



Element 7: Unity through Puppetry

(2 puppet shows with integrated content)

Topic: Practice Telling Time while Exploring Folk Arts	Global Art and Puppet Drama: The Gecko in the Garden
<p>Grade Levels: Young readers and early learners</p> <p>Readers present a puppet show for early learners and teach how to read the hands on a clock; seeing how regions contribute biodiversity and art diversion to the world</p> <p>grades learn history and participate in performing and visual arts; early learners and pre-readers participate as audience members;</p> <p>Time: Up to 3 hours</p> <p>(1 hour for puppet making and props; $\frac{1}{2}$ hour for song rehearsal and $\frac{1}{2}$ hour for dress rehearsal; $\frac{1}{2}$ hour background learning; $\frac{1}{2}$ hour performance)</p> <p>Key Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working across continents, a Haitian nurse and an Italian nurse worked together to lay the groundwork for modern nursing • Each brought different strengths • Each brought similar strengths • Unity mattered. 	<p>Teacher or Caregiver</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readers review a puppet show script • They evaluate natural resources to make puppets • They review art forms from the countries represented in the show. • They devise ways to teach time-telling using their bodies to young children • They engage all in choosing forms and making folk art • Pass around kitchen foods to smell, including a spice, a fresh food, oil or a grain). Ask if the learners can tell where an item came from by its aroma. • Identify one food imported into and one food exported out of your country. How do regions unite and share, so people can have a variety of foods? Discuss. • Look at the labels on the learners' clothing. Ask, do you wear items made elsewhere? Do local farms grow sheep or cotton to clothe people elsewhere? Unity is important in keeping everyone fed and clothed everywhere. • The older learners will create a puppet show to teach younger children about the importance of unity among friends from different places. Read through puppet show

	<p>script with learners old enough to read.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • helps two countries share what they have. Smell • The character learn to tell time in the story. Have students practice holding up their hands in various positions to show younger children how to tell time. • Read and discuss the background information about art. Talk about the continents of the world where geckos live, where famous tall clocks originated and where animals, including horses, are painted in fabulous colors. • Determine whether to make puppets from back yard materials or, if you have them, from art materials. • Older learners rehearse script; • Younger learners/siblings assemble as audience • All sing together based on the audio sample. <p><i>See following pages.</i></p>
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Unity Puppet Show

The Gecko in the Garden

Background: This puppet show allows middle-grades learners to try new art forms in order to teach unity and time-telling skills to younger children.

If you are presenting the show at home, the characters can be small. For example, creatively cut backyard materials such as leaves, with dots for eyes, can make the shapes of the characters.

Lay these characters flat on a contrasting table covering or dangle them against a fabric backdrop such as a scarf, a wrap or drapery.

Practice the scripts and deliver the story for the whole family. If you have only two storytellers, vary the voices.

Talk about the regions where each of the characters come from. While each are different, each one offers a particular strength: the gecko speed, the horse color, the clock time-telling ability. Working together, they can make the garden grow better.

After the story, have the younger children stand and use their hands in different positions to show the hours and minutes on an old-fashioned clock. Teach them, for example, that when both hands point upward, it is noon.



Characters

Gilbert the Gecko: A singing gecko (lizard) who sometimes races around without stopping to think

Jorge the Oaxacan Horse: A colorful horse from Latin America

Aunt Gertrude: Gilbert's wise aunt

Benita the Tall Clock: A tall clock from the London

Script

Gilbert: Hello. I'm Gilbert the Gecko. Today I had a big challenge. I wanted to get up early in the morning and go out to tend the garden with my friend Jorge the Horse from Oaxaca. But the sun came up very early, so I went outside and he wasn't there. I was so sad that I started to think bad thoughts about him. I thought he forgot about me. I thought maybe he wasn't my friend any more. Have you ever felt like someone you loved wasn't there for you – or worse yet, that you weren't there for them?

Gilbert: Jorge, where are you? Where are you? Maybe he's inside. Hmm. (He leaves the stage.)

Jorge: (He enters, humming tunelessly.) Where is my friend Gilbert the Gecko? I told him I would come at 8 o'clock in the morning. I got up and ate my hay when it was still dark. I romped around for exercise.

Now here I am. It is just the right time, but Gilbert is nowhere to be found. Gilbert! Oh, Gilbert!

Gilbert: (Coming back onstage) There you are! I was so sad when I was here alone. Did you forget about me, Jorge?

Jorge: No! You forgot about me!

Aunt Gertrude: Now, now, Gilbert. You know that Geckos are always patient and kind. Your friend Jorge has come to help you garden. Why are upset?

