

Page 1 — Three scene cues

Draw what happens in each scene. Add words only if you want them. Keep this page beside the puppet mover; you do not need to cut the cues apart.

Scene 1 — Opening

Who arrives, and what do they want?

Draw the action here.

Puppet movement: _____

One optional line: _____

Scene 2 — What changes?

Who responds, and what do they do?

Draw the action here.

Puppet movement: _____

One optional line: _____

Scene 3 — How it ends

What is different now? Show the final action.

Draw the action here.

Puppet movement: _____

One optional line: _____

Choose your jobs

Narrator: reads or invents the words.

Puppet mover: follows the pictures and moves the characters.

Sound maker: adds the sounds you choose together—or stays silent.

One person can take several jobs. Drawing the pictures or watching is also a choice.

Pause and restart

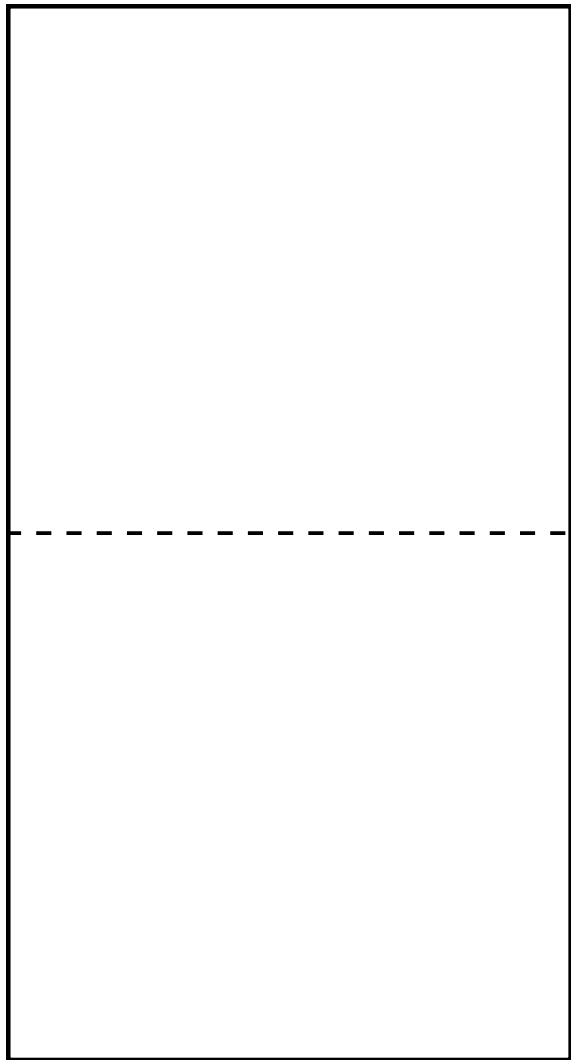
Say "Pause" to stop words and movement. Keep the current cue showing. Say "Ready," point to the cue, and start that scene's movement again. You can also return to Scene 1 or end the show.

Two blank paper puppets

Decorate the front panels. An adult can cut around each whole rectangle. Keep both panels joined. Fold at the center line, then open slightly and stand with the crease on top. Both free edges rest on the table. Do not cut around your drawing.

