

Bits N Pieces Puppet Theatre's

# Jack & the

# Beansstalk



## Study Guide



Bits N Pieces' programs are presented with the assistance of the Arts Council of Hillsborough County, the Hillsborough County Board of Commissioners, the Renaissance Center, Florida Division of Cultural Affairs/Department of State, the Florida Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts.

# Jack & the Beanstalk

Our story of

## Jack and the Beanstalk

### *Act One*

Jack is a poor farm boy. Where once his family had money, now he barely has dinner. When the old cow Milky White can no longer give milk, Jack's mother tells him to take the cow to market and sell it for food.

Going to market, a little man stops Jack and tells him he knew Jack's father. Jack lets the little man convince him to trade his cow for five magic beans that will bring him good luck. Innocent and excited, Jack hurries home to find Mama does not think he made a good trade for the cow. Angry at her son, she throws the beans over the fence. Jack's mother hurries then off to bed with no supper.

### *Act Two*

The beans are truly magic! They grow a giant beanstalk into the air through the clouds and up to a castle in the sky. A giant lives there. The giant who has stolen Jack's family treasures. Jack takes back what belongs to him: a bag of gold, a magic harp and a chicken that lays golden eggs. Fee-Fi-Fo-Fum the giant arrives and chases Jack back down the beanstalk!

Jack arrives home with the giant climbing down the beanstalk right behind him. Jack calls for an ax. But before he can chop down the beanstalk, the giant plunges to his doom.

The first literary version of the tale appeared in England in the 1734 book *Round About our Coal-Fire: or Christmas Entertainments*.

## Celtic Music

Celtic music is the traditional folk music of the Celts of Northern Europe. Celtic music is unique to the people just as French music and English music describe musics of specific geographic groups of people. Celtic music covers the traditional music found in Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Brittany (in France), Galicia (in Spain) and countries which have been influenced by them including the US and Canada. Musical instruments include the harp, flute, drum and penny whistle.

## The History of “Jack and the Beanstalk”

The desire to climb up into the sky is as old as mankind. Early stories of the Tower of Babel and Jacob’s Ladder are known far and wide. Many variations of the tale’s themes exist in different countries. Asia has a story about a branch planted by Buddha that grows skyward rapidly when planted. The English version of “Jack” is the best known variation. It has also been popular in north-central Europe, Finland and Norway, but not Russia. The journey has been told in Spain and Romania and even by the American Indian tribes stretching from Nova Scotia to British Columbia.

### Questions to ask before the show...

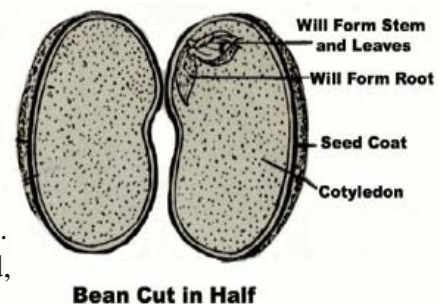
1. What will the characters look like? Have the students draw their ideas.
2. What is music? Can music tell the emotions of the singer? Think of a happy song. Think of a sad song. Without the words is the song still happy or sad?
3. Who is Engelbert Humperdinck? Have you ever heard of him? There might be two! Do you expect the story to be scary or funny?

### Questions to ask after the show...

1. What did you like best about the show? What did you like the least?
2. Do you have to listen carefully to the words to understand the story?
3. Which character is your favorite? Why?
4. What was the mood of the show? Happy, scary, sad?

## Grow your own Beanstalk

Grow Lima or Pinto beans as a class project. Sprout them in a jar and plant them, or grow them in the jar against the glass with blotter paper. Identify the seed, seed coat, stem, leaves, blooms and beans. Keep a daily record of the plants’ progress (ex: date planted, sprouted, height, etc.)



## Fee-Fi-Fo-Fum!

Explain that some words have no meanings but are sounds of expression. Have the students make up simple sing-song poems with the Giant’s favorite words. Use different voices: deep and scary, high and witch-y, normal and heroic. Fee Fie Foh Fum! Puppet shows are really fun!

## Other Puppet Ideas for the Classroom

### Science

Make simple paper cut out puppets and present the water cycle. Show it rain, fill the lake, sink into the ground, feed the plants, evaporate and begin again.

### Literature

Make puppets to act out a scene from a book you are currently reading. Use shadow puppets cut from cardboard and projected with an overhead projector.

### Cultures

Investigate the puppets traditionally seen by children of a specific country. Find paintings and pictures of their puppets. Make a show from one of their traditional stories.

### History

Make a show based on past history of what's happening in the news today. Make a cardboard box puppet stage that looks like a television screen or an old history book.

