

Cluster Meeting for Schools Joining the
Story to Stage
Puppetry Competition

WELCOME



Puppetry Team, NET Section, CDI, EDB

25 November 2025

What we'll cover:

- ❖ Competition schedule & important rules
- ❖ Puppet performance skills
- ❖ Tips for rehearsing puppet shows with students
- ❖ Elements of making a good puppet show
 - ❖ Experience sharing by
T.K.D.S. Fong Shu Chuen School

Q & A Session

Puppetry Website:



General rules and schedule

THE NET SCHEME IN HONG KONG

Fostering Learning Communities Among International Educators

The Scheme

School Support

Pedagogical Innovation

Professional Development

Competitions

L and T Resources

What's New

Story to Stage Puppetry Competition

About the Competition

Poster

Events and Schedule

Rules and Roles

Adjudication

Awards and Prizes

Support

Application and Entry Form

Resources

Story to Stage 2024/25 Winners

Archive

Enquiry



About the Competition



Timeline:

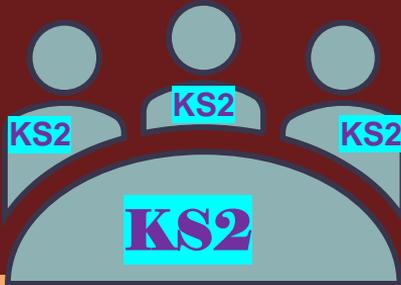


Application Period	29 Sep – 14 Nov 2025
Cluster meeting	25 Nov 2025
Video Submission	9 Feb – 13 Apr 2026 (23:59) (*The link to video submission form will be provided on the puppetry website from 9 Feb onwards.)
Adjudication	Apr - May
Announcement of Results	Mid-May
Prize-giving Celebration	Jun



School Teams:

- ✓ Each school can enter **multiple teams**
- ✓ Each entry should be **unique**, featuring different storyline, set of characters and other distinguishing elements.
- ✓ Each team must be made up of **3-5 students** from either **KS1, KS2, or a combination of both.**



Rubric:

Story to Stage Puppetry Competition

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Judging Criteria

1. Language (40%)

- Script
- Range of vocabulary
- Pronunciation and fluency
- Expression in voice and audibility

2. Puppetry (40%)

- Puppetry techniques
- Puppet design and relevance

3. Special effects (20%)

- Backdrop design and scene changes
- Use of props
- Sound and music effects
- Visual effects

Duration of puppet shows:

- ✓ Puppet shows must be **5-7 minutes** in length

Over 7 mins

10 marks deducted for every minute



Mark Penalty

Under 5 mins

Inadequate script development



Suggested Themes for 2025/26 Entries:

- ✓ Dream Big, Read Bigger
- ✓ Wisdom Unites, Stories Connect

The screenshot shows the website for the English Sayings of Wisdom (SOW) Campaign. The header includes the logo and navigation links: Home, Selected SOW, Student Activities/Competitions, SOWIT Videos, Wallpapers/Posters, Instant Messaging Stickers, Games, and Learning and Teaching Materials. The main content area features the title "PROMOTING POSITIVE VALUES AND ATTITUDES THROUGH English Sayings of Wisdom" and a paragraph describing the campaign's goals. A banner for the "SOW CAMPAIGN 2025/26" is displayed, with the tagline "SOW THE READING SEED: DISCOVER AS YOU READ" and the themes "Wisdom Unites, Stories Connect" and "Dream Big, Read Bigger". A button at the bottom indicates "SOW Campaign 2025/26".

Sayings of Wisdom

Home Selected SOW Student Activities/Competitions SOWIT Videos Wallpapers/Posters Instant Messaging Stickers Games Learning and Teaching Materials

PROMOTING POSITIVE VALUES AND ATTITUDES THROUGH
English Sayings of Wisdom

First launched in the 2020/21 school year, "Promoting Positive Values and Attitudes through English Sayings of Wisdom" (SOW Campaign) is a territory-wide and cross-curricular campaign that connects English Language education with values education. It aims to provide opportunities for schools to plan holistically their curricula by integrating essential curriculum initiatives, such as values education, Reading/Language across the Curriculum (RaC/LaC) and multimodal literacy, extending students' learning experience outside the classroom, and promoting cross-curricular collaboration.

