



CREATE A PLAY FOR YOUR LETTER SIZE LITTLE THEATRE

Here a few ideas and tips on how to bring your Letter Size Little Theatre to life.

What is a play?

A play is the performance of a story told by real people, or in the case of your Letter Size Little Theatre, with puppets. The story is told through the actors (puppets) talking to each other. This form of speaking is called dialogue. A play often takes place on a stage but it can occur anywhere - including on your mini Merrill Auditorium.

Turn a Book into a Play

After you read a book, any book, turn it into a play!

1. Decide what characters you need and find/make those puppets. If you are collaborating with someone else decide who will be which character.
2. Retell the story in your own words making sure you tell the beginning, middle and end. Here's where it can get hard so here are a few tips.
 - Speak the words that the characters say. These are often in quotations “ ”.
 - When the book tells about how a character arrives or feels show that with your puppets movement or use your voice to express emotion.
3. Practice or rehearse your new play a few times so that it feels familiar. You might do something different each time and that is okay!
4. If you want, you can make a few different backdrops (download our backdrop template) to make your performance more colorful.
5. If you want, find an audience of people to watch your play! You could also film your performance and show it to others.

Puppets!

You probably have objects in your home or classroom that fit in your theater and can become your puppets.





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Create Your Own Original Play

Write or act out a story using your imagination or inspired by an event in your life or history.

1. Decide what the beginning, middle and end of your story will be.
2. Decide which characters you need and find/make those puppets. You can always create more as you go.
3. Here you can either improvise the story or write it out as a script. Make sure you focus on dialogue. Say the words the characters say. Do the actions the characters do.
4. After you improvise, you can write down what happened so you remember the order of events or important lines of dialogue.
5. Practice or rehearse your new play a few times so that it feels familiar. You might do something different each time and that is okay!
6. If you want, you can make a few different backdrops ([download our backdrop template](#)) to make your performance more colorful.
7. If you want, find an audience of people to watch your play! You could also film your performance and show it to others.

Tip: No narrator! Let the different characters do the storytelling in their own words.

Improvise!

1. Just play around with the puppets you have. You might be surprised about what you can create when you don't have a plan. Have fun!

Share photos of you mini Merrill with us online using the hashtag **#showusyourmerril**. We can't wait to see what you create and what stories you

