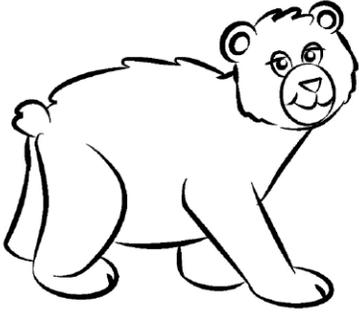
# Animal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Attributes

**Directions:** Fill in the blanks with the matching animal's characteristics and abilities using can and can't.



Bears are \_\_\_\_\_.

They have \_\_\_\_\_.

They can \_\_\_\_\_.

They can't \_\_\_\_\_.

Dogs are \_\_\_\_\_.

They have \_\_\_\_\_.

They can \_\_\_\_\_.

They can't \_\_\_\_\_.



Frogs are \_\_\_\_\_.

They have \_\_\_\_\_.

They can \_\_\_\_\_.

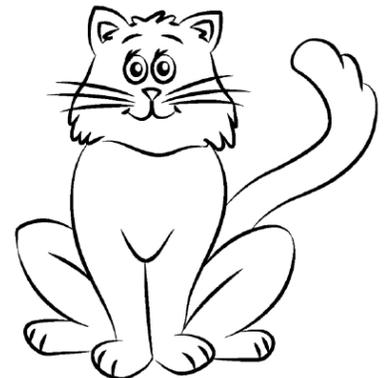
They can't \_\_\_\_\_.

Cats are \_\_\_\_\_.

They have \_\_\_\_\_.

They can \_\_\_\_\_.

They can't \_\_\_\_\_.



# Feeding Frenzy

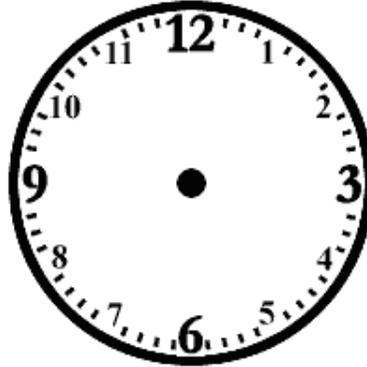
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

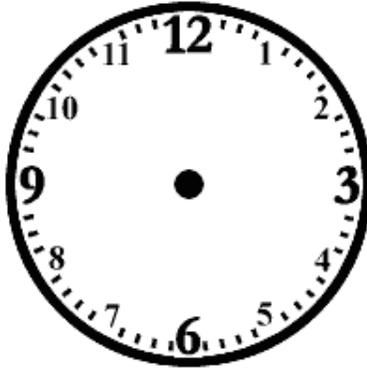
**Directions:** it is time to feed the animals. Can you help the zoo keepers know the feeding schedule by setting the clocks to the correct time by drawing the correct hour and minute hands.



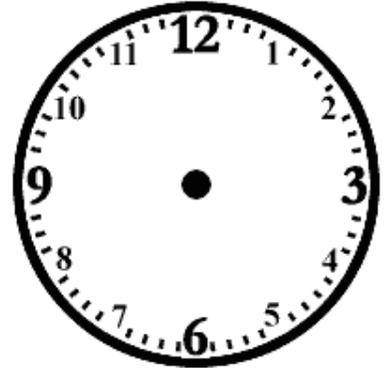
4:43



6:51



1:32



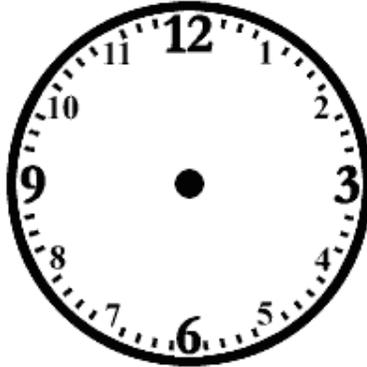
11:29



2:34



9:30



3:45



12:18

