

# **Puppet play**

## **“The Soccer Socks”**

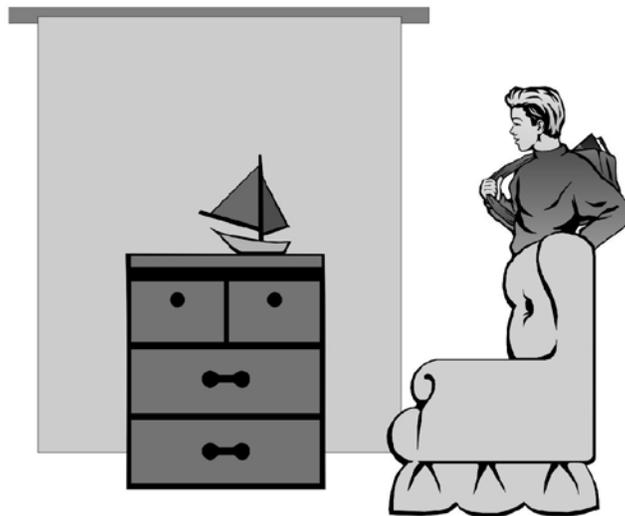
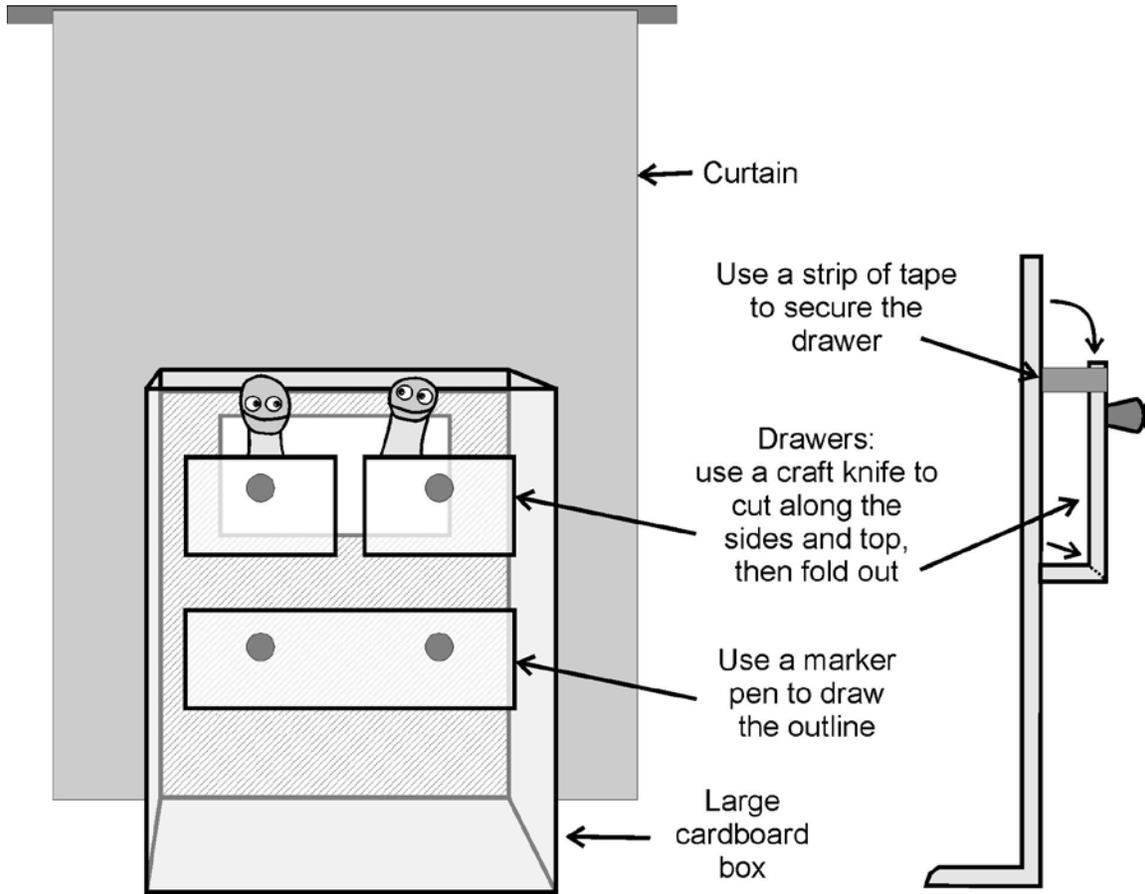
### ***1. Introduction***