### Art

Study famous paintings and make puppets of the figures. Tie to March with the World Day of Puppetry or April with America's Day of Puppetry.

### Music

Team up with the music teacher to write a show. Compose songs about "Who you are" and "What you want" or "How I'll get in the Way". Video tape for class enjoyment.

## Vocabulary

### Art-

The use of a variety of means to express ideas, entertain and enlighten.

### Blocking-

The movement of characters on the stage as planned by the director.

### Composer-

The artist who creates original music.

### Dance-

The expressive use of the body to convey a story, emotion and or pleasing visual effect.

### Marionette-

A string puppet operated from overhead.

### Music-

The art of making sound tell a story or have a meaning.

### Puppet-

An inanimate object made to seem alive by the puppeteer who performs the show.

### Script-

The written dialogue and stage action description of the play.

4. Giant  
3. Rod  
2. Shadow  
1. Finger  
Down  
5. Hand  
2. String  
Across

Answers to Crossword Puzzle:

# Types of Puppets

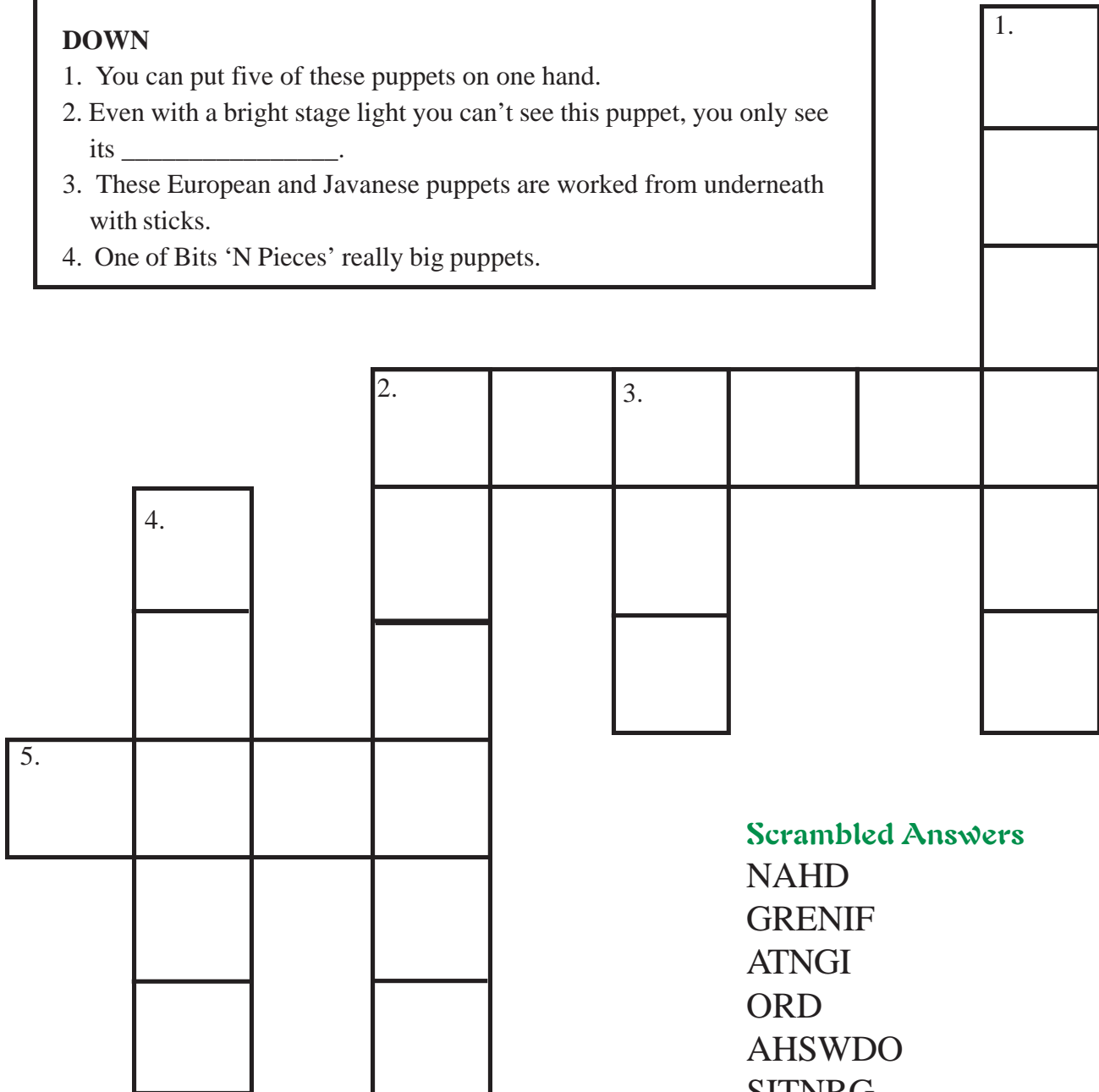
## Crossword Clues

### ACROSS

- These puppets are worked from above and very good for flying. In France, they say "Marionette."
- Mr. Punch is one of these puppets. It attaches to your arm.

