



VISUALIZING STORIES

BRINGING YOUR IDEA TO LIFE

FOR Clay & Paper Theatre

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GLOSSARY



ANY WORDS HIGHLIGHTED IN ORANGE 🍂 YOU WILL
FIND IN THE GLOSSARY AT THE END OF THIS ZINE!

1

TYPES OF STORIES

STORIES COME IN ALL DIFFERENT SHAPES AND STYLES. THEY CAN BE DRIVEN BY PLOT AND CHARACTERS OR AN IDEA, FEELING OR THEME.

SOMETIMES STORIES HAVE A LESSON THEY HOPE THE AUDIENCE WILL TAKE AWAY AND OFTEN A STORY IS TOLD IN A *linear* ORDER, FROM BEGINNING TO MIDDLE TO END. BUT THESE ARE NOT HARD RULES!

A STORY COULD START AT THE END AND WORK IT'S WAY BACK TO THE BEGINNING ~THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS! IT'S UP TO YOU TO DECIDE WHAT STORY YOU WANT TO TELL, AND YOU GET TO CHOOSE HOW TO TELL IT!

GETTING SOME IDEAS?

DON'T WORRY!

TOO MANY?

NOT ENOUGH?

THIS ZINE IS HERE TO HELP!

Remember!

THERE IS NO "WRONG" WAY TO TELL A STORY

2

FINDING INSPIRATION



Look out your window.

What do you see?

How do you feel?

Where are you?

What is different?

What has changed?

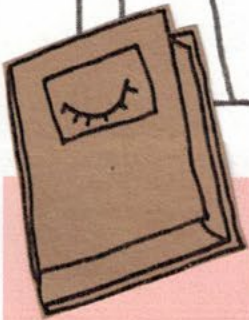
Look past your window.

Notice the world.

What does it look like?

How does it feel?

What is the view
from where you
are now?



Trying to tell the story you want to tell can be hard! Collect inspiration from your surroundings!

- Do you have a **poem** that interests you?
- What is going on in the **world**?
- Is there an object nearby that you find interesting to **look** at or **touch**?
- What themes are you drawn to when you search out a **book**, a **movie**, a **story**?
- What places/spaces make you feel **inspired**?
Is there an **untold story** there?
- How are you **feeling**?
- What memories do you want to **share**?

