

Pass The Poetry Please

Suggestions for Pre and or Post Performance Activities.

Have class create a poem to music

Take a basic tune - children's nursery rhymes are a good start

Like Baa Baa Black Sheep

Sing the first line to the class once or twice

Then sing it again substituting the first couple of words and singing dah for the rest of the line and have students replace the dahs.

In our school grounds dah dah dah dah dah.

or

In our school grounds dah dah dah dah fun.

or

In our school room we dah lots dah dah

How much guidance you give should depend on the age of the students. For K/preps to 2 have them to come up with the end word for both the second and fourth lines is a great start.

If you are being very free form

A great website to find rhymes from is

<http://www.rhymezone.com>

These are the two we came up with - with help from rhymezone.com

In our school grounds we have lots of fun

Chasing friends, around we run.

If we catch them, it's their turn to chase

We then turn around and off we race

Now children here's something you must learn

When out in the sun your skin will burn

always wear a hat upon your head

Or your skin will get very sore and red.

Make an Acrostic

Acrostic – This is a poem in which the first letter of each line forms a word - A word-puzzle is constructed this way.

This can either be a class exercise with every student offering suggestions, with you choosing which to write on the board

or

Have each student write each letter of their name down the left side of the page.

P
E
T
E
R

then have them write a word or two for each letter that forms a sentence

Peter
Eats
Tomatoes
Every
Rainy day

then have them write words that describes themselves

Perfect
Elegant
Tremendous
Energetic
Reliable

For the older students try writing a poem.

Possums in the daytime sleep up in our tree
Every night the noise they make always wakes me
Two possums three possums often a lot more
Every night those possums are knocking at my door
Repeatedly I beg them, stop, I can't take anymore.

Find all the words you can.

P	o	e	m	s	a	r	e
a	t	f	e	r	r	o	t
s	h	r	i	f	t	a	e
s	e	e	d	y	a	m	a
t	r	e	e	s	y	a	h
h	p	e	r	f	e	c	t
e	r	i	p	e	s	f	a
p	e	i	r	a	t	e	n
o	s	p	a	t	h	e	n
e	s	a	s	h	e	l	f
m	u	m	i	e	n	s	a
s	e	a	r	r	e	s	t

Did you find - eider - ? From the second letter down in the 4th Column is the word eider. It is a special, very soft duck feather.

Try making the string shapes that Old Mother Hubbard made during the show

The parachute



Place string in left hand
over thumb & little finger.
With right hand pull string
all the way down.



Grab string between
index finger and thumb
and pull string all the
way down



N.B. Put your right hand
in through the large
hanging loop and grab
with your little finger of
your right hand the string
as shown.



Grab the thumb string with your right thumb as shown. Then pull both through as shown in the next two photo



Still holding the two strings with your right little finger and thumb, lift the strings up above the left hand.

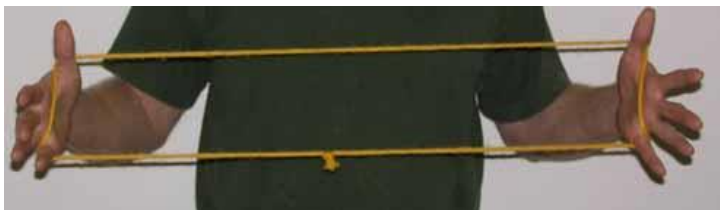


Grab and pull string as shown



The Parachute

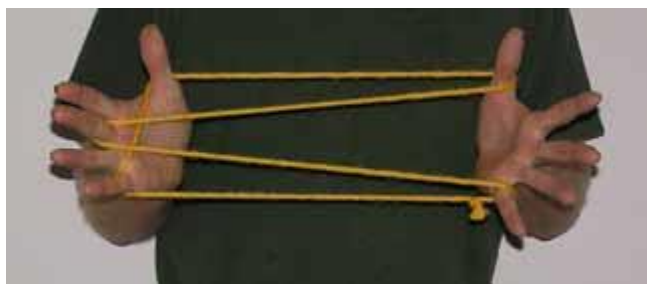
The cup and saucer



Start with your string looped around your thumb and little finger of each hand as shown



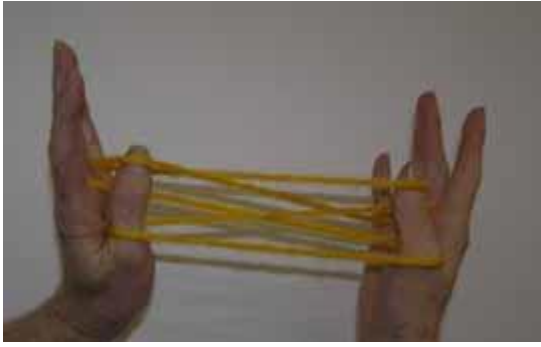
With middle finger of the right hand pick up the string from the left hand as shown



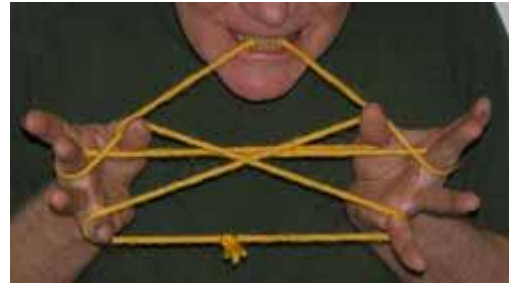
With the middle finger on your left hand pick up the string from the base of the middle finger on your right hand.



