

Puppet Show: Happily Ever After

An activity of "World's largest refugee settlement needs help"

History tells us that wars and other terrible events have forced countless innocent people to flee from their homes. They become "displaced people" through no fault of their own.

If they survive the journey, the first stop is often a refugee camp. From there, they may be accepted into a welcoming country. Then, they must restart their lives. Sadly, the local people may see them only as "refugees" and nothing more. It is easy to forget that, like us, these new immigrants are human beings who have hopes and dreams.

More and more, displaced people are writing and talking about their lives. When their voices are heard, others may treat them more fairly. We can do our part by telling our friends and family about displaced people. For a start, put on a puppet show at home!

1. **Read** "World's largest refugee settlement needs help" (Story 5, *What's Up* April 2020).
2. **Construct a story.** Using the details given in *What's Up*, develop an imaginary story about a family at Kutupalong. Start from where they came from and why they left, describe their current life at Kutupalong, and then go on to what you think would be the ideal future scenario for this family. Have a happy ending! Add background music at points.
3. **Make puppets.** Use what is available at home. For example, you can transform old wooden spoons into rod puppets. Whatever you plan to use, get permission first.



4. **Set the stage.** Prepare a space for your puppet show. For example, arrange chairs in a semi-circle facing your show space — your audience must be comfortable and have a good view. Set the date and time. Invite all at home.
5. **Perform the story.** Using the puppets, tell the story of the family in Kutupalong. You can do a one-person show or have one or two others be puppeteers with you.

Your audience will know that the story is made up by you. Yet, your puppet show can give them a glimpse of the realities at Kutupalong. And, your happily-ever-after ending could get them thinking more positively about what displaced peoples deserve. Knowing this, use your puppeteer power well!