

ACTIVITY: CREATE AN ORIGINAL SHORT PLAY!

RECOMMENDED AGE: 8 and up

TIME: 30-60 minutes

SET-UP: None

SUPPLIES:

- **Paper and pencil or computer/laptop/tablet, to write down ideas.**
- **Inspiration Elements list (provided)**
- **Costumes for each character - pull from your own wardrobe, or create something new! It can be as simple as a different hat for each character, and changing your voice.**

Write an original short play! To help, the following page is full of inspiration elements for characters, settings, and things to include in your play. Remember your play must have a beginning, middle, and end. There should be a conflict that is resolved by the end of the play. Act the play out with your family, play all of the parts yourself, or with toys!

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Some steps to get started (feel free to do these in any order - everyone's creative process is different, so find what works for you):
 - o Select which of the Inspiration Elements you might like to include in your story. You can also come up with your own story elements.
 - o Decide the type of story you want to tell: is it a comedy, with a happy ending, or a tragedy, that will end sadly? Is there a mystery that needs to be solved? Is there a journey that must be taken?
 - o Decide on the characters that will be in your story.
 - o What happens in the beginning? What happens in the middle? What is the conflict or problem? How does it get solved?
 - o Write down the major plot elements, so you know what has to happen in what order.

If you would like to write a full script, go for it! Or you can use your imagination and make up what each character says on the spot. If you choose to write a full script and need help, there is an example on the next page.

2. **CAST AND COSTUMES:** Once you have the elements of your story laid out, it's time to prepare for the performance! Who will be performing? Is it toys/stuffed animals? Will your household be performing with you? Is it just you? If so, decide on a different costume for each character. It can be as small as changing a hat or a scarf.
3. **SET:** Where will you be performing this? Your backyard? Your living room? Your bedroom?

Once you have all of these elements set, it's time to perform! Try filming it (use a laptop with webcam, smartphone, tablet, etc.) to share with your friends or perform live!



INDIANA
REPERTORY
THEATRE

ACTIVITY: CREATE AN ORIGINAL SHORT PLAY!

INSPIRATION ELEMENTS

STORY IDEAS

- The truth of what happens to all the socks that get lost in the dryer
- The last piece of candy in the entire world
- The Cooking Contest
- A quest for the perfect pizza
- The story behind a favorite song
- A mysterious paw print
- I found a pirate coin under a tree
- Unlikely animal friendships and how they became friends (a turtle and rhinoceros, a cheetah and a frog, etc.)
- A trip to the moon
- All of the dogs have gone missing
- The boogeyman as the hero
- What happened to all of the animals at the zoo?
- The weirdest circus ever

CHARACTERS

- A spaceman who is afraid of flying
- An antelope wearing pants
- A wizard who doesn't like spiders
- The best friend of a chicken
- The inventor of Time
- A giant who is lost
- A baby owl
- A helpful team of ants

SETTINGS

- The zoo
- Outer space
- A picnic
- A desert
- School
- A garden
- Antarctica
- The freezer aisle of the grocery store
- A Mountain
- A Park
- A cottage in the woods
- The movie theatre

SAMPLE SCRIPT FORMATTING & IDEAS

CHARACTER NAME: dialogue goes here (*actions are in italics and parentheses*)

JOSEPHINE: But Laurence, we can't tell your Uncle we lost his giraffe. That giraffe is his best friend!

LAURENCE: You're right Josephine, we can't. He'd be so mad at us! We just have to go find it!
(*Laurence and Josephine beginning looking around the living room*)

If you are struggling to come up with a story, try this 7 line story format - just fill in the blanks!

Once upon a time... _____

And every day _____

Until one day _____

And because of this, _____

And because of this, _____

Until finally _____

And ever since then, _____



INDIANA
REPERTORY
THEATRE