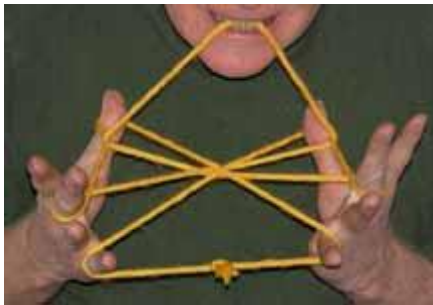
Bring your thumbs over the top of the first string from the middle fingers and then under the next string (Second string round the middle finger)



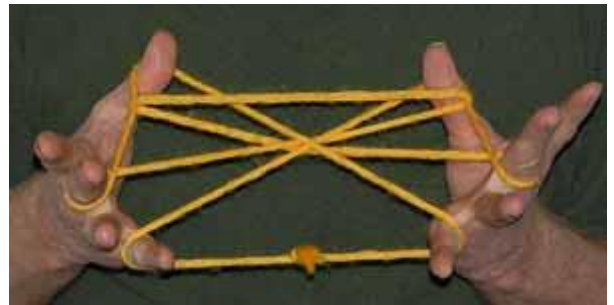
Now with your teeth, grab the lower of the two strings around your thumb



N.B. Make sure that the remaining string that is around both thumbs stays there,



bring your thumbs down and under the string that is in your mouth. *N.B. So now the string that was behind your thumbs in the previous photo is in front of them*



Release the string from your mouth.
Release the string from your little fingers



The cup and saucer.

Another after the performance discussion - What is a cautionary tale?

Cautionary tales, fables and stories have been told for thousands of years to teach children and remind adults of the dangers of the world.

Little Red Riding Hood reminds us not to speak to strangers, particularly in the woods or in other isolated places.

Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs teaches us to be wary of strangers offering gifts. Snow White eats the juicy red apple given to her by the stranger at the door and falls into a deep sleep because the apple has been poisoned.

The final poem in Pass The Poetry Please is called Mary. It is performed by a very nervous little girl called Mary. Mary is a humanette puppet who, encouraged by her mother, tries to recite

Mary Had A Little Lamb but repeatedly gets it wrong. What Little Mary ends up reciting is a poem she makes up about riding her bike very fast. Mary gets very carried away with her poem and her Mother makes her change the ending.

Speak to your students about cautionary stories and discuss whether the poem ‘Mary’ was a cautionary tale/poem.

What is the caution or message in the poem ‘Mary’?

Was the poem funny?

Once the character reciting the poem got over her nerves at being made to recite a poem in front of everyone, she becomes rather cheeky. Did this detract/take away from the message in the poem or make you, the audience more likely to listen and pay attention to the poem?

A cautionary Tale from 1907.

The following poem JIM is now copyright free and in the public domain. Reciting this to your student would show how long cautionary poems have been told to children and show how turning a serious situation into a humorous situation has been used to get a message/a caution across to children for many years.

Ask your students how old they think the poem is. Do they think it was written recently or years ago? What are the words or expression in the poem that hint at the poems age?

The poem comes from a book called Cautionary Tales For Children published in 1907 written by a man called Hilaire Belloc.

JIM - *Who ran away from his Nurse, and was eaten by a Lion.*

There was a boy whose name was Jim;
His friends were very good to him.
They gave him tea, and cakes, and jam,
And slices of delicious ham,
And chocolate with pink inside
And little tricycles to ride,
And read him stories through and through,
And even took him to the zoo—
But there it was the dreadful fate
Befell him, which I now relate.

You know—at least you ought to know,
For I have often told you so—
That children never are allowed
To leave their nurses in a crowd;
Now this was Jim's especial foible,
He ran away when he was able,
And on this inauspicious day
He slipped his hand and ran away!

He hadn't gone a yard when—Bang!
With open jaws, a lion sprang,
And hungrily began to eat
The boy: beginning at his feet.
Now, just imagine how it feels
When first your toes and then your heels,
And then by gradual degrees,
Your shins and ankles, calves and knees,
Are slowly eaten, bit by bit.
No wonder Jim detested it!

No wonder that he shouted ``Hi!

The honest keeper heard his cry,
Though very fat he almost ran
To help the little gentleman.
``Ponto! *he ordered as he came*
(For Ponto was the lion's name),
``Ponto! *he cried, with angry frown,*
``Let go, Sir! Down, Sir! Put it down!
The lion made a sudden stop,
He let the dainty morsel drop,
And slunk reluctant to his cage,
Snarling with disappointed rage.
But when he bent him over Jim,
The honest keeper's eyes were dim.
The lion having reached his Head,
The miserable boy was dead!

When nurse informed his parents, they
Were more concerned than I can say:--
His mother, as she dried her eyes,
Said, ``Well - it gives me no surprise,
He would not do as he was told!
His father, who was self-controlled,
Bade all the children round attend
To James's miserable end,
And always keep a-hold of nurse
For fear of finding something worse.

Cautionary Tales today are often produced as films or videos

The link below is to a modern day cautionary tale.

It is an infomercial from Britain called Jigsaw and is aimed at 8 to 10 year olds. Personally I think it is more aimed at 10 to 13 years old. It is about 8 minutes long and does end much more positively than the first half would suggest that it is going to.

Watch it and judge for yourself if you can incorporate it into a lesson. It deals with cyber bullying.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_o8auwnJtqE

Also see our Teachers' Notes for our other poetry show
Pick a Peck of Pickled Poems.