Hoopoe Teaching-Stories™
The Wisdom of Ahmad Shah Paper Bag Puppets

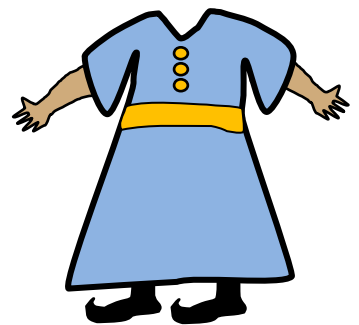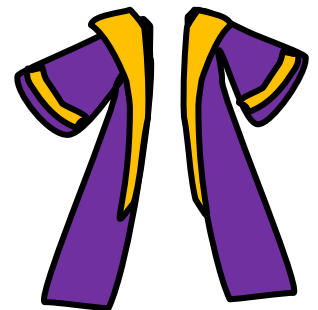With bag over hand, move the puppet's mouth.

Materials you will need: lunch-size paper bags, colored pencils, crayons, markers, glue, paste spreader, colored construction paper or cardstock, tape, scissors, stapler, newsprint for desks or tables, paperclips. *Optional:* tissue paper, wrapping paper, old shopping bags, wallpaper scraps, feathers, foil, beads, buttons, fabric scraps, plastic eyes, etc.

1. With a piece of cardstock or construction paper about the same size as the bottom flap of the bag, draw and color the top part of the King's face (eyes, cheeks, ears and nose). Or, glue on plastic eyes, colored paper eyes, cheeks, etc. Draw and cut out a beard with a mouth, and glue it on the lower part of the face. Allow the entire piece to dry before gluing onto the flap of the bag. Set aside to dry while constructing the turban.

2. For the King's Turban: Choose contrasting colored construction paper, outline and cut out the turban with one color, making sure it will fit on top of the head piece. Glue on contrasting stripes using a different color paper and decorate with a paper or real feather. When this is dry, apply turban to the face piece using paperclips (this allows you to exchange the different turbans between the King and the "Disguised-King" as needed for the story. See also Step 4 below for the "Disguised-King's" clothing.)
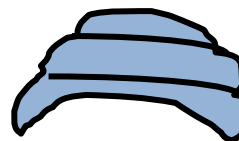
3. For the King's Tunic: Construct the King's clothing by cutting out pieces of construction paper for the tunic and over-garment about the same width as the paper bag. (See example on the right.) Decorate the tunic with a belt and buttons. Glue the 2 pieces of over-garment to the tunic. Cut out hands/ arms and shoes and glue them to the back of the tunic. Decorate the over-garment with contrasting paper or with pieces of fabric or rick-rack. When this is dry, glue the entire piece onto the front of the bag, making sure not to glue the bag shut.

4. For the "Disguised-King's" Turban & Tunic: Draw and cut out a "ragged" tunic using crumpled paper to represent the disguised king as a poor ragged citizen. Draw and cut out a plain turban. The tunic can be applied over top the King's fine tunic using paperclips, and the turban can replace the finer turban with clips.

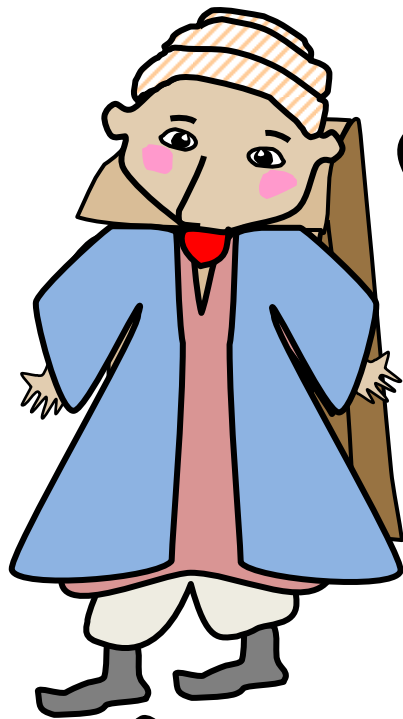See next page for patterns for the Cobbler/Grand Vizier and other props.