Gilbert: Because he came late.

Jorge: No, I'm right on time. It is 8 o'clock.

Gertrude: I think I have a solution to this problem. Before we work in the garden, we need to learn a very important skill—how to tell time.

Gilbert: But the sun always tells me when to get up, when to go to bed and when to sing at night.

Gertrude: That is all very lovely, except when you need to meet a friend. Then you and that friend need a third friend whose name is Big Benita.

Jorge: Oh, I like her. She has a flowered dress. And look at her swing.

Gilbert: But can she SING?

Benita:

I am a tall clock. I am a tall clock.

Look at my hands, and you'll understand.

I'm there for you each hour of the day.

I give you time at work or at play.

You just have to follow my shortest hand to know the hour and my longest hand to know how many minutes past the hour.

Jorge: Hmm. Maybe I really am late.

Benita: No, Jorge. I think my battery is just getting low.

Gilbert: Gee, I think we're going to be good friends, Benita.

Benita: Trust me, I'll never let you down, as long as you remember to change my batteries once a year.

Jorge: You eat batteries instead of hay? What do they taste like?

Benita: Kind of metallic, but they suit me fine. I like them because they help me keep time, so I can be a helpful friend.

Gilbert: That's very inspiring!

Benita: What are you, by the way, my friend?

Gilbert:

I am a gecko. I am a gecko.

Look at my tail, and you'll see my trail.

I sing for you in darkness or light.

I'll comfort you when you sleep at night.

Benita: Oh, what a lovely song. Does your friend the horse have a song?

Gilbert: Jorge? Nay.

Benita: Why not?

Gilbert: No, I mean his song is Nee-ii-gh. Here he comes now.

Jorge: Well, I've got the gardening tools. We can start now.

Gilbert: Let's sing together as we work!

[To the tune of the traditional song: *I've Been Working on the Railroad*]

To learn the tune, go to

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LcjH5-xDWHI>

We'll go working in the garden

All the livelong day.

We'll go working in the garden

just to pass the time away.

All the children, come along now.

You can help us as we go.

You can pull the weeds and thistles

to help the garden grow.

Garden won't you grow

turnips in a row.

Garden won't you grow for us?

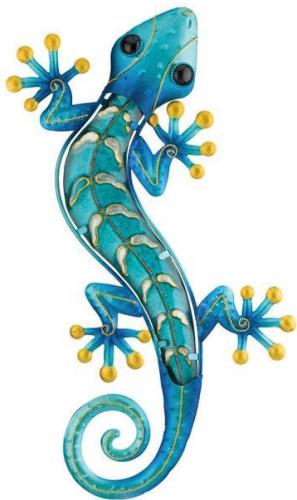
Friends all in a row.

help us as we go.....

Garden, won't you grow with us?

Uniting Art Forms

Below: A gecko, a Tiffany clock and a Oaxacan horse*



***(All for sale online, artists unknown)**

The Gecko: Geckos can be found in from Africa to Latin America to the islands of Oceania. They are sometimes used in mask art or wall art in Africa. Have you seen a gecko? Have you heard them sing at night? They make nice wall art because geckos in many parts of the world are seen climbing walls in the dark. They come in more than one color. What color would you make your gecko?

The Clock:

An artist named Louis Tiffany started out as a painter but later began using colored glass to make his designs in about 1875 in Brooklyn. He uses many pieces of color to create flowers or objects in nature. Can you find birds, leaves and vines hidden in this Tiffany clock? What time is it according to this clock?

The Horse: Mexican folk art from Oaxaca (wu-HAW-ku) often comes in the form of wood carvings known as Alebrijes, colorfully painted wooden animals. The carvers often have a natural talent and no formal training. You might practice using a table knife and a bar of soap to see whether you can carve an animal. Make sure you scoop up the soap shavings and mold them together for reuse, so you don't waste them.

Practice Art based on Backyard Animals

What animals do you see in your own backyard?

- Creatures from around the world make the planet more beautiful.
- Does art from around the world do the same?

Observe the biodiversity in the world around you. Many countries have 800 to 1800 **bird** species and hundreds of **reptiles** (such as geckos) or **amphibians** (such as frogs).

How many living creatures can you see or hear outside? Decide which one to create and what kind of art you will use – a soap carving, leaf art, paint, pencil, or sand art powdered with spice.

