WHAT TO DO

Develop a history and personality for a character
1. Give each youth a Create a Character worksheet and a pencil.
2. Ask the youth to take about five minutes to complete the Create a Character worksheet and draw a picture of their character.

Build a puppet character
1. Show the youth all of the materials.
2. Tell them to build a puppet to fit the character that they described and drew.

Develop and present a short three-scene play using their puppet character
1. Tell the youth to use the Create a Character worksheet to develop a short puppet play.
   - Scene 1: Have your puppet look for something that is lost.
   - Scene 2: Have your puppet find the lost item.
   - Scene 3: Have your puppet react to finding the lost item.
2. Ask youth to choose a partner and present their short play for their partner.
3. Then have the partner present their three-scene play.

TALK IT OVER
Try to get each youth to express his or her feelings and experiences.

Reflect:
• How did the Creating a Character worksheet help you decide how to build your puppet?
• How did your character change as you made it?

Apply:
• What decisions are hard for you to make? Why do you think they are hard for you?
• How do you feel when someone else makes decisions for you?
• What decisions do you like others to make for you? Why?

DID YOU KNOW
• A puppet is any object that a person moves to make it “come alive” in front of an audience. The person that makes the puppet move is called the puppeteer.
• The best-known puppet character in the world is one known in England as Mr. Punch. Mr. Punch has been around for hundreds of years. Punch became popular at a time when people were not allowed to speak against their government. As a puppet, Punch could speak out or act in ways that might get real people arrested. The saying, “Pleased as punch,” comes from this character.
• A puppeteer that does not move his or her lips when speaking for the puppet is called a ventriloquist.
Create a Character

Answer the following questions to create your character. Remember that you are not answering questions about yourself. You are creating a new character. He or she can be anyone you want.

My character's name: ____________________________________________________________

Where was it born?________________________________________________________________ How old is it? ______________

What does it like to do for fun?__________________________________________________________________________________________

What is its favorite color? ____________________________________________________________________________________________

What does it like to eat? ______________________________________________________________________________________________

What makes it angry? _______________________________________________________________________________________________

What kind of music does it like? ______________________________________________________________________________________

Use the space below to draw a picture of the character you created.