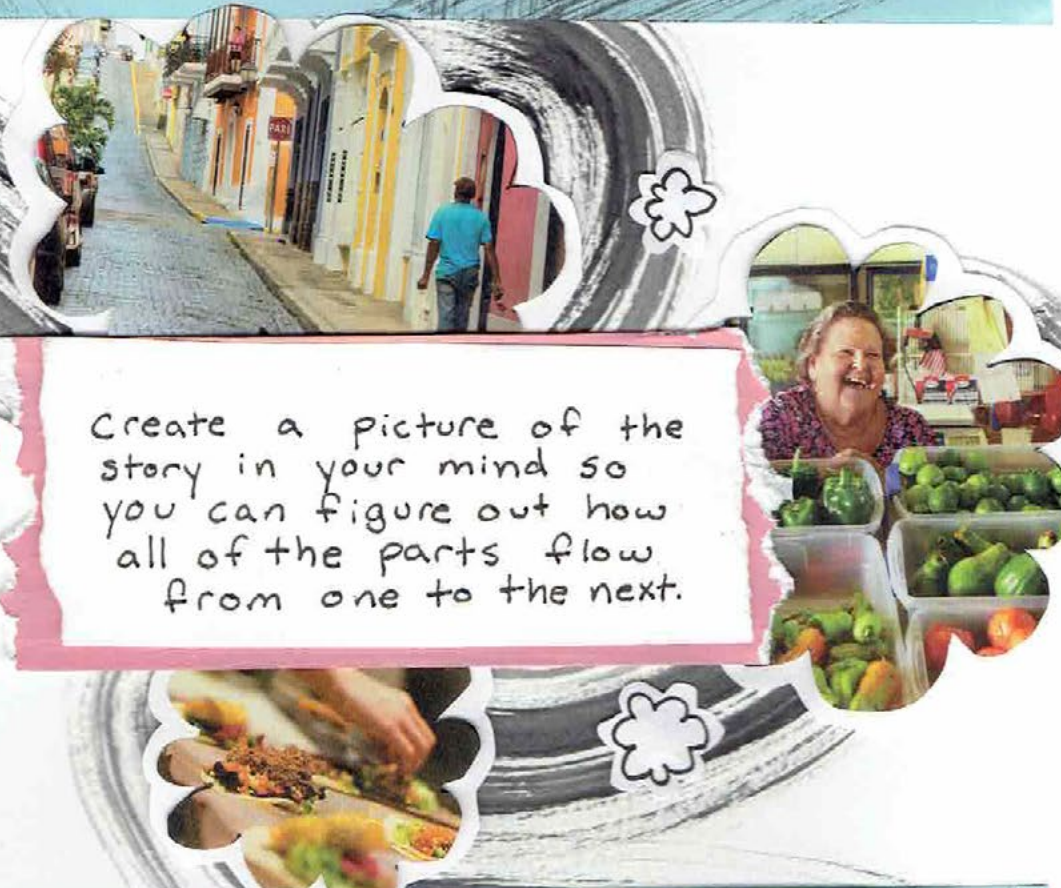
3

VISUALIZATION

So now you have an idea! **WAHOO!**
What's next, you ask? It's time to start

VISUALIZING

This step will look different for everyone.

A collage of images including a street scene, a person walking, and a woman smiling next to produce.

Create a picture of the story in your mind so you can figure out how all of the parts flow from one to the next.

you've gotta get that idea out of your head and onto paper! There are a bunch of ways to do this, and each one is useful in a different way. The way you visualize a **Fable** might be different from what you would do for a **non-linear** or **abstract** story!

OPTION 1: TRADITIONAL STORYBOARDING

Storyboarding is a great option for **narrative** stories, so you can map out all of the events that happen in order, from the beginning of the story through to the end.



3 Bears leave house.



Goldilocks enters house



G. sees porridge, goes around table



G. eats 1st bowl - too hot! Moves to 2nd bowl.



G. eats 2nd bowl - too cold! (Snow falls, Shivers) moves to 3rd bowl.



G. eats 3rd bowl - just right! "mmm!"

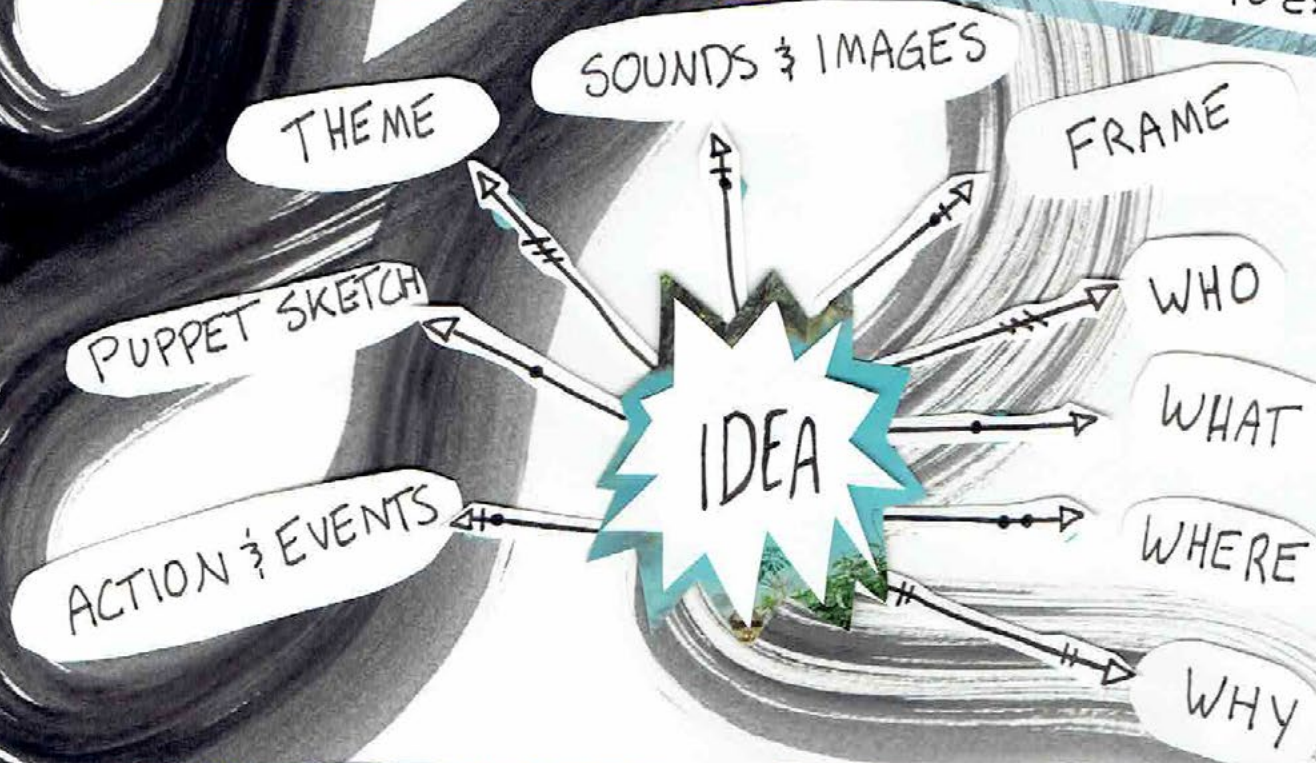
REMEMBER!