Topic: The History of Nursing	History and Puppet Drama: Helpers in Hospital and at Home
<p>Grade Levels: Variable</p> <p>Upper grades learn history and participate in performing and visual arts; early learners and pre-readers participate as audience members;</p> <p>Time: Up to 3 hours (1 hour for puppet making and props; $\frac{1}{2}$ hour for song rehearsal and $\frac{1}{2}$ hour for dress rehearsal; $\frac{1}{2}$ hour background learning; $\frac{1}{2}$ hour performance)</p> <p>Key Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working across continents, a Haitian nurse and an Italian nurse worked together to lay the groundwork for modern nursing • Each brought different strengths • Each brought similar strengths • Unity mattered. 	<p>Teacher or Caregiver</p> <p>Learners with grade 4 reading level study Nurses Who Practiced Unity and share it with any siblings or students in grades 2-3. Together, they organize puppet show for early learners, through following steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read script and discuss background information about the two nurses, Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale. • Determine whether to present the script as a skit or as a puppet show. • Collect materials to make puppets • Rehearse script. • Assemble younger learners as audience • All sing together <p>https://www.fullcirclelearning.org/music (Beauty Is What You Do CD, Track 5)</p> <p>https://www.fullcirclelearning.org/music (Beauty Is What You Do CD, Track 3)</p>

Helpers – In Hospital and At Home

Background: This puppet show tells the story of Mary Seacole Florence Nightingale, the wartime nurses who invented many of the practices of modern nursing, such as conducting night rounds to check on patients. Designed to engage viewers as young as 2-4 years old, up through primary school, the show emphasizes the habit-of-heart empathy and the value of helping. It shows simple ways to provide help at home, such as feeding, comforting and singing to calm loved ones who do not feel well.

The play incorporates three FCL songs, sung by puppet Mary Seacole. Accompaniment is unnecessary during the performance, but for rehearsal purposes, Florence may refer to the vocal and instrumental versions of *The Unity Song*, *Be Kind* and *Our Loving House*.

Ideally, preparation should take about two hours: 1 hour for puppet making and props; $\frac{1}{2}$ hour for song rehearsal and $\frac{1}{2}$ hour for dress rehearsal.

Suggestions for Preparation: Puppets: Use three socks of brown, black, blue and white to create sock puppets. Decorate them with post earrings or sewn-on buttons for eyes. The brown one will wear a white sock on its head as a nurse's cap. Pin the ends of a white folded tissue across the mouths of the black and brown socks, to create the effect of surgical masks. (See the end of this document for photos.)

Backdrops: If feasible, create a backdrop from behind which the puppets pop up, to partially hide the puppeteers, who read from the script. This backdrop can be made from a piece of firm-backed poster board covered with blue or black cloth to serve as the night sky. Toss a sheet or pillowcase over the board when it becomes the hospital backdrop.

Props: A small cloth and piece of yarn can become a knapsack of items you have collected, such as a needle and thread, a crumb of food, or a bit of soap,. (Adapt the script based on what you have.)

The Actors: The puppet show can be conducted with as few as two players acting out the three parts, changing their voices as needed. The characters include: Narrator, Mary Seacole, Florence Nightingale, and Mr. Blues

Script

Narrator:

It was nighttime, and the moon came up just as the star of our show, Florence Nightingale, walked out to look at the night sky.

Mary: (Sighing, talking to herself) I wonder what I will discover tonight. I always love to learn. I have no time tonight to watch the stars. I must get to work, as I know my best friend needs me there, along with many other people.

Narrator: Those many people had become ill, and Mary wanted to help them. You see, she was a nurse. At last she arrived at the hospital. [Throw white cloth over dark sky.]

Mary: [To audience] Bonjou. My name is Marry Seacole. I am a nurse, and I've just come a long way over the ocean, from Haiti. I would like to write down all my stories to share with the people who come later in...well in your time!

Florence: [To audience] Ciao. Welcome to our hospital. My name is Florence Nightingale. I am also a nurse. I was born in Italy, but I work here now. I've learned so many things about being a nurse and a helper that I'm writing them in a book. Mary Seacole is my best friend. How are you, Mary?

Mary: I'm fine, but you look tired.

Florence: It's been a long day. It feels so good to help people, but now I must rest.

Mary: Don't worry. I will take care of all the sick people throughout the night, while you rest.

Florence: I knew you would! You are such a wonderful helper! I have a special bag for you.

Mary: Oh, splendid! Let's see what's in it!

Florence: Jolly good idea. I'm so tired. Can you help me empty the bag?

Mary: Well, I have a little book here for writing things down.

Florence: Yes, doctors and nurses always take notes about their patients.

