

Activity Kit

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How to write your own play

First you need to start with a story. This can be the trickiest part. Don't worry, it can be as normal or as wacky as you want it to be. If you're super stuck, base it on your life! Write a summary in the space below:

Decide your character names. Think about their roles in the play.

Character 1: _____

Character 2: _____

Character 3: _____

Character 4: _____

Character 5: _____

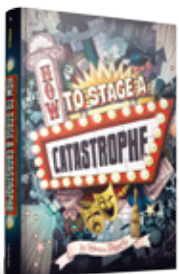
Now since this is a play, you need to have Acts! Acts are breaks in the narrative, where the curtain goes down. There are usually 3 Acts in a play, so decide what major stuff will happen in each Act:

Act 1: _____

Act 2: _____

Act 3: _____

Finally give your play a name. Try to make the title summarise the whole meaning behind the play!



An activity based on *How to Stage a Catastrophe* by Rebecca Donnelly
Available April 2017.

How to cast characters

Casting call for _____ !

You have a play! Hooray!

Now think about who you want to portray your characters. You are the director – so you get to choose!

When you meet the person who wants to play a character in your play, who do they fit the most?

Does their posture remind you of the Hero? Does their voice remind you of the Villain? Can they do an accent? Can they pretend to be mortally wounded?

If you need a physical attribute for a certain character (Say red hair or a big scar) remember wigs, make-up and costume can transform someone into another person entirely!

If you're not sure, maybe get your actor to put on the costume. See if they become your character!

When you have your actors, write their names below:

Character: _____ Actor: _____

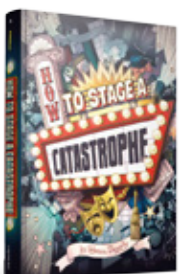
Character: _____ Actor: _____

Character: _____ Actor: _____

Character: _____ Actor: _____

Character: _____ Actor: _____

Now you can start rehearsals, direct your play and perform for your friends and family!



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Creating a stage

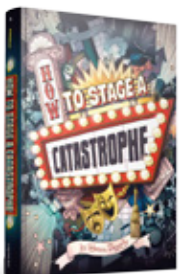
Another way to put on your play is to make a shadow theatre with shadow puppets!

You will need:

- ✓ A cardboard box or a shoe box
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Pen
- ✓ Tape or glue
- ✓ White bedsheet or tissue paper
- ✓ Lamp or torch

How to make your theatre:

1. Cut one side off your cardboard box or remove the lid from your shoe box.
2. On the inside of your box, draw a design for your shadow theatre. Make sure there's plenty of space for your characters to move around. Add some interest on the sides by drawing theatre curtains, trees or a building. Look online for ideas.
3. Using scissors, carefully cut out your design. Ask an adult to help you with this step.
4. Using tape or glue, stick your tissue paper onto the inside of your box, over the design you just cut out.
5. Point your torch or lamp directly behind your stage. Now you can make your puppets!



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Instructions to make a puppet

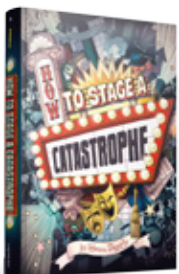
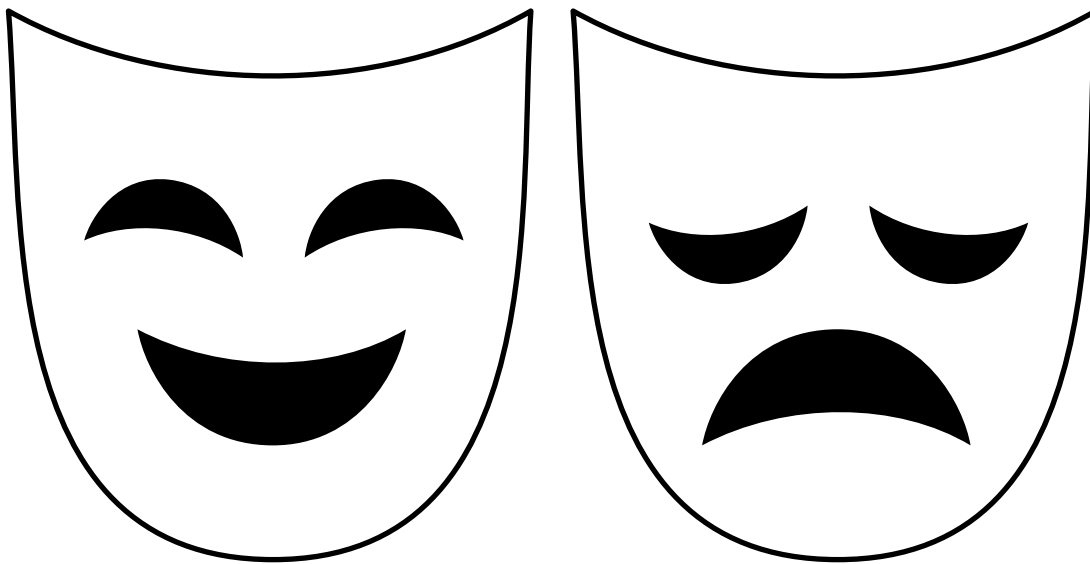
Now you need to make the puppets for your theatre!

You will need:

- ✓ Black paper card
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Sticky tape
- ✓ Wooden skewers

How to make your puppets:

1. Draw your characters on the back of the black paper card. You can use our stencils below!
2. Carefully cut out your characters. Ask an adult to help you with this.
3. Stick the wooden skewers onto the back of your characters.
4. Use your puppets to put on a show!



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