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## THE USE OF PUPPETS AS A STORYTELLING TOOL IN ART CLASSES FOR CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT, FOR 3RD GRADE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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### ABSTRACT

This article investigates the use of puppets as a pedagogical tool in art classes for the creative development of 3rd-grade elementary school students. Based on the premise that storytelling and play are fundamental to the learning process, the study analyzes how the making and manipulation of puppets influence student engagement, artistic expression, and social interaction. The qualitative research was conducted through participant observation and semi-structured interviews with 32 students from a municipal public school. The results indicate that the use of puppets significantly increased interest in classes, stimulated creativity in narrative creation, strengthened peer cooperation, and facilitated the expression of emotions and ideas. It concludes that the inclusion of this tool in art lesson planning constitutes an effective strategy for creating a dynamic, interactive learning environment conducive to the holistic development of students.

**Keywords:** Art Education. Puppets. Storytelling. Creativity. Elementary Education.