SOW CAMPAIGN 2025/26
SOW THE READING SEED: DISCOVER AS YOU READ

Wisdom Unites, Stories Connect

Dream Big, Read Bigger

SOW Campaign 2025/26

Puppetry Tents:

- 2 Loan Seasons

Loan season A: 1 Nov – 9 Jan

Loan season B: 14 Jan – 14 Apr



- Each school can borrow a tent in each loan season.
- Loan period: 7 calendar days, weekend included.
- First-come, first-served.



Puppetry Tents:

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- Instructional Video

- Puppetry tent

- Types of backdrops

- Puppets

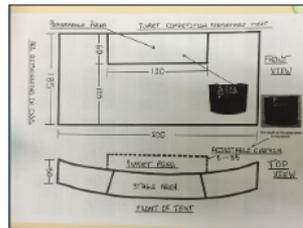
- School-based Puppetry Package

Story to Stage 2023/24 Winners

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Puppetry tent



Dimensions of the competition puppetry tent [PNG]



Video - How to set up the puppetry tent



Video - How to pack away the puppetry tent

- Puppetry tents are to be reserved for competition schools only.
- Loan period: 7 calendar days, weekend included (e.g. picking up on 1 December and returning on 8 December)
- Each school can borrow ONCE in each Loan Season. No requests for renewal can be accepted.

- Loan Season A: 1 November 2024 – 11 January 2025

(Tents can be picked up starting from 1 November 2024 earliest once borrowing procedures are completed.)

- Loan Season B: 14 January 2025 – 8 April 2025

(Tents can be picked up starting from 14 January 2025 earliest once borrowing procedures are completed.)

- Tents are to be loaned out on a first come, first served basis.

- For borrowing puppetry tents, competition schools should email Ms Kylie CHAN (kyliewchan@edb.gov.hk) at least 7 calendar days before the intended pickup date to provide the following information:

- School Name
- Contact person
- Contact person's phone number
- AT's name
- Loan period (7 calendar days) requested



Prize-giving Celebration:

- Mid-June
- 1st prize – Merit prize winners
- Live performances by 1st prize winners





Puppet Performance Skills



Puppet P.O.W.E.R.S.

Positioning

Opening and closing the mouth

Walking around

Eye contact

Real emotions

Sounding right



Positioning



The ideal height for a puppet is 'Belly button' height (if it had one).

Opening & closing the mouth



This should be done syllabically. You can practise by counting, saying the A, B, C's or reciting lines from your story.

Opening & closing the mouth



Remember that the mouth should be OPEN during the sounds and closed when not speaking. This is a common mistake and results in 'biting your words'.

Opening & closing the mouth



Also, pay attention to the volume of the puppet. If they are shouting, open the mouth wide. If they are whispering, the mouth moves much less.

Walking around



- Puppets should move true to their characters. We should manipulate them like they have legs and bob up and down when they move across the performance area.

Walking around



Practise entering and exiting the scene in different circumstance:

- In a rush.
- Tired,
- Angry,
- About to deliver some sad new, etc.

Eye Contact



- Eye contact is important to help the audience know who is talking especially if the puppet doesn't have a manipulatable mouth.

Eye Contact

N Instructional Video: P.O.W.E.R.S. of Puppetry



MORE VIDEOS

All other puppets should make eye contact with the one who is talking.

Real Emotions

N Instructional Video: P.O.W.E.R.S. of Puppetry



MORE VIDEOS

Acting is reacting and puppetry is no exception. In general, you will find the following...

Real Emotions



- Happiness is up
- Sadness is down
- Anger is high and down
- Thinking is up and to the side
- Shyness is down and to the side

Sounding Right



Pitch, range, pacing, accent and volume can all affect the voice and add depth to the character.