This puppet play is designed to be simple, cheap and portable. Instead of expensive puppets, ordinary old (washed) socks are used. Buttons can be sewn on or round pieces of paper glued on to make eyes. The socks can reflect their various characters; e.g. the school socks are grey or brown; the soccer socks look sporty.

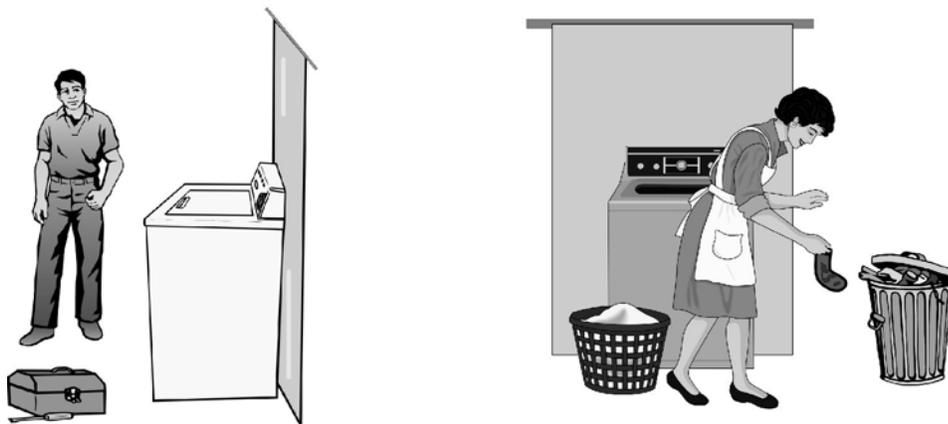
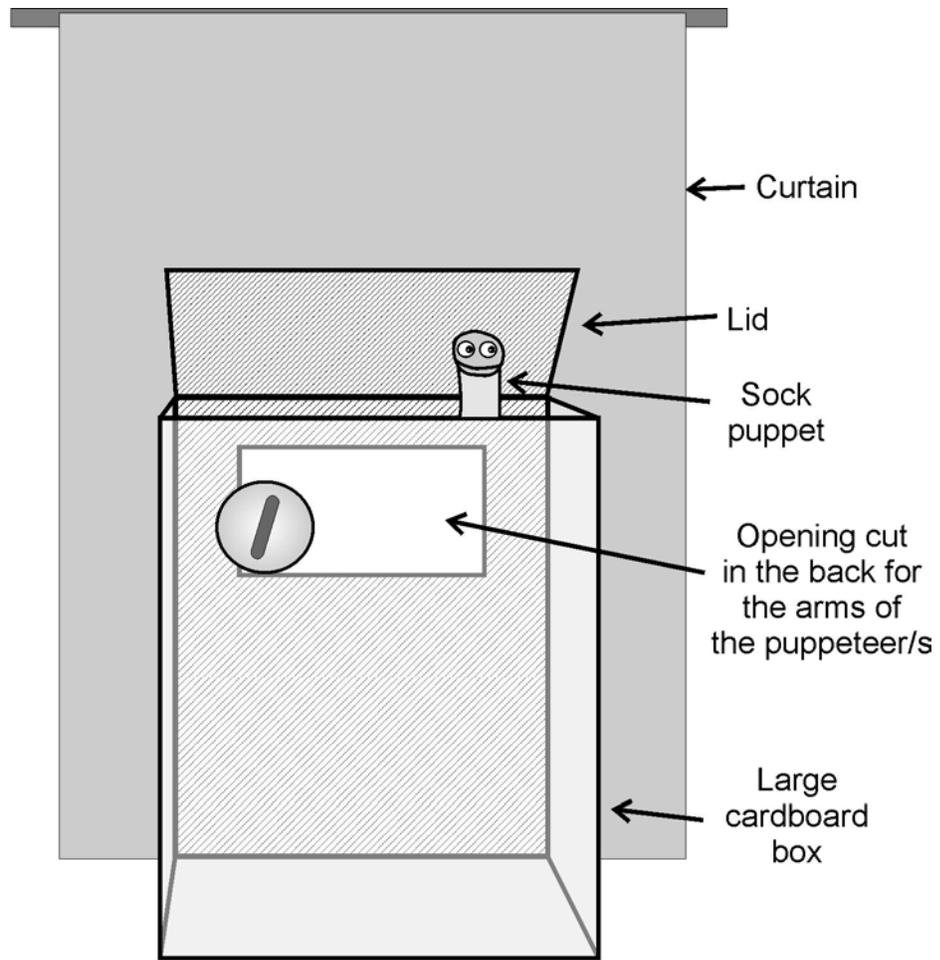
It is strongly recommended that a prerecording of the script be done as there are numerous characters (voices) involved. It will also allow the puppeteer/s to focus on the animations and the interchanging of puppets and ensure that the dialogue flows smoothly.