Character 1

Name, if you want one: _____

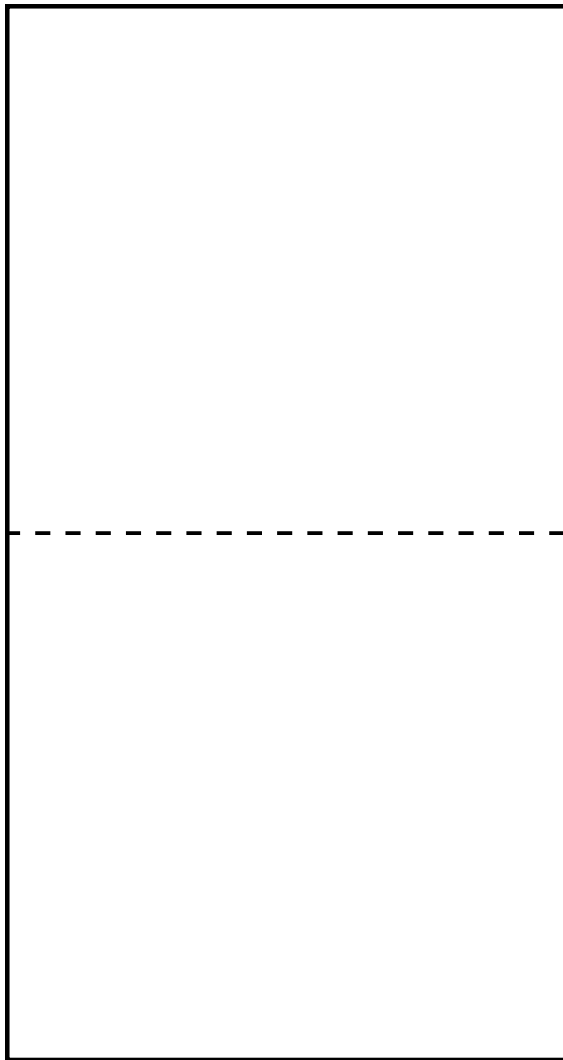


Top panel: Back of puppet. Leave joined to the front.
Bottom panel: Draw your character here. Head toward the fold.

Dashed center: FOLD — keep both panels joined.
Solid border: Adult cuts around the whole rectangle.

Character 2

Name, if you want one: _____



Top panel: Back of puppet. Leave joined to the front.
Bottom panel: Draw your character here. Head toward the fold.

Dashed center: FOLD — keep both panels joined.
Solid border: Adult cuts around the whole rectangle.

No-scissors option

Use two whole sheets. Fold each in half so the short edges meet. Open slightly, place the crease at the top, and draw on the outside facing the audience. Or draw two characters and slide the sheets flat on the table.

Page 3 — Make, move, and tell

1. Fold and stand

Fold each rectangle across the marked center line. Open it into a tent with the crease at the top and the free edges on the table. Draw the face on the outside facing the audience, with the head toward the crease.

Test it on your table. If it spreads or tips, bring the lower edges closer together or try thicker paper. Optional: tape a strip between the lower inside edges to limit spreading. If it still will not stand, hold it by an edge or slide it flat.

1. Joined panels



Front below fold

2. Fold; head toward ridge



Face on outside

3. Both edges on table



Side view

A rectangle has two equal panels joined by a center fold. In side view, the folded paper looks like an upside-down V. The fold is the top ridge; the two free edges touch the table. The character drawing faces the audience on the outside of one panel.

2. Set your table stage

Draw a setting on another sheet and place it on a clear table. Leave space for both puppets to move. Keep the scene cues beside the mover. A stage box is optional; an adult must do any box cutting and check the edges.

3. Try this story: A place for Star

These are original fictional characters. Change them or the setting if you want.

Scene 1 — Opening

Picture: Star beside a Christmas table; an arrow points toward the table.

Movement: Slide Star toward the drawn table and stop beside it.

Optional narrator line: “Star came to the Christmas table, looking for a place.”

Scene 2 — What changes?

Picture: Lantern near Star; an arrow shows Lantern moving to the side.

Movement: Slide Lantern toward Star, then move Lantern to one side of the table.

Optional narrator line: “Lantern saw Star waiting and moved over.”

Scene 3 — How it ends

Picture: Star and Lantern side by side at the table.

Movement: Slide Star into the space beside Lantern. Stop both puppets.

Optional narrator line: “Now there was room for them both.”

1. Star approaches table



Star

2. Lantern moves aside



Lantern

3. Star joins Lantern



Star

Both stop

First, Star slides toward the drawn table. Second, Lantern approaches Star and slides to the side. Third, Star moves beside Lantern and both stop.

4. Perform from the pictures

Try the movements once. Then add reading, made-up words, or sounds if you want them. Use “Pause” to stop. Use “Ready” and the current picture to restart that scene. Stop after the final action. Choose whether to repeat, swap jobs, or put the puppets away.

Materials

Paper and pencils or crayons. Thicker paper and tape are optional. An adult handles any cutting. Draw details instead of adding separate tiny decorations. No sticks or heat tools are needed.

About this sheet

The three scene cues and paper-puppet design are our own suggestions. The Victoria and Albert Museum's “Design and make your own story” activity supports beginning/middle/end planning and drawing, writing, or imagining a story. Smithsonian's “Making a Jellyfish Puppet” activity combines puppet-making, a setting, and a show. These sources do not test this sheet or promise learning outcomes.

Sources:

- Victoria and Albert Museum: [Victoria and Albert Museum](https://www.vam.ac.uk/learning/activities/design-and-make-your-own-story)

- Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History: [Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History](https://www.si.edu/learn/learn-at-home/making-a-jellyfish-puppet)