Mary: And here is soap and a sponge for keeping the patient's forehead cool...and a band-aid in case we give them a shot...a something to stitch them up if they have an owie... and I must get you a light for walking around at night to check on all the patients—Florence, I think you invented that practice of night rounds, didn't you.

Florence: Well, it's important that we work together in unity to care for sick people. Some nurses work during the day and some work at night. Make sure you have your mask. We will each do our best.

Mary: Well, I will do my best, along with my other helpers. But first we must do something important. We must do the unity dance. Unity means working together. When everyone helps, we do such a better job. I see my little brothers and sisters in the audience. Maybe you can all sing with me. Can you repeat each line after me?

[Adapt these lyrics to the tune of The Unity Song.]

<https://www.fullcirclelearning.org/music>

(Beauty Is What You Do CD, Track 5)

Clap your hands. One two three. We can work in unity.

Count supplies. One, two, three. We can help in unity.

Looking high, looking low, work together, here we go. One.

We are one. One. We are One.

Pat a head. Hold a hand. Work together. Here we stand.

Clap your hands. One two three.

We can work in unity. We can work in unity.

Florence: Good job! Now you are ready to help someone!

(She leaves and Mr. Blues comes on.)

Mr. Blues: Nurse! Nurse!

Mary: I'll go see who needs a helper. it's Mr. Blues. He's been in the hospital now for two days. He is getting a little bluer. Would you like your blanket tucked in a little bit, Mr. Blues?

Mr. Blues: Oh, yes, thank you.

Mary: And I will check the monitors while I'm here. I do think you're getting better, but you're ready for some medicine now. Let me feed you first. [She gives him a crumb.]

Mr. Blues: Mary, I feel a little less blue each time you come to see me. Even though it's night, I seem to feel the sunshine in the room. You are so kind to me.

Mary: Oh course, Mr. Blues. We must be kind to everyone, to animals and to people also. That's what makes it fun to be a nurse.

MB: Can you teach me how to be kind?

Mary: I can teach you a song about kindness.

[Adapt these shortened lyrics to the tune of Be Kind.]

<https://www.fullcirclelearning.org/music>

(Beauty Is What You Do CD, Track 3)

*Be kind to your fellow men. Be kind to your furry friends.
When you give your horse some hay, pat his nose till he says neigh.
When you go to bed at night, kiss your mama a soft good night.
Be kind to your fellow men. Be kind to your furry friends.*

(Mr. Blues begins to softly snore.)

Mary: Tee hee hee. I think he is snoring. He must be asleep. Music sometimes calms people very nicely. I am going to write that in my little book about how to be a good helper. Maybe other nurses can try it. Maybe you can try it when someone at home doesn't feel well. If you sing to them, they will surely feel better.

Do you have anything else you would like me to write down? How do you help mummy and daddy when they don't feel well? I look forward to hearing your good ideas, because I know you are good helpers at home, just like the nurses in the hospital.

Oh, look. Mr. Blues is so much better. He's hardly blue anymore. He gets to go home now to his loving house. The people at home will make sure he stays well, because love always makes us feel better.

Don't you feel better when there's love and unity in your home? That's something you can create without even being a nurse!

Well I have to go, because many more patients are calling me.

Narrator: Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale helped many people. You too will help many people as you grow older, just as you help your mommy and daddy now, especially when they need a little extra rest.

Remember what your friend Mary Seacole says: Work together and be kind to others, and they will feel your love.

Mary: Speaking of rest, here comes my friend, Florence Nightingale. Did you rest well?

Florence: Oh, yes, I feel so much better.

Mary: Then we all feel well now, well enough to take a bow. Come join us, Mr. Blues.

Mr. Blues: Oh, thank you, thank you. I feel so good – and so loved!

Florence: Let's bow together then, one-two-three.

[They bow. The fabric then drops over their heads.]

Making Hand Puppets:

See following pages for examples of puppets made from stockings or slippers. Facial features can be made of buttons, jewelry or paper.

Hand puppets can alternately be made simply by drawing the characters on paper, cutting them out, and attaching the drawings to plastic or paper shopping bags.

Alternate Idea:

Students may role play the parts as actors in a skit, using puppets at all.



Sock Puppet Assembly:

This nurse puppet consisted of a brown sock, a white and blue sock and earrings for features.

A fabric scrap can be substituted for a stocking. Loosely stitched buttons work just as well for features. The socks can be reused once the puppets are disassembled.



To show a variation, this puppet was made with a lady's slipper. The white protective mask, made of a folded paper tissue, covers up the exposed hand. The slipper's tassels added extra interest and seemed to suggest eyebrows.