### ***2. Technical tips for putting on the show***

- If you are using a prerecorded voice track, the sound should come from the front, not from speakers on the side or behind the audience.
- It might be useful to construct the chest of drawers (dresser) and the washing machine with large cardboard boxes. A simple design of each is shown on the following two pages.



**Chest of drawers**



**Washing machine**

- Alternatively, a chest of drawers (dresser) can be painted on an old white sheet with a horizontal slit cut along the top of the drawers through which the puppets (socks) make their appearance. There are two small drawers on top with full-length drawers painted below. If the drawer slit is too floppy, paste a cardboard strip along the bottom of the slit.
- For the washing machine, use a second sheet with a simple outline of the machine drawn with the lid open towards the top. Cut a slit along the top of the machine for the puppets.
- Have two people hold the sheet, which is spanned between them. Ideally, have both sheets next to each other from the start so that there is a seamless transition between the scenes.

**Note:** Don't leave the sock characters lying around afterwards; rather keep them hidden or covered. Smaller children form quite a bond with the characters. Protect the sanctity of their imaginary world by respecting their friends.

### ***3. The script***

Three human characters interact with the socks:

- Bill
- Bill's mom
- The washing machine repairman

The people, who are part of the real world, obviously treat the socks as inanimate objects. Their part takes place in front of the chest of drawers and the washing machine.

#### ***The sock puppet characters:***

**Lefty:** loyal

**Reggie:** feels unworthy and frustrated

**Sally:** sensible, helpful

**Bella Beanie:** rude, bossy, intellectual (with attitude)

**Party Sock twins:** cool, with-it, excitable

**Girl Sock:** girly, sensitive

**Sleeve:** tactless, haughty

**Soccer Socks:** sporty, friendly

## *Scene 1 : Our hopes and dreams*

### **Prop: Chest of drawers**

**Reggie:** Ugh... I really hate being rolled up in a ball and stuffed into that drawer. Oh, to be free – just me in the big, wide world. Or, maybe I'd be happy if I were important like a tie... or those soccer socks; but being a school sock is just so humiliating. No one ever sees me or raves about me! But, (*sigh*) I guess I was born a school sock and nothing will ever change... (*sniff*).

**Lefty:** What's wrong Reggie? You're gonna wake everyone up complaining like that.

**Reggie:** I just hate being a smelly school sock!

**Lefty:** But I'm one too—your twin brother—and I don't mind being what I am. Come back to bed. Every time you wriggle to get unrolled you wake me up.

