



**Name of Session:** Mad Libs Style Storytelling with Puppets

**Facilitators / Creators:** Quinn Pursell and Sarah Sullivan

**Age Group for Participants:** All ages! Under 6, this is great to do as a family activity or with an adult. For 7 up through adult, this can be done solo (and can be even more fun in groups)

**Context:** This is a great exercise for building our storytelling muscles, using an existing pattern for writing a story that can then build into creating our own content. Also it's a ton of fun for families of all ages to do together.

**Origin of the exercise:** Storytelling, of course, is an art form that has been around forever. We learned this particular exercise, and got the one minute story template from Storyteller Don Doyle.

**Objectives:**

- *Learn the different parts of a story*
- *Work collaboratively to create something*
- *Exercise your creative muscles*

**Linked Media Content:**

One Minute Story Template: [One Minute Story Template](#)

Puppet Creation Demo: [How to Make Rod Puppets](#)

Sarah and Josie's One Minute Story: [French Fry the Bunny](#)

Quinn's One Minute Story: [Buddy the Worm](#)

**Materials:**

- One minute story template ([found here](#))
- Supplies to make puppets, which *could* include:
  - Dowel rods or pens or crayons or straws
  - Paper or cardboard or paper plates or anything you can draw on and cut with scissors
  - Scissors

- Crayons or markers
- Any other craft materials you have available and want to use
- Phone or something else that can record video

### Process:

1. Create your collaborative team. You can do this solo, or you can gather your siblings, parents, other adults, anyone living in your home right now

### Storytelling

2. Download the [One Minute Story Template](#). Print it out or make a copy so you can type directly in the form
3. Fill out the story template! Be creative! We think it's especially fun to do this as a group, mad-libs style, but again, it's equally good to do by yourself
4. Read your story out loud. How does it sound? What do you like about it? What are the themes of your story?

### Puppets

5. Now it's time to make your puppets. Make a list of all the characters and props that are in your story.
6. Using whatever materials you have available, create rod puppets (a rod puppet is any puppet on a stick) to represent these characters and props. You can watch [a demo video on making puppets here](#)
7. With your team, perform your puppet show. Read the story and act it out with your puppets. You can watch our demos [here](#) and [here](#):
8. Film it if you can! Share it with us! You can share it on social media (facebook.com/risingyouththeatre, instagram.com/risingyouththea, email [quinn@risingyouththeatre.org](mailto:quinn@risingyouththeatre.org) or [sarah@risingyouththeatre.org](mailto:sarah@risingyouththeatre.org))

### Variations:

- Don't want to make puppets? Use stuffed animals, action figures, barbie dolls, playing cards, whatever's handy.