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To Be or Not to Be **Lesson Plan** The Art of Puppetry

Answer questions about the play *Hamlet*. What is the tone of the play? How does the actor succeed in portraying the Hamlet's personality? (based on a picture of the puppet)

## **Pedagogical Intent:**

Students discover one of Shakespeare's greatest literary works and must analyze the character of Hamlet. After giving an overview of the character, students must explain how the Hamlet puppet's creator portrayed the character's personality and tone.

#### Level:

Grades 9-12; Quebec Secondary Cycle 2

#### **Subjects:**

Arts: Art education, dramatic arts

Languages: English

### Themes:

Theatre, famous literary character (Hamlet), Shakespeare, tone in literary works, the personality and emotions associated with the character

## **Objectives and Competencies:**

To interpret and appreciate dramatic works, process information, exhibit appropriate communication skills, describe, summarize, reason, demonstrate critical thinking, read, and understand various texts

## **Duration:**

240 to 360 minutes

#### **Web Resources**

www.civilization.ca/clic

## **Student Handouts**

One copy per student:

"To Be or Not to Be" worksheet

# **Optional Technical Equipment**

Computer with Internet access for each pair of students



## **Teacher Preparation**

- 1. Visit the <a href="www.civilization.ca/clic">www.civilization.ca/clic</a> website (The Art of Puppetry section) to get the necessary information about puppets. If necessary, conduct more indepth Internet research.
- 2. If possible, try to find different kinds of puppets that the students can manipulate. (Hand puppets are easy to find in children's games or at discount stores.)
- 3. Print out one copy of the "To Be or Not to Be" worksheet for each student.

## **Procedure**

- 1. Start a conversation on puppets. Ask students whether they have ever seen a puppet show or manipulated puppets. If so, ask students about the types of puppets they have seen, what they looked like, how they moved, how they were presented, etc.
- 2. Have students explore the Civilization website on puppets. Let students freely browse the various sections about puppets so they can learn more about the topic.

- 3. Present the "To Be or Not to Be" worksheet
  - Give each student a copy of the "To Be or Not to Be" worksheet. Clearly explain the activity.
- 4. Let students search for the information they need online and in the library.
- 5. Correct the students' work.
- 6. Talk to students about the new things they have learned in the activity. What have they learned? Address student comments as a group.

## **Puppet Bibliography:**

- > SPINI G (2001), Marionnettes et poupées animées, DeVecchi Paris, 95 pages.
- REYES Maria (2001), <u>Marionnettiste</u>: introduction au monde merveilleux de la marionnette, L'Harmattan, Paris, Montréal, 156 pages.
- PETIT Isabelle (1999), <u>Fabriquer des marionnettes</u>, Éditions S.A.E.P, Ingersheim, 95 pages.
- PETIT Geneviève (1995), <u>Faites des marionnettes</u>, Dessain and Tolra, Paris, 80 pages.