**Reggie:** I'm sorry, Lefty, but something inside of me tells me that I can be more than just an ordinary school sock—I can become great. One day I could be on top of the laundry pile.

**Lefty:** Ha! That's wishful thinking, Reggie.

**Reggie:** Well, look at those Soccer Socks. They are out where the action is. They score goals. They get to hear what the coach says to the team, and people cheer them on when they run up and down the field. But me, I sit in class after boring class at school; hot, sweaty and smelly.

**Lefty:** But you're important too me, Reg. Just think; what if you weren't there on a Monday morning!

**Reggie:** Yeah, but there are five pairs of us remember, so if I'm not there Bill just grabs one of the other twins.

**Lefty:** Come, you need some rest, Reggie. Tomorrow's going to be a long day and you want to start it as fresh as a sock.

**Reggie:** Oh, all right. But I'll sing you my favourite song before we sleep—here goes...

A shoe may have a sole;  
A sock may have a hole,  
But a sock that has no goal  
Is a sock that has no soul.

A shoe may...’ **(completely off key)**

**Lefty:** Reggie, put a sock in it! Just go to sleep now.

**Reggie:** Oh you woolliewimp, all you want to do is sleep **(said under his breath)**.

***The socks finally settle down and fall asleep, snoring quietly. Typical night-time sound effects, such as chirping crickets or a hooting owl, would help set the tranquil atmosphere. If possible, the lights should be dimmed. Alternatively, tell the children to be very quiet and close their eyes until you’ve quietly counted to ten.***

***After a while a rooster crows. It’s morning!***

***The socks yawn aloud as they wake up.***

***Bill, the schoolboy, opens the drawer and takes out Reggie and Lefty. He puts them on, then puts on his shoes and hurries off to school.***

## *Scene 2 : Our way or God's way*

**Prop:** Washing machine

***Bill comes home from school and throws his socks into the washing machine. With the lid of the washing machine still open, Reggie and Lefty pop their heads out of the opening.***

**Reggie:** You know, Lefty, the only way I'll ever know if I am important enough to be missed is if I go missing.

**Lefty:** What do you mean, 'go missing'?

**Reggie:** You know, that's what socks do when they feel unimportant: they disappear. Then, if no one bothers to find me, it will show that I don't really matter to anyone?

**Lefty:** How can you say that, Reggie? You matter to me! We've been together for as long as I can remember.

**Reggie:** Yeah, I know, but I'm so tired of being an ordinary school sock. I have ambition—I want to go places in life. If only I had smart stripes like those soccer socks, I'd get to kick balls and score goals—I'd be really happy.

**Lefty:** Happiness doesn't come from being important Reg, it comes from being the best you can be.

**Reggie:** Well, I still think there's more to life than being a school sock. I want adventure and I'm going to get it one way or the other. So, Lefty, if you don't see me tonight you'll know I'm having the time of my life.

**Lefty:** You're being really silly and selfish! You want someone to care about you but how do you think that makes *me* feel when you're quite happy to leave *me* all alone.

**Reggie:** There's no need to get so upset. I'll only be gone for a day or two; and besides, there are plenty of other socks to keep you company.

**Lefty:** It's not the same and you know it... Reggie... Reggie!

Where are you? Reggiieee!

Oh, how silly can you get! Adventure... trouble more like it. I've heard some

awful stories about socks that didn't make it. Some have been caught up in the machinery and twisted 'round and 'round; one was even flushed down the drain... and recently, one was torn to shreds by the dog. It makes me shudder to even think of what might happen to Reggie.

***Mom walks past, closes the washing machine lid and switches it on.***

### ***Scene 3 : God cares***

**Prop: Chest of drawers**

***The drawer slowly opens and Lefty is sobbing.***

**Sally:** Lefty, what's wrong? I've never seen you so upset.

**Lefty:** It's... it's Reggie. He's run away... sniff. After school yesterday when mom put us all in the wash he said he was going to disappear.