Using sticky notes means you can reorganize your panels as much as you want!

Got an idea that's less straightforward? Try one of the techniques on the next page!

OPTION 2: MIND MAP

Use a **Mind map** to collect and organize ideas that are relevant to the story you want to explore!



OPTION 3: FREE-FORM WRITING

Or start writing! Write a list of the major points in your story, or write a script with dialogue and stage directions!

≡ SCRIPT ≡

Bear: We'll never find our way home!

Robin: Don't worry, I'll fly above the trees and find the trail again!

(Robin flies away while Bear Paces nervously)

≡ POINT-FORM ≡

- Wind Swirls
- Sound of rain
- crashing thunder
- a ghost rises up
- more ghosts
- they dance together
- moon circles 3 times

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EDITING

OPTION 1

RE-READ AND MAKE NOTES ON IDEAS YOU MAY HAVE OR THINGS YOU WANT TO CHANGE.

OPTION 2

IF YOU HAVE A SCRIPT TRY READING IT OUTLOUD!
DOES IT MAKE SENSE?
DO THE WORDS FLOW?

OPTION 3

NO SCRIPT OR WRITTEN TEXT? PRETEND YOU HAVE AN AUDIENCE AND DO A RUN-THROUGH! WHAT'S WORKING? WHAT'S NOT WORKING?

OPTION 4

SECOND OPINIONS AREN'T NECESSARY BUT THEY CAN BE HELPFUL! TRY ASKING A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER TO TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR DRAFT. ASK THEM IF THEY UNDERSTAND WHAT YOUR STORY IS ABOUT!

Remember!

Your show should be about 3 minutes. Keep it simple, trim, and refine!

hat c whe farth he vi whet artic ly in k, a
inspired? Is there an unfold s
TITLE PAGE ~ VISUALIZ
Words hi

5

ACTIVITIES

CREATIVE WRITING



MATERIALS

PAPER

PENCIL

1. Set the timer and do five minutes of **FREE WRITING** inspired by the phrase "The view from Here". Don't think too hard, just try and write whatever first comes into your head. Don't read your work while writing. Let your brain flow onto the page.

2. Quickly look over your writing and find sentences and themes that stick out to you. Pick one and use this as a jumping off point for another five or ten minutes of free writing.

3. Keep pulling phrases from each new writing until you settle into a thought/feeling/theme that you want to explore for your paper theatre show. Continue or change the exercise as you wish!

EVERY DAY OBJECT STORYTELLING

1. Once you know the overall shape of your story, grab some random objects from around your house (to use as puppets) and try and tell your story with them. These may not be the puppets you will use in the final version of your piece but they can help develop the flow!

2. What feels right in the story? What doesn't make sense? What elements are you having fun with? What parts would you like to bring into your paper theatre?

3. This exercise is especially useful if your story is not based in text. If your story doesn't have any words, it's the actions that tell the viewer what is going on. So making them clear and simple is the way to go!

4. Find a friend or family member and ask them if they understand your story!

MATERIALS

★
A STORY
★

★
OBJECTS
★



6

GLOSSARY

Abstract: Something that is not part of concrete reality. Something you cannot touch

Allegory: A symbolic way of telling a narrative or story. It's a way to make an abstract idea concrete. An allegory can also be a way to teach or explain an idea or a lesson.

Fable: It's a way of telling a brief story that teaches a larger life lesson. Fables usually have animals as the main characters.

Free Writing: You write whatever comes into your head, quickly and without stopping. You keep going and try not to think about it too hard.

Linear: Something that moves straight forward, from beginning to middle, to end.

Metaphor: This is a really popular figure of speech. It describes an object or action in a way that isn't literally true, but helps explain an idea or make a comparison.

Mind Map: A diagram used to visually lay out information and represent ideas.

Narrative: A story or series of events and experiences.

Non-Linear: Something that moves or is experienced in a non-linear way. The beginning, middle, and end can be mixed up.

Storyboard: A series of sketched panels that outline the sequence of action in a story.

Theme: A unifying, main idea.

Visualizing: Using the imagination to form a mental picture of something.