Tips for good puppet show

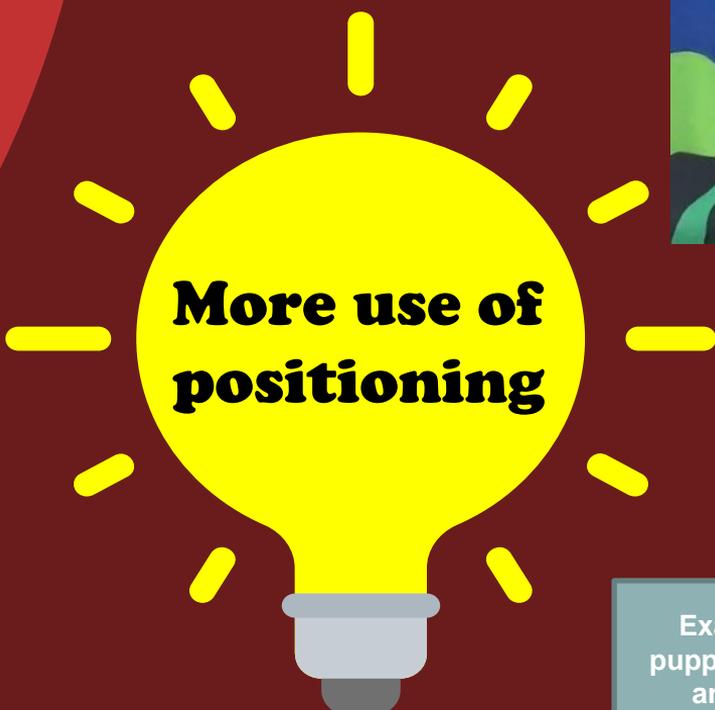




**Utilising
the stage**



Avoid puppets colliding when they shouldn't



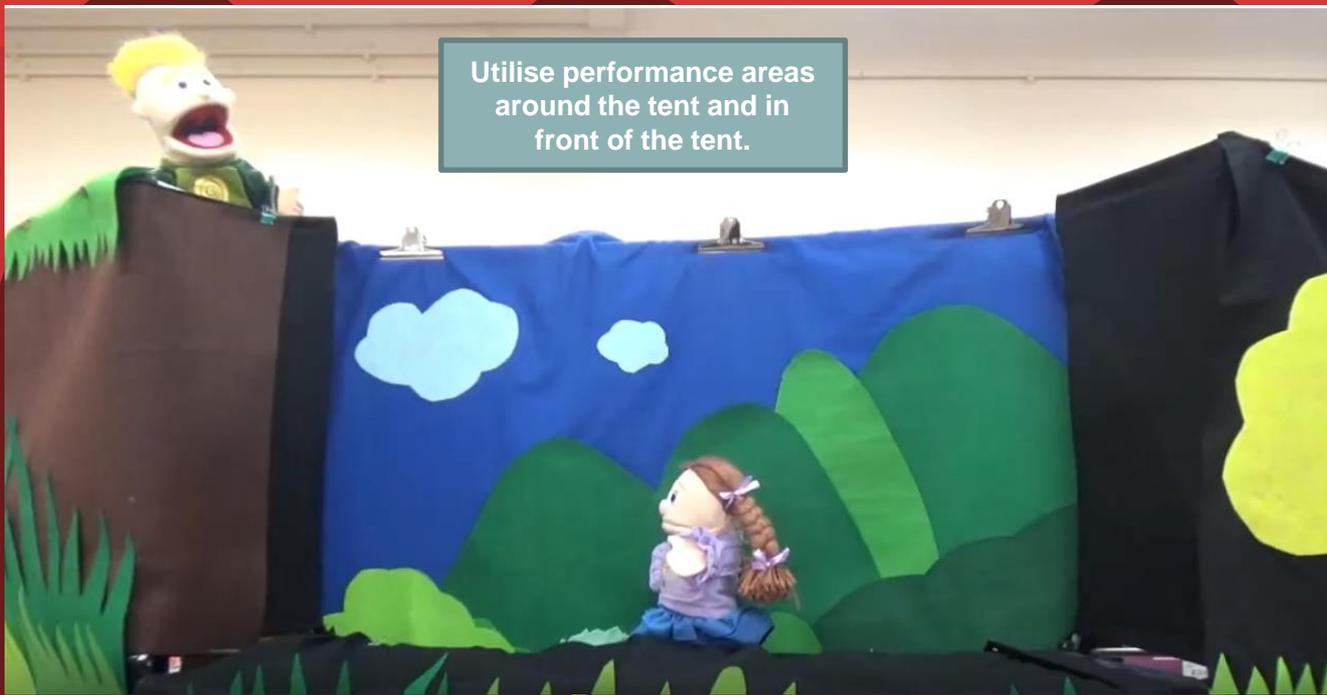
**More use of
positioning**



Exaggerate
puppet features
and sizes



Utilise performance areas around the tent and in front of the tent.



**Avoid
overcrowding**



Boat Prop
and sound
effect



Rubbish Bin Prop
Crying Sound
Effect



Attach props to the backdrop using hook and eye velcro

**Smooth
transition**



Teddy bear Prop
on a stick



Easy to pull down or flip
backwards and forwards
fabric whilst playing a
sound effect





Use props repeatedly throughout to show what's happening. Lots of funny moments and big reveals! Exaggerate!



Door props are great ideas for big surprise moments.



A cartoon illustration of a theater stage. The stage is framed by large, red, scalloped curtains. A spotlight from the top left illuminates the center of the stage. On the right side, a man with a beard, wearing a blue and white striped long-sleeve shirt and brown pants, is walking towards the center. Another spotlight from the bottom right illuminates the man. The background is a dark red color, and the stage floor is a light orange color. The overall style is simple and colorful.

What makes a
good puppet
show?

Basic elements for a good puppet show:



Script



Backdrops



Set & Props



Puppets



Experience Sharing

Guest speaker:

Navez Akhter

TKDS Fong Shu Chuen School

Script

- Scripts should be simple and not overly complicated.
- Use the script to complement the puppets, not vice versa.
- Limit the number of scene changes.
- GET IT DONE EARLY!



Backdrop