**Sally:** Cheer up Lefty, socks often do that. I mean, look at me; I've been alone for weeks and I'm still hoping that Molly comes back. It's the natural cycle of life for socks.

**Lefty:** You're not making this any easier, Sally. I'm completely useless on my own... and I'm worried about Reggie, that he's gone for good.

**Sally:** Well, we should always pray about our problems.

**Lefty:** I don't know how to pray, Sally. I'm only a dumb school sock—I've never even been to a church.

**Sally:** I'm afraid I don't know how to pray either. Umm, let's see, who would know? Ah! Let's ask Bella Beanie; she's goes everywhere and she's got a head for things like this.

**Lefty:** Good idea. Hold on to me while I reach (***stretching voice***) across to the other drawer; I don't want to fall out.

**Sally:** Okay, I've got you.

**Lefty:** (***Whispering***) Psst, Bella! Are you awake? Bella!

**Bella:** What's the problem with you silly socks that you're always so restless at night?

**Lefty:** Bella, it's important!

**Bella:** Yeah? What are you brainless socks so worked up about now?

**Lefty:** Reggie has gone missing and we're very worried.

**Bella:** Oh, please! I thought you said it was important. (***Bella goes back to sleep and starts snoring***).

**Lefty:** Don't you care about anything or anyone. You think you're head and shoulders above the rest of us. Have you ever thought who gets you around and takes you places, huh? US!

**Bella:** *(Drowsily)* Oh, all right. What do you want me to do?

**Lefty:** We want you to help us pray.

**Bella:** Well, of all the things I know, and I know a lot, *(chuckle)* I actually don't know how to pray.

**Lefty:** Then who can help us?

**Bella:** Let me try the gloves. I always see them pressed firmly together during prayers.

*(Bella disappears into the drawer. After rummaging around inside for a while, there is some whispering. Then she re-emerges.)*

**Bella:** Pst...psst... Guys! I'm sorry they don't know either—apparently, being close together is just something they do during prayers. Afraid I can't help you this time—good night!

**Lefty:** Now I feel worse than ever! No one seems to care and no one knows how to pray... what am I going to do?

**Sally:** There is someone who might know... someone right here in our drawer.

**Lefty:** *(Lefty perks up)* Who, Sally, who?

**Sally:** The Party Socks! They were left lying on the floor next to Bill's bed when he was saying his prayers the other night. They'll know for sure. It's a good thing they are back in the sock drawer already.

**Lefty:** Hey, Party Socks, are you awake?

**Party Socks:** We're always awake at night - *(1<sup>st</sup> sock)*. Why, what's the problem? - *(2<sup>nd</sup> sock)*.

**Lefty:** Reggie went missing yesterday and no one knows how to pray for him.

**Party Socks:** We do! We often see Bill pray at night - *(1<sup>st</sup> sock)*.

**Lefty:** But will God hear us at this time of the night?

**Party Socks:** God hears us at ALL times *(1<sup>st</sup> sock)* and in ALL places—*(2<sup>nd</sup> sock)* even in a dark sock drawer *(1<sup>st</sup> sock)* at midnight *(2<sup>nd</sup> sock)*. Come, we'll show you!

**(together).** (Socks 'hi-five' each other).

## ***Scene 4 : God forgives***

**Prop:** Washing machine

***A 'girl' sock and a tracksuit sleeve peer out from the top of the washing and discuss Reggie's fate.***

**Sleeve:** ***(Shaking his head)*** Oh dear, oh dear. Today it was Reggie's turn to get caught up in the works—somehow I don't think he'll make it. Oh well, another day another sock; we see them come, we see them go.

**Girl sock:** Don't be so heartless. You don't even know what Reggie has been through lately.

**Sleeve:** And you don't need to be so dramatic. He's just a silly sock that got stuck because he tried to go where he shouldn't have. What was he thinking?

