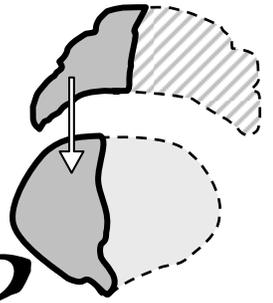


Neem the Half-Boy Paper Bag Puppets



With bag over hand, move the puppet's mouth.

Materials you will need: lunch-size paper bags, colored pencils, crayons, markers, glue, paste spreader, colored construction paper or cardstock, tape, scissors, stapler, newsprint for desks or tables. **Optional:** tissue paper, wrapping paper, old shopping bags, wallpaper scraps, feathers, foil, beads, buttons, fabric scraps, yarn for hair, plastic eyes, etc.



1. With a piece of cardstock or construction paper about the same size as the flap of the bag, draw and color the top part of whole-boy's face (eyes, ears (if wanted), cheeks, and nose). Or, glue on plastic eyes, colored paper eyes and cheeks, etc. Cut out face.

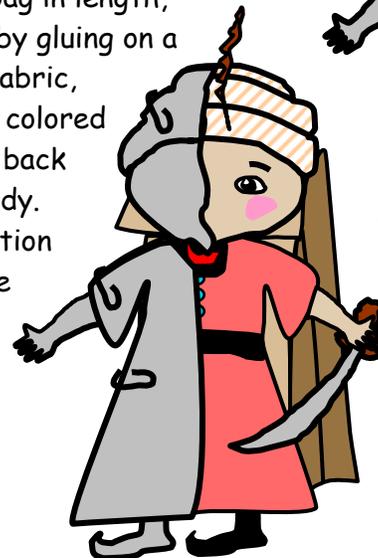
For the half-boy face: Choose another color construction paper, outline and cut out only the right side of his face. Set this aside. (*Hint:* before decorating the whole-boy's pieces, trace around them on the half-boy paper, then cut out only the right half of his face, cap & tunic.)

2. Outline whole-boy's cap on construction paper - its width is as wide as the whole face and its height is about 2-3". Decorate the whole cap by coloring, making designs, or using feathers, glitter, or pieces of old fabric or colored paper. Make a half-cap out of the same construction paper as the half-face in Step 1. Do not decorate the half-cap piece.

3. Glue the decorated whole cap to the top of the whole face made in Step 1. Once it is dry, glue the entire face/cap (whole) to the top flap of the paper bag (make sure you don't glue the flap down). Allow to dry. Glue together the half-face & half-cap so that it will fit exactly over the whole piece, and set aside until later. Do not glue the half-face/cap to bag.)

4. **For the whole-boy tunic & body:** Using construction paper, wrapping paper or wallpaper that is roughly the size of the paper bag in length, draw and cut out Neem's tunic. Decorate by coloring and by gluing on a belt, adding beads, buttons, pompoms, decals, scraps of fabric, and so on. Allow to dry. Cut out 2 arms and 2 shoes from colored construction paper or color as desired. Glue these to the back of the tunic. Set aside while assembling the half-boy's body.

For the half-boy tunic & body: Using half-boy construction paper, cut out one-half the tunic. Draw and cut out 1 more arm and shoe from the half-boy paper (*hint:* trace around the whole-boy's left arm and left shoe as a pattern). Glue the arm and shoe to the back side of the half-tunic in the same spots as you did for the whole-boy pieces. (The half-boy piece should cover exactly one-half of the whole-boy piece—see illustration on next page.)



See next page for more suggestions.

5. Glue the whole-boy's body (tunic, arms and shoes) to the front of the bag, taking care not to glue down the flap or opening of the bag.

Puppet Theater Ideas

- Place a tablecloth or sheet over a table and students sit under table and extend their puppets out from under the cloth to do their dialogues.
- Cut a rectangular window in a large cardboard box (such as an appliance box) on the front, and a "stage door" in the back. Have 1-2 students go inside box and perform their skits through the window.
- Place chairs facing each other and have students sit and perform their skits to each other. Have these puppets available in a drama center or storage bin for use whenever wanted.

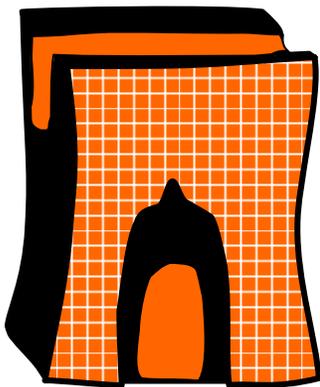
6. Finish the paper bag puppet by drawing or gluing a red tongue on a black background under the flap. Draw and cut out other props, such as a sword, a magic medicine bottle, fairies, cook-stove, and so on. Create other characters, such as the queen, the king, and Taneen the Dragon. (See ideas below.)

Making the Whole-Boy a Half-Boy: Use paper-clips (or Velcro™ strips, if available) to attach the half-boy's head to the top of the bag and the half-boy's body over the whole-body (see picture on previous page). When in play, these can be removed or replaced as desired.



Fairy stick puppets can be made by drawing on cardstock and cutting out. **Fairy wings** can be made by forming pipe cleaners into wing shapes, and taping plastic wrap around them or gluing the pipe cleaners onto tissue paper and cutting around them. Add some glitter to make them more magical. Tape or glue wings to the back of the cutouts.

Tape a stick or pencil on the back of the fairy cutout and shake slightly to make her "fly."



Allow the puppets to dry completely before use. Sometimes an extra bit of glue, tape or stapling needs to be applied for stabilization. HAVE FUN!