

About the Competition

The Story to Stage Puppetry Competition for Primary Schools is organised by the NET Section of the Education Bureau. The Puppetry Team of the NET Section provides a professional development workshop and a cluster meeting for teachers of participating schools. Professional advice will also be given to schools to help enrich the learning and teaching of English language through puppetry. This competition supports our commitment to catering for learner diversity and our belief that by creating a variety of learning opportunities, we can meet the needs of different students and foster their language and whole-person development.

Puppetry is an effective and versatile learning tool with a unique approach to the development of literacy skills in a fun and engaging manner. To enable students to make the most of the competition, it would be preferable if the EDB native-speaking English teacher (NET) and a local English teacher (LET) could collaborate to train and support a team of three to five students from KS1, KS2, or a combination of both. Teachers are expected to guide the students through selecting a story, devising a script, designing puppets and props, and applying puppetry skills in their performance.

In situations where they are not deployed to directly support the competition, EDB NETs could contribute in one or more of the following ways:

- helping with selecting a story and script writing;
- offering training in pronunciation, and/or voice expression and projection;
- advising on the use of puppetry techniques and/or puppet design;
- advising on the use of special effects; and
- giving comments during rehearsals.

Please refer to the menu on the left-hand side of our website

(<https://nets.edb.hkedcity.net/page.php?p=406>) to explore the range of support services and resources offered by the Puppetry Team.

Events and Schedule

Important events, venues and dates:

Event	Venue	Date
(1) Application Period for the Story to Stage Puppetry Competition for Primary Schools 2024/25	Online application	2 Sep 2024 (Mon) – 15 Nov 2024 (Fri)
(2) “Teaching English Through Puppetry” Workshop (Re-run)	NET Section, Room 1120, 11/F, Tsuen Wan Multi-storey Carpark Building, 174-208 Castle Peak Road, Tsuen Wan	2 Oct 2024 (Wed) / 3 Oct 2024 (Thu)
(2) Cluster Meeting for Schools joining the Story to Stage Puppetry Competition for Primary Schools 2024/25 (Refreshed)	The meeting will be held on Zoom.	28 Nov 2024 (Thu)
(3) Story to Stage Puppetry Competition for Primary Schools 2024/25	Via video submission. For details, please refer to Rules & Roles and Adjudication sections.	10 Feb 2025 (Mon) – 8 Apr 2025 (Tue) *Late submissions will NOT be accepted
(4) Prize-giving Celebration	The first-prize winner of each session will be invited to perform at the Prize-giving Celebration.	Jun 2025

Rules and Roles

Schedule for video submission and adjudication:

- Video submission: any time from 10 February to 8 April 2025. Late submissions will NOT be accepted.
- Schools will be grouped for adjudication through a computerised lottery system.
- The judging will be conducted from mid-April to May 2025. The results will be announced on the e-platform. Winning schools will be informed of their results by email, and a letter will be sent to their principals.
- The first prize winner of each session will be invited to perform in the Prize-giving Celebration, which will be held in June.

Submission of the video:

Step 1

The video should be in MP4 format.

Step 2

Title the video, e.g. ABC Primary School_The Three Little Pigs.

Step 3

Upload your school's video to a folder in your school's Google Drive.

Step 4

Submit the link via the NET Section's Video Entry Submission Form.

(to be provided in due course)

Step 5

Please make sure that the link you shared is set to "anyone with the link".

Adjudication:

Rules for video editing:

- There should be **no zooming** in on the puppets while students' performance is being video recorded; the camera should be in a fixed position for the duration of the show.
- Sound effects can only be used during the video-recording of students' performance and not added afterwards.
- The visual and sound quality should be good enough for adjudication purposes.
- No post-production editing or addition of special effects/sound effects is permitted.
- Entries should be one shot with no cuts or edits. (The video entry is supposed to represent a 'live' puppet show.)
- Backdrops should be 'real'. 'Virtual' backdrops, e.g. using a projector or green screen, are NOT permitted.

Remark: If schools do not follow the above rules, marks will be deducted.

Reminders:

- Use the puppetry tent with real backdrops and props.
- The tent may be borrowed from the NET Section (<https://nets.edb.hkedcity.net/page.php?p=434>) or your school may purchase one.
- As one of the activities in support of the Campaign on "Promoting Positive Values and Attitudes through English Sayings of Wisdom 2024/25", the puppetry competition this year encourages participating schools to incorporate into their puppetry performance the campaign's sub-themes: "Resilience", "Empowerment", "Appreciation" and "Delight".
- For samples of the final product of the winners' videos, please refer to this link: <https://nets.edb.hkedcity.net/page.php?p=466>

- Please take a **photo of the performing students with their puppets in their hands and the two teacher coordinators.**
- The photograph should be shot right after the video shooting and submitted with the video in the Video Entry Submission Form.

(1) Expectations

Schools are encouraged to:

- send the teacher(s) new to the puppetry competition to attend the professional development workshop on puppetry in October 2024 and the cluster meeting scheduled for November 2024 respectively.

Teachers will need to:

- participate fully in all puppetry activities at the professional development workshop;
- use what they have learnt to prepare their students for the competition.

Students will need to:

- participate fully in any training sessions organised by their teachers in preparation for the competition; and
- participate in the competition by staging and performing a 5 to 7-minute puppet show.

(2) Conditions of Entry

- The Story to Stage Puppetry Competition Entry Form must be submitted by **15 November 2024**. Late applications will NOT be accepted.
- Certificates of Appreciation will be distributed to participating schools at the end of the competition.

(3) Student Participants

- Each school can enter multiple teams, but each entry must be unique, featuring a different storyline, set of characters, and other distinguishing elements.
- If our judges consider that two entries from the same school are too similar (same characters/same storyline/similar storyline with small adjustments), both entries will be invalidated.
- The decision of the adjudicators will be considered final.
- The team must be made up of 3-5 students from either KS1, KS2, or a combination of both. All students involved should play a part in the performance.

(4) Performance

- The puppet show should be 5-7 minutes in length.
- For shows that run over the time limit, 10 marks will be deducted for every minute or part of a minute exceeding the allowed performance time.
- Shows that are shorter than 5 minutes may suggest inadequate script development, potentially impacting scores in the Language aspect of the judging criteria.

(5) Preparation

- Teams may use commercial and/or hand-made puppets.
- Puppets with movable mouths and limbs are highly recommended.
- Scripts should be practised, revised and refined prior to the competition.
- Time your performance to avoid penalties.
- Teams must provide their own music/sound effects.

Adjudication

- The judging panel may include representatives from the EDB and outside organisations with experience in drama, puppetry and English teaching.
- The decision of the judging panel will be considered final. No correspondence will be entered into after the results have been announced.

Judging Criteria

1. Language (40%)
 - Script
 - Range of vocabulary
 - Pronunciation and fluency
 - Expression in voice and audibility
2. Puppetry (40%)
 - Puppetry techniques
 - Puppet design and relevance
3. Special effects (20%)
 - Backdrop design and scene changes
 - Use of props
 - Sound and music effects
 - Visual effects

Awards and Prizes

- First Prize Trophy
- Second Prize Trophy
- Third Prize Trophy
- Merit Award
- Theme Prize for the SOW Campaign 2024/25
- All participants will receive a certificate!

Support

- There will be a workshop for teachers new to the competition in October 2024, followed by a cluster meeting in November 2024.
- For enquiries and support, please contact your Advisory Teacher.