**Girl sock:** I guess he was tired of being an ordinary sock. He has been walked in for years and is showing early signs of hole-itis, and you know what happens to socks with holes. Look at Fred, after all these years of being a faithful sock they're now using him to polish the car. Where's the glory in that?

**Sleeve:** If you're made to be a sock then that's what you are and that's what you'll always be. There's no point in feeling sorry for yourself.

**Girl sock:** You're so shallow—you have no soul, no feeling, no purpose... no nothing!

**Sleeve:** A little bit touchy this morning, aren't we. Why do I get the impression that you have feelings for Reggie?

**Girl sock:** Of course I have feelings. All socks have feelings. We're like a family who cares for each other.

**Sleeve:** Quick, get back inside, here comes the repairman!

**Repairman:** Let's see. Mm... ***(Looking around on the inside; then reaching way down and pulling on something)***. Ah, it's the usual problem.

**Reggie:** Ooh ouch ooh... help I'm dying!!

***The repairman pulls Reggie out. Reggie is all greasy and mangled and the repairman throws him into a bin nearby. Just then, Mom walks in.***

**Mom:** So, have you found the problem?

**Repairman:** Yep, a sock, as usual. At least they keep me in business. *(He chuckles)*

*As he leaves, Mom takes the sock out of the bin, places a tub of soapy water on a table and gently hand-washes the dirty sock until it is perfectly clean. She holds it up, smiles, and takes it out to dry.*

## ***Scene 5 : The Ultimate Goal***

**Prop:** Chest of drawers

***Reggie is back in the drawer where there's great celebration at his safe return.***

**Lefty:** I missed you so much, Reggie. I even cried for you. But a good thing came from all of this. I learned to pray!

**Reggie:** I also learned something, Lefty. I learned about forgiveness. After I decided to go my own way and do my own thing, I got into big trouble. I not only got myself all dirty, I jammed the whole machine so that the others couldn't get washed. Then the repairman pulled me out of the works and threw me in the bin where I deserved to be. I had never felt so guilty and worthless in my entire life. Then something amazing happened. Mom fished me out of the bin and hand washed me. Just think of it! She got her hands dirty to make me clean. That's when I finally understood what real love is, and from that moment it didn't matter to me that I'm just an ordinary school sock. In fact I'm so happy that I am who I am.

**Lefty:** Me too. While you were gone, we decided to do something special for you Reggie. But it's a secret so you'll just have to be patient.

**Reggie:** Oh come on, please tell me. I hate being patient.

**Lefty:** I don't know when it's going to happen but it's going to happen—just believe it.

**Reggie:** I can't stand the suspense. Maybe I should take a nap to make the time go by quicker.

**Lefty:** Good idea.

***Reggie and Lefty curl up together and fall asleep. Just then, Bill comes in, rummages through the drawer.***

**Bill:** (*Shouts*) Mom, where are my soccer socks?'

**Mom:** They should be in the drawer. I put them there yesterday.

**Bill:** But they're not here, Mom. I've checked.

**Mom:** Well, you'll have to use your school socks.

**Bill:** Okay.

***Bill takes out Reggie and Lefty and puts them on. Then he puts on his soccer boots and runs out. Sally Sock pops her head out of the drawer and waves them goodbye.***

**Sally:** Go get 'em Reggie!

**Sally:** ***(to the audience)*** This is going to be Reggie's great day—the day he scores the goal of his life. Although I guess it won't be Reggie doing the scoring, it will be that someone special inside. After all, we're just socks until someone important fills us—and that someone is going to make Reggie a winner.

***Sally leans across to the other drawer.***

Okay Soccer Socks, you can come out now. It's all clear.

***The Soccer Socks make an appearance from the other drawer and high-five each other.***

**Soccer Socks:** Yes, we did it!

***Sally and the Soccer Socks bow to the audience amidst clapping and retreat into the drawers.***