

## **~~--CURRICULUMGUIDE--~~**

### **TEARS OF JOY PUPPET THEATRE**

Tears of Joy brings amazing puppet theatre to audiences throughout the U.S. and abroad. Founded in 1971, the theatre is recognized nationally for its commitment to excellence and innovation. Tears of Joy has received a Governor's Arts Award, and a Young Audiences, Sunburst Award for its exemplary commitment to arts in education.

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### **FABULOUS BEAR**

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### **Jan Wilkowski, Author**

*Fabulous Bear* was written by Mr. Jan Wilkowski, Poland's famous director of the puppet stage. It was originally written and produced in 1960 for Mr. Wilkowski's television program in Poland. This story was so well loved by children in Poland that Mr. Wilkowski wrote five more plays about other adventures of this endearing bear. For more than 40 years Mr. Wilkowski worked in a world where everything was possible. Through these delightful puppet tales, he opened the universe of imagination to the children of Poland and those in other countries. The script was translated into English by Kaja Perkowski, who also acted as interpreter for Mr. Wilkowski, when he worked with Tears of Joy Theatre in 1990.

##### **Synopsis of the Story**

*Fabulous Bear* tells the tale of a small bear, Timothy Rymchimchi, who plays like a child and dreams of having a pet. Timothy is sent to the store to get an egg for supper. On the way home he finds a puppy and wants to keep it, but his father says "NO". At night Timothy lets the puppy into his bedroom. Later that night a burglar comes to rob the bears and the puppy chases the fox and brings back the stolen goods. Father Bear decides that the puppy can stay. It is a heartwarming tale of loneliness and friendship.

#### **STYLE OF PUPPETRY**

Hand-rod puppets are used in his production. The puppets are held above the heads of the puppeteers and the puppeteers are not seen during the play. The puppets used in this performance were designed and created in Poland by Adam Killian in 1960. While their style may remind you of "muppets", they were created before the muppets.

#### **CHARACTERS**

Timothy Rymchimchi	A young bear (Rim-chim-chee)
Father Bear	Timothy's father
Chicken	She lays an egg for Timothy
Puppy	A stray puppy who is dirty and smelly
Fox	He is a burglar who comes to steal
Lonely Dogs	They sing a sad song

### **BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE**

Talk about other stories with bears or animals as the main characters.

### **AFTER THE PERFORMANCE**

1. Draw a picture of your favorite character in the play. Tell why you liked that character.
2. Use the designs in this curriculum guide to create finger or stick puppets. Ask the children to perform their own versions of *Fabulous Bear*.
3. What feelings did you have during the play? Do you ever feel like Timothy? When?
4. Have you ever brought home a stray dog or cat? What did your father or mother say? Were you allowed to keep the animal? How did you feel?
5. This story is about animals with human characteristics. This is called “personification”. How does personification make a story come alive? Name other familiar stories that use personification. (Peter Rabbit, Goldilocks & the Three Bears, The Three Little Pigs, etc.)
6. Locate Poland on a map. On what continent is it? What countries are Poland’s neighbors?