Puppet Theater Ideas

- Place a tablecloth or sheet over a table and students sit under table and extend their puppets out from under the cloth to do their dialogues.

- Cut a rectangular window in a large cardboard box (such as an appliance box) on the front, and a "stage door" in the back. Have 1-2 students go inside box and perform their skits through the window.

- Place chairs facing each other and have students sit and perform their skits to each other. Have these puppets available in a drama center or storage bin for use whenever wanted.

5. For the Cobbler/Grand Vizier: Construct the top part of the face as done in Step 1 above, except leave off the beard. Draw and cut out a simple turban, glue on top of head. Glue the entire piece to the flap of the bag. Draw and cut out the parts for the tunic, over-garment, trousers. Glue these pieces together as shown below. Glue the hands and feet to the back of the piece, then glue the entire piece to the front of the bag. Cut out and glue a red tongue under the flap.
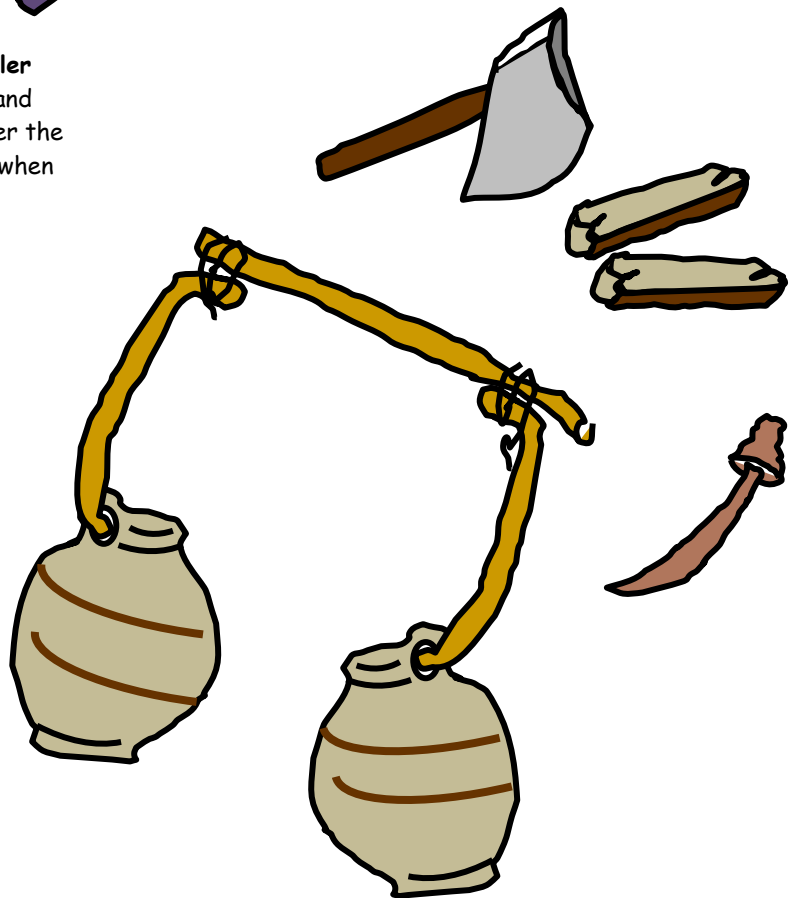
6. Other props: Draw and cut out other props, such as a sword, an axe, firewood, water carrier, and so on. These props can be attached by paperclips when needed. Or, glue them onto pencils or sticks to move when telling the story. You may want to create other characters, such as the guards and townspeople by using the instructions in this guide.

The Poor Cobbler
(paperclip a Grand Vizier's turban over the cobbler's turban when needed)

Ideas for the Palace Guard and Old Woman Citizen

Allow the puppets to dry completely before use. Sometimes an extra bit of glue, tape or stapling needs to be applied for stabilization. HAVE FUN!