

**TEACHER'S GUIDE TO**

# **The Fisherman & His Wife**



**Based on the fairy-tales of Brother's Grimm and Alexander Pushkin  
with music of Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov**

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**Feel free to make as many copies as needed.**

**A Production of PUPPET ARTS THEATRE  
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## **ABOUT THE SHOW:**

The theme of “The Fisherman & His Wife” is about greed and uncontrolled wishing for the impossible. Similar versions appear in many stories and fairy tales across the world. Those of the Brothers Grimm and the verses of Alexander Pushkin are the most prominent. Our version, with a new surprising ending, is an entertaining tale with an important moral to tell.

The story, accompanied by the music of Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov, features extra-large hand puppets. Puppeteers, manipulating the puppets from below, are sometimes visible and sometimes invisible to the audience. Large, eight foot tall towers rotate and reveal new settings for each scene. Children from the audience participate in the coronation ball and perform with puppets in the under-the-water scene.

The background music is from Korsakov's musical suites “The Tale of Tsar Saltan” and “The Golden Cockerel.”

## **OBJECTIVES:**

### Language Arts Objectives:

1. The student identifies and describes the actions, traits, emotions, and feelings of the three characters from a story: Fisherman, Katherina, his wife, and the Queen Fish.
2. The student recalls story details.
3. The student recognize sequential relationship.
4. The student predicts outcomes of a story.

### Social Studies Objective:

1. Locate and label continents and countries:  
The story came from European continent country called Germany and the music is from Russia.

### Writing Objectives:

1. Express thoughts through writing.
2. Explores various genres (folk tales and fairy tales)

## **BEFORE THE SHOW**

1. Introduce the students to folk tales and fairy tales by asking the children if they have ever heard any folk or fairy tales. Discuss how folk tales, stories or legends, originated among common people. What is the difference between folk tales and fairy tales?
2. Locate Europe on a map and discuss that Europe is a continent and have student locate Europe on a globe.

3. Introduce the name of the puppet show The Fisherman & His Wife.
4. Discuss what vision the name brings to mind. Discuss each term; discuss what is found in waters, rivers, lakes, seas and oceans.
5. Introduce characters that they will be hearing and seeing in the puppet show - the Fisherman, Katherina, his wife, the Queen of the Sea.
6. Discuss that the story that will be presented in the puppet show is a European fairy tale - can you name other fairy tales and folk tales from Europe?
7. Discuss Brothers Grimm, professors at a university, who in 1800s, went from village to village and collected folk tales and fairy tales that were passed down from generation to generation.
8. Remind students to listen carefully to the story. Think about how each character felt.
9. Remind students that most folk tales and fairy tales had morals. Listen for the moral to the story.
10. Remind the students that sequencing means putting things in order and that they will need to be able to sequence the story.
11. Have children define vocabulary words from the story and explain that these words will be used throughout the show.

fisherman	actor	puppeteer	volunteer	neighbor
rich	poor	queen	governor	king
livelihood	demand	order (verb)	order (noun)	greed
coronation	chamberlain	sea-grass	hut	moral

## **AFTER THE SHOW**

1. Discuss the story together in class.
2. Have some of the children tell the story in sequence.
3. Discuss some of the characters in the story. Have the students write a brief character sketch of their favorite character.
4. Discuss the moral of the story and some of the details that support it.
5. Have the students sequence the story in their own words by writing character descriptions, and details that would support the moral.
6. Have students draw their favorite part of the story.