### DOWN

- You can put five of these puppets on one hand.
- Even with a bright stage light you can't see this puppet, you only see its \_\_\_\_\_.
- These European and Javanese puppets are worked from underneath with sticks.
- One of Bits 'N Pieces' really big puppets.



### Scrambled Answers

- NAHD
- GRENIF
- ATNGI
- ORD
- AHSWDO
- SITNRG

# Directions to Bits 'N Pieces' PuppetWorld Playhouse

[www.puppetworld.com](http://www.puppetworld.com)



## From Brandon

From Hwy. 60, go north on Valrico Rd. to Martin Luther King Blvd.  
Turn east (right) on MLK Blvd  
Go to McIntosh Road

Turn north (left) onto McIntosh and go 1.5 miles  
**YOU'RE THERE!** We're on the Corner!  
Bits 'N Pieces is on your left at Tom Gallagher Rd.

## From Plant City/ Lakeland

Go west on I-4 to exit #14 (McIntosh Road)  
Go south (left) at exit.  
Take McIntosh Rd. one mile to Tom Gallagher Road  
**YOU'RE THERE!** We're on the Corner!  
Bits 'N Pieces is on your left at Tom Gallagher Rd.

## From Downtown Tampa

Take I-4 east to exit #14 (McIntosh Road)  
Go south (right) at exit.  
Take McIntosh Rd. one mile to Tom Gallagher Road  
**YOU'RE THERE!** We're on the Corner!  
Bits 'N Pieces is on your left at Tom Gallagher Rd.

## From Temple Terrace/ USF/New Tampa

Take I-75 south to I-4 east  
Follow "From Downtown Tampa" directions

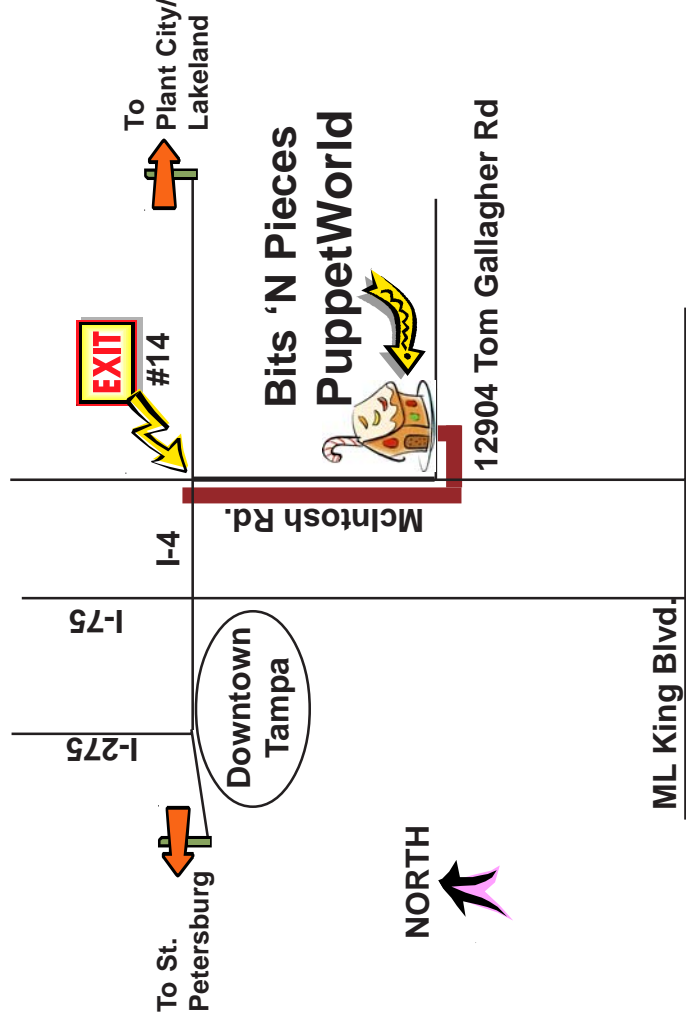
## From Pinellas County

Take I-275 to Tampa  
Follow "From Downtown Tampa" directions

## From Crossstown Expressway/Sarasota/Bradenton

Go north on I-75 to I-4 east  
Follow "From Downtown Tampa" directions

**See You at the Show!!**



**Need help? Call Bits 'N Pieces at 813-659-0659.**