- It adds depth to the world the puppets are in.
- You could include flaps, hidden area, opportunities or puppeteers to bring it to.
- Objects could be attached with Velcro and removed when needed.
- A window could be flipped to reveal something hidden behind.



Set and props

- Set and props should be complimentary to the action.
- Make sure they are easy to manipulate.
- Sometimes less is more.
- Items on rods are often an effective way to design easily movable props or set items.



Puppets

- Puppets can be DIY or bought.
- Their design should be appropriate to the characters and the context.



An illustration of a theater stage. Red curtains frame the stage. Two spotlights, one on the left and one on the right, cast beams of light onto the stage. A man with a beard, wearing a blue and white striped shirt and brown pants, is walking on the stage. The text "Organising a puppet rehearsal" is written in a yellow, rounded font on the left side of the stage.

Organising a puppet rehearsal

Suggested ideas for a puppet rehearsal

01



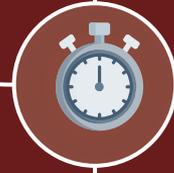
Start with an energizer, focus exercise and creative exercise where possible.

02



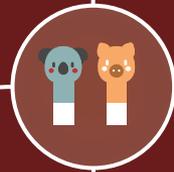
Read through the script, making sure students understand the words and pronunciations

03



Do a stop/start run

04



End with a final run-through

Suggested ideas for a puppet rehearsal

**Positive
reinforcement
is key.
Keep
everything fun
and positive.**

**Don't
overwhelm
your students
with too many
instructions in
one session.**



THANK YOU!

Please disseminate the ideas in your school.

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