

Royal Fireworks Language Arts by Michael Clay Thompson

Poodle

Cuts It Out



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How to Make and Use Your Poodle Popsicle-Stick Puppets

Creating story puppets is quick, easy, and fun! Follow the steps below to turn your printed Poodle characters into puppets your family can use to act out scenes from the books.

Materials You'll Need

- Your printed Poodle character cutouts (included in this guide)
- Scissors
- Popsicle sticks (large craft sticks work best)
- Glue stick or tape
- Optional: Crayons or markers to create and decorate backgrounds for your characters

Step-by-Step Instructions

1. Print your character sheets.

Tip: Use cardstock for sturdier puppets!

2. Cut out each character: Carefully cut along the dotted lines of each illustration. As a bonus benefit, using scissors is great fine-motor practice for young children, helping to build handwriting skills.
3. Attach the popsicle sticks: Place a popsicle stick along the back of each character, making sure to leave enough exposed popsicle stick to hold onto for a handle. Secure it with glue or tape. Let dry if necessary.

Your puppets are ready!

How to Use Your Puppets for Story Play

There are two wonderful ways to enjoy your new Poodle puppets:

Option 1: Read along and recreate each scene.

As you read through the Poodle books together, pause at key moments and use the puppets to act out what's happening. This helps children visualize the story and notice the grammar, vocabulary, and poetic elements that are woven into the text.

Tips for Reading-Along Play:

- Stop after each major event and ask: *What just happened? Who should speak first?*
- Let kids hold different characters and take turns narrating.
- Encourage them to use the vocabulary from the book and to recreate scenes in their own words!

Option 2: Pick your favorite scenes.

Instead of following the book page by page, families can select the scenes they loved most and recreate them with puppets. This is a great option for imaginative kids who enjoy retelling stories or adding new twists.

Which Scenes Work Best?

Here are some types of scenes that translate beautifully into puppet play across all of the Poodle books:

- 1. Scenes with Big Character Moments:** Moments when Poodle or his friends make an important discovery or reveal something new about grammar or punctuation
- 2. Scenes with Dialogue:** Any time characters are talking or debating! These are perfect for puppets because kids can give each character a voice.
- 3. Action Scenes:** Times when the characters enter a new world, face challenges, or explore unusual settings. Kids love moving puppets through imaginative landscapes.
- 4. Scenes in Which Language Arts Come Alive:** Moments in the books where grammar, punctuation, or poetic devices are explained through story action. Acting out these scenes deepens understanding in a fun, memorable way.
- 5. Funny or Surprising Moments:** If a scene made your child laugh or gasp, it's a great choice for puppet theater!

Encourage Creativity!

After reenacting a scene, invite kids to:

- Invent a new scene that the characters *could* have had
- Create a grammar-themed puppet show of their own
- Draw a background setting for their puppets
- Combine characters from different Poodle books for a crossover adventure















