



Instructions for making wooden story figures

Use the wooden story figure patterns on the next page to create wooden figures for use in Shine storytelling. Make one or more sets for each Early Childhood and Primary classroom. In Shine many stories are told with wooden figures, and children can retell the story using an extra set. Some Middler stories also suggest wooden figures as props.



1. Story figure patterns will fit on a standard 1 x 4 piece of lumber, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch minimum thickness is recommended for story figure stability.
2. Use various types of wood so that figures have a diversity of colors. Suitable soft woods include: pine, mahogany, walnut, cherry, soft maple. Use any wood that may have an interesting grain pattern or color.
3. Tape the patterns to the wood with double-sided tape and cut out figures with a scroll saw. Use a sharp blade in your scroll saw for operator safety and to reduce the amount of sanding required.
4. If figures do not stand well, sand the bottom to form a flat surface.
5. To finish your story figures, use a food safe or food grade oil finish that is available at most hardware or lumber stores, these oil finishes are safe for children. *Do not use* paint, polyurethane, shellac, varnish, or stain. If using finishes, avoid finishes that may be toxic for use by children.