Note that the earrings used as eyes are mismatched, but the children found this endearing. Even nurses need not be physically perfect!

Pins can be used to secure the mask.



Mr. Blues:

Using odd-shaped eyes or ears gave this character a comic effect. Multiple hues in the sock suggests that he is continually either getting better or getting worse. However, one color is fine. Use whatever you have! We tucked Mr. Blues into an orange “blanket.”

Backdrop:

Puppeteers can kneel behind a chair with a fabric draped over it, holding their characters up from underneath the cloth.



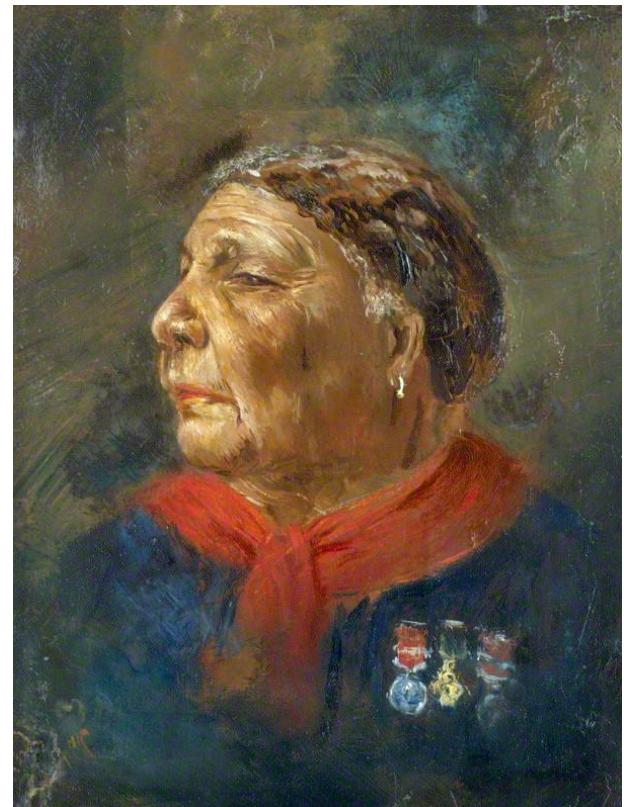


Nurses Who Practiced Unity

Mary Seacole, a Caribbean nurse from Kingston, Jamaica, lived from 1805 – 1881. She became famous for helping the sick and wounded, especially during the Crimean War. She became known as Mother Seacole.

Mary's mother ran a boarding house and, as a child, she helped her mother tend the many wounded soldiers brought there. She learned a lot from her mother and from the doctors who came as guests.

In 1850, many people in Jamaica and Panama came down with cholera. Mary's skills were needed. She traveled around and helped heal the people. Then when war broke out, she used money she had made selling jam and pickled to buy her own medical supplies, so she could set sail for the battlefield. She rode out across the field horseback amid gunfire, risking her own life to save the wounded soldiers.





Florence Nightingale was born in Italy, 15 years later than Mary Seacole, on another continent. She came from a wealthy family, and her parents did not want her to become a nurse, but one day when she was praying in the garden, she felt called to go serve the sick in this way. She resolved to follow the calling and become a nurse.

Florence admired Elizabeth Fry, a nurse who had worked for better prison conditions. When the war broke out, she was sent by her

country to go help the soldiers and to take some nurses with her. She selected nurses who had been trained by **Elizabeth Fry** and went to reduce the suffering due to war. At first, Florence and her nurses were only allowed to do basic cleaning duties, but the doctors became so overworked, they finally let the nurses care for the patients.

Florence wrote down all the reforms and changes that needed to occur, later included in her published works. Some were simple things, such as checking on patients throughout the night. She instituted "night rounds" so that those who survived by day wouldn't die at night. For this reason, she became known as "The Lady of the Lamp."

Like her friend Mary Seacole at the front lines, she spent her life trying to improve hospital conditions. She also began training programs that have shaped modern nursing. She wrote a lot about women and insisted they be able to play a more active, less passive role in society.

Society and health have both improved because these women showed unity beyond their own borders.

Discussion Questions

1. What countries of origin did Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale represent?
2. Why did Mary Seacole become a nurse?
3. What disease did she first treat in Jamaica and Panama?
4. Why did Florence Nightingale become a nurse?
5. How did Elizabeth Fry inspire Florence?
6. How did Mary Seacole save money for her nursing supplies?
7. How did she show courage on the battlefield as a nurse?
8. Why were nurses finally allowed to give care during the war?
9. What did Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole both do for the next generation of nurses?
- 10.What did Florence say